



Somalia



Background In the late 19th century, the area that would become Somalia was colonized by Britain in the north and Italy in the south. The two colonies merged in 1960 to form the new nation of Somalia. Since 1991, civil war and political instability have resulted in the country being split into several regional governments, and terrorist group al-Shabaab controls large portions of the country.

Capital name: Mogadishu

Government type federal parliamentary republic

Area total : 637,657 sq km
land: 627,337 sq km
water: 10,320 sq km

Climate principally desert; northeast monsoon (December to February), moderate temperatures in north and hot in south; southwest monsoon (May to October), torrid in the north and hot in the south, irregular rainfall, hot and humid periods (tangambili) between monsoons

Natural resources uranium and largely unexploited reserves of iron ore, tin, gypsum, bauxite, copper, salt, natural gas, likely oil reserves

Population total: 13,017,273

Population growth rate 2.55% (2024 est.)

Ethnic groups predominantly Somali with lesser numbers of Arabs, Bantus, and others

Religions Muslim 99.9% (Sunni Muslim 98.1%, Shia Muslim 1.2%, Islamic schismatic 0.6%), ethnic religionist 0.1% (2020 est.)

Languages Somali (official), Arabic (official), Italian, English

Executive branch chief of state: President HASSAN SHEIKH Mohamud (since 23 May 2022)
head of government: Prime Minister Hamza Abdi BARRE (since 25 June 2022)

Legislative branch summary: bicameral Federal Parliament to consist of the Senate (54 seats) and the House of the People (275 seats)

Diplomatic representation in the US chief of mission: Ambassador DAHIR Hassan Abdi (since 18 September 2024)

Diplomatic representation from the US chief of mission: Ambassador (vacant); Chargé d'Affaires Shane L. DIXON (since 25 July 2023)

Economic overview low-income African Horn economy; 30 years of war and instability crippled economic potential; high remittances for basic survival; new fiscal federalism approach; cleared some unsustainable debt; environmentally fragile; digitally driven urbanization efforts

Real GDP (purchasing power parity)	\$26.351 billion (2023 est.) \$25.558 billion (2022 est.) \$24.949 billion (2021 est.)
Real GDP per capita	\$1,500 (2023 est.) \$1,500 (2022 est.) \$1,500 (2021 est.)
Exports	\$819 million (2014 est.)
Exports - partners	UAE 50%, Oman 30%, Bulgaria 3%, India 3%, Kuwait 2% (2022)
Exports - commodities	gold, sheep and goats, cattle, gum resins, shellfish (2022)
Imports	\$94.43 billion (2018 est.) \$80.07 billion (2017 est.)
Imports - partners	UAE 33%, China 19%, India 16%, Turkey 7%, Ethiopia 5% (2022)
Imports - commodities	tobacco, raw sugar, palm oil, rice, milk (2022)