



# Bolivia



**Background** Bolivia, named after independence fighter Simón BOLÍVAR, broke away from Spanish rule in 1825. Much of its subsequent history has consisted of a series of coups and countercoups, with the last coup occurring in 1980. Democratic civilian rule was established in 1982, but leaders have faced problems of deep-seated poverty, social unrest, and illegal drug production.

In 2005, Bolivians elected Movement Toward Socialism leader Evo MORALES as president -- by the widest margin of any leader since 1982 -- after he ran on a promise to change the country's traditional political class and empower the poor and indigenous majority. In 2009 and 2014, MORALES easily won reelection, and his party maintained control of the legislative branch. In 2016, MORALES narrowly lost a referendum to approve a constitutional amendment that would have allowed him to compete in the 2019 presidential election. A subsequent Supreme Court ruling stating that term limits violate human rights provided the justification for MORALES to run despite the referendum, but rising violence, pressure from the military, and widespread allegations of electoral fraud ultimately forced him to flee the country. An interim government, led by President Jeanine AÑEZ Chávez, held new elections in 2020, and Luis Alberto ARCE Catacora was elected president.

**Capital** name: La Paz (administrative capital); Sucre (constitutional [legislative and judicial] capital)

**Government type** presidential republic

**Area**  
total : 1,098,581 sq km  
land: 1,083,301 sq km  
water: 15,280 sq km

**Climate** varies with altitude; humid and tropical to cold and semiarid

**Natural resources** lithium, tin, natural gas, petroleum, zinc, tungsten, antimony, silver, iron, lead, gold, timber, hydropower

**Population** total: 12,311,974 (2024 est.)

**Population growth rate** 1% (2024 est.)

<b>Ethnic groups</b>	Mestizo (mixed White and Indigenous ancestry) 68%, Indigenous 20%, White 5%, Cholo/Chola 2%, African descent 1%, other 1%, unspecified 3%; 44% other Indigenous group, predominantly Quechua or Aymara (2009 est.)
<b>Religions</b>	Roman Catholic 65%, Protestant 19.6% (Evangelical (non-specific) 11.9%, Evangelical Baptist 2.1%, Evangelical Pentecostal 1.8%, Evangelical Methodist 0.7%, Adventist 2.8%, Protestant (non-specific) 0.3%), Believer (not belonging to the church) 0.9%, other 4.8%, atheist 1.7%, agnostic 0.6%, none 6.1%, unspecified 1.3% (2023 est.)
<b>Languages</b>	Spanish (official) 68.1%, Quechua (official) 17.2%, Aymara (official) 10.5%, Guarani (official) 0.6%, other 1.5%, unspecified 2.1%; note - Spanish and all Indigenous languages are official (2012 est.)
<b>Executive branch</b>	chief of state: President Rodrigo PAZ Pereira (since 8 November 2025) head of government: President Rodrigo PAZ Pereira (since 8 November 2025)
<b>Legislative branch</b>	legislature name: Plurinational Legislative Assembly (Asamblea Legislativa Plurinacional)
<b>Diplomatic representation in the US</b>	chief of mission: Ambassador (vacant); Chargé d'Affaires Henry BALDELOMAR CHÁVEZ (since 11 October 2023)
<b>Diplomatic representation from the US</b>	chief of mission: Ambassador (vacant); Chargé d'Affaires Debra HEVIA (since September 2023)
<b>Economic overview</b>	resource-rich economy benefits during commodity booms; has bestowed juridical rights to Mother Earth, impacting extraction industries; increasing Chinese lithium mining trade relations; hard hit by COVID-19; increased fiscal spending amid poverty increases; rampant banking and finance corruption
<b>Real GDP (purchasing power parity)</b>	\$122.2 billion (2024 est.) \$120.531 billion (2023 est.) \$116.927 billion (2022 est.)
<b>Real GDP per capita</b>	\$9,800 (2024 est.) \$9,800 (2023 est.) \$9,700 (2022 est.)
<b>Exports</b>	\$11.905 billion (2023 est.) \$14.465 billion (2022 est.) \$11.594 billion (2021 est.)
<b>Exports - partners</b>	Brazil 15%, India 13%, China 11%, Argentina 11%, UAE 8% (2023)
<b>Exports - commodities</b>	gold, natural gas, precious metal ore, zinc ore, soybean meal (2023)
<b>Imports</b>	\$12.988 billion (2023 est.) \$13.462 billion (2022 est.) \$10.187 billion (2021 est.)
<b>Imports - partners</b>	China 22%, Brazil 18%, Chile 13%, USA 7%, Peru 5% (2023)
<b>Imports - commodities</b>	refined petroleum, cars, pesticides, trucks, plastics (2023)

Population Pyramid

