



Morocco



Background

In 788, about a century after the Arab conquest of North Africa, a series of Muslim dynasties began to rule in Morocco. In the 16th century, the Sa'adi monarchy, particularly under Ahmad al-MANSUR (1578-1603), repelled foreign invaders and inaugurated a golden age. The Alaouite Dynasty, to which the current Moroccan royal family belongs, dates from the 17th century. In 1860, Spain occupied northern Morocco and ushered in a half-century of trade rivalry among European powers that saw Morocco's sovereignty steadily erode; in 1912, the French imposed a protectorate over the country. A protracted independence struggle with France ended successfully in 1956. The internationalized city of Tangier and most Spanish possessions were turned over to the new country that same year. Sultan MOHAMMED V, the current monarch's grandfather, organized the new state as a constitutional monarchy and in 1957 assumed the title of king.

Since Spain's 1976 withdrawal from Western Sahara, Morocco has extended its de facto administrative control to roughly 75% of this territory; however, the UN does not recognize Morocco as the administering power for Western Sahara. The UN since 1991 has monitored a cease-fire, which broke down in late 2020, between Morocco and the Polisario Front -- an organization advocating the territory's independence -- and restarted negotiations over the status of the territory in 2018. In 2020, the US recognized Morocco's sovereignty over all of Western Sahara. In 2011, King MOHAMMED VI responded to the spread of pro-democracy protests in the North Africa region by implementing a reform program that included a new constitution, passed by popular referendum, under which some new powers were extended to parliament and the prime minister, but ultimate authority remains in the hands of the monarch. Later that year, the Justice and Development Party (PJD) -- a moderate Islamist democratic party -- won the largest number of seats in parliamentary elections, becoming the first Islamist party to lead the Moroccan Government. In 2015, Morocco held its first direct elections for regional councils, which was one of the reforms included in the 2011 constitution. The PJD again won the largest number of seats in nationwide parliamentary elections in 2016, but it lost its plurality to the probusiness National Rally of Independents (RNI) in 2021. In 2020, Morocco signed a normalization agreement with Israel, similar to those that Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and Sudan had concluded with Israel earlier that year.

Capital	name: Rabat
Government type	parliamentary constitutional monarchy
Area	total : 716,550 sq km land: 716,300 sq km water: 250 sq km
Climate	Mediterranean in the north, becoming more extreme in the interior; in the south, hot, dry desert; rain is rare; cold offshore air currents produce fog and heavy dew
Natural resources	phosphates, iron ore, manganese, lead, zinc, fish, salt

Population	total: 37,387,585 (2024 est.)
Population growth rate	0.84% (2024 est.)
Ethnic groups	Arab-Amazigh 99%, other 1%
Religions	Muslim 99% (official; virtually all Sunni, <0.1% Shia), other 1% (includes Christian, Jewish, and Baha'i); note - Jewish about 3,000-3,500 (2020 est.)
Languages	Arabic (official), Tamazight languages (Tamazight (official), Tachelhit, Tarifit), French (often the language of business, government, and diplomacy)
Executive branch	chief of state: King MOHAMMED VI (since 30 July 1999) head of government: Prime Minister Aziz AKHANNOUCH (since 7 October 2021)
Legislative branch	legislature name: Parliament (Barlaman)
Diplomatic representation in the US	chief of mission: Ambassador Youssef AMRANI (since 27 February 2024)
Diplomatic representation from the US	chief of mission: Ambassador-designate Richard Duke BUCHAN III; Chargé d'Affaires Ben ZIFF (since 28 August 2025)
Economic overview	lower middle-income North African economy; ongoing recovery from recent drought and earthquake; rebounding via tourism, manufacturing, and raw materials processing; significant trade and investment with EU; reform programs include fiscal rebalancing, state enterprise governance and private sector investments
Real GDP (purchasing power parity)	\$350.594 billion (2024 est.) \$339.603 billion (2023 est.) \$328.425 billion (2022 est.)
Real GDP per capita	\$9,100 (2024 est.) \$8,900 (2023 est.) \$8,700 (2022 est.)
Exports	\$61.746 billion (2023 est.) \$58.575 billion (2022 est.) \$47.09 billion (2021 est.)
Exports - partners	Spain 20%, France 17%, Germany 6%, UK 5%, Italy 4% (2023)
Exports - commodities	fertilizers, cars, garments, insulated wire, tomatoes (2023)
Imports	\$73.759 billion (2023 est.) \$73.81 billion (2022 est.) \$60.215 billion (2021 est.)
Imports - partners	Spain 16%, China 11%, France 10%, USA 9%, Turkey 5% (2023)
Imports - commodities	refined petroleum, cars, vehicle parts/accessories, natural gas, coal (2023)

Population Pyramid

