



North Macedonia



Background	<p>North Macedonia gained its independence peacefully from Yugoslavia in 1991 under the name of "Macedonia." Greece objected to the new country's name, insisting it implied territorial pretensions to the northern Greek province of Macedonia, and democratic backsliding for several years stalled North Macedonia's movement toward Euro-Atlantic integration. Immediately after Macedonia declared independence, Greece sought to block its efforts to gain UN membership if the name "Macedonia" was used. The country was eventually admitted to the UN in 1993 as "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia," and at the same time it agreed to UN-sponsored negotiations on the name dispute. In 1995, Greece lifted a 20-month trade embargo and the two countries agreed to normalize relations, but the issue of the name remained unresolved amid ongoing negotiations. As an interim measure, the US and over 130 other nations recognized Macedonia by its constitutional name, Republic of Macedonia.</p> <p>Ethnic Albanian grievances over perceived political and economic inequities escalated into an armed conflict in 2001 that eventually led to the internationally brokered Ohrid Framework Agreement, which ended the fighting and established guidelines for constitutional amendments and new laws that enhanced the rights of minorities. In 2018, the government adopted a new law on languages, which elevated the Albanian language to an official language at the national level and kept the Macedonian language as the sole official language in international relations, but ties between ethnic Macedonians and ethnic Albanians remain complicated.</p> <p>In 2018, Macedonia and Greece signed the Prespa Agreement whereby Macedonia agreed to change its name to North Macedonia, and the agreement went in to force on 12 February 2019. North Macedonia joined NATO in 2020 after amending its constitution as agreed and opened EU accession talks in 2022 after a two-year veto by Bulgaria over identity, language, and historical disputes. The 2014 legislative and presidential election triggered a political crisis that lasted almost three years and escalated in 2015 when the opposition party began releasing wiretapped material revealing alleged widespread government corruption and abuse. The country still faces challenges, including fully implementing reforms to overcome years of democratic backsliding, stimulating economic growth and development, and fighting organized crime and corruption.</p>
Capital	name: Skopje
Government type	parliamentary republic
Area	total : 25,713 sq km land: 25,433 sq km water: 280 sq km
Climate	warm, dry summers and autumns; relatively cold winters with heavy snowfall
Natural resources	low-grade iron ore, copper, lead, zinc, chromite, manganese, nickel, tungsten, gold, silver, asbestos, gypsum, timber, arable land
Population	total: 2,135,622 (2024 est.)
Population growth rate	0.1% (2024 est.)
Ethnic groups	Macedonian 58.4%, Albanian 24.3%, Turkish 3.9%, Romani 2.5%, Serb 1.3%, other 2.3%, no ethnic affiliation data available 7.2% (2021 est.)
Religions	Macedonian Orthodox 46.1%, Muslim 32.2%, other Christian 13.8%, other and non-believers 0.5%, unspecified 7.4% (2021 est.)
Languages	Macedonian (official) 61.4%, Albanian (official) 24.3%, Turkish 3.4%, Romani 1.7%, other (includes Aromanian (Vlach) and Bosnian) 2%, unspecified 7.2% (2021 est.)
Executive branch	chief of state: President Gordana SILJANOVSKA-DAVKOVA (since 12 May 2024) head of government: Prime Minister Hristijan MICKOSKI (since 23 June 2024)
Legislative branch	legislature name: Assembly of the Republic (Sobranie)
Diplomatic representation in the US	chief of mission: Ambassador Zoran POPOV (since 16 September 2022)
Diplomatic representation from the US	chief of mission: Ambassador Angela AGGELER (since 8 November 2022)
Economic overview	upper-middle-income European economy; GDP growth driven by private consumption, public infrastructure investments, and wage growth; stalled progress on EU accession; public debt rising due to high pensions, wages, and interest payments; structural challenges of emigration, low productivity growth, and governance
Real GDP (purchasing power parity)	\$43.844 billion (2024 est.) \$42.668 billion (2023 est.) \$41.801 billion (2022 est.)
Real GDP per capita	\$24,500 (2024 est.) \$23,300 (2023 est.) \$22,800 (2022 est.)
Exports	\$10.445 billion (2024 est.) \$10.691 billion (2023 est.) \$10.123 billion (2022 est.)
Exports - partners	Germany 39%, Serbia 8%, Bulgaria 6%, Greece 5%, Czechia 3% (2023)
Exports - commodities	reaction and catalytic products, insulated wire, electricity, garments, seats (2023)

Imports	\$12.644 billion (2024 est.)
	\$12.748 billion (2023 est.)
	\$13.009 billion (2022 est.)
Imports - partners	UK 12%, Germany 10%, Greece 9%, China 9%, Serbia 8% (2023)
Imports - commodities	platinum, refined petroleum, laboratory ceramic ware, cars, natural gas (2023)

Population Pyramid

