



# Afghanistan



**Background** Afghanistan served as a buffer between the British and Russian Empires until it won independence from British control in 1919. In August 2021, the Islamic fundamentalist Taliban overran the country, the latest group to rule in this war-torn country since 1979.

**Capital** name: Kabul

**Government type** theocratic; the United States does not recognize the Taliban Government

**Area** total : 652,230 sq km  
land: 652,230 sq km  
water: 0 sq km

**Climate** arid to semiarid; cold winters and hot summers

**Natural resources** natural gas, petroleum, coal, copper, chromite, talc, barites, sulfur, lead, zinc, iron ore, salt, precious and semiprecious stones, arable land

**Population** total: 40,121,552 (2024 est.)

**Population growth rate** 2.22% (2024 est.)

**Ethnic groups** current, reliable statistical data on ethnicity in Afghanistan are not available; Afghanistan's 2004 Constitution cited Pashtun, Tajik, Hazara, Uzbek, Turkman, Baluch, Pashaie, Nuristani, Aymaq, Arab, Qirghiz, Qizilbash, Gujur, and Brahui ethnicities; Afghanistan has dozens of other small ethnic groups

**Religions** Muslim 99.7% (Sunni 84.7 - 89.7%, Shia 10 - 15%), other <0.3% (2009 est.)

**Languages** Afghan Persian or Dari (official, lingua franca) 77%, Pashto (official) 48%, Uzbeki 11%, English 6%, Turkmani 3%, Urdu 3%, Pashaie 1%, Nuristani 1%, Arabic 1%, Balochi 1%, other <1% (2020 est.)

**Executive branch** chief of state: Taliban Leader HAYBATULLAH Akhundzada (since 15 August 2021)  
head of government: overall Taliban Leader HAYBATULLAH Akhundzada is the [so-called] Amir-ul Momineen of the Taliban and is seen by them as a head of government

**Economic overview** low-income South Asian economy; economy stable after major contraction due to Taliban takeover, but recovery remains fragile; widespread poverty and obstacles to human development; import-reliant for food, fuel, and machinery; ongoing sanctions, suspended development aid, and frozen reserve assets

<b>Real GDP (purchasing power parity)</b>	\$82.595 billion (2023 est.) \$80.416 billion (2022 est.) \$85.768 billion (2021 est.)
<b>Real GDP per capita</b>	\$2,000 (2023 est.) \$2,000 (2022 est.) \$2,100 (2021 est.)
<b>Exports</b>	\$1.476 billion (2020 est.) \$1.516 billion (2019 est.) \$1.609 billion (2018 est.)
<b>Exports - partners</b>	Pakistan 42%, India 40%, China 4%, UAE 2%, Turkey 2% (2023)
<b>Exports - commodities</b>	coal, grapes, tropical fruits, gum resins, other nuts (2023)
<b>Imports</b>	\$6.983 billion (2020 est.) \$7.371 billion (2019 est.) \$7.988 billion (2018 est.)
<b>Imports - partners</b>	UAE 28%, Pakistan 15%, China 15%, Uzbekistan 12%, Kazakhstan 9% (2023)
<b>Imports - commodities</b>	wheat flours, tobacco, palm oil, broadcasting equipment, synthetic fabric (2023)

## Population Pyramid

