



Macau



Background Portuguese ships began arriving in 1513. In the 1550s, Portuguese paying tribute to China settled in Macau, which became the official entrepôt for all international trade with China and Japan and the first European settlement in the Far East. The first governor was appointed in the 17th century, but the Portuguese remained largely under the control of the Chinese. In the 1930s and '40s Macau was declared a neutral territory during the Sino-Japanese War and World War II and became a refuge for both Chinese and Europeans. Portugal officially made Macau an overseas province in 1951.

In April 1987, Portugal and China reached an agreement to return Macau to Chinese rule in 1999, using the Hong Kong Joint Declaration between China and the UK as a model. In this agreement, China promised that, under its "one country, two systems" formula, China's political and economic system would not be imposed on Macau, and that Macau would enjoy a "high degree of autonomy" in all matters except foreign affairs and defense for the next 50 years. However, after China's multi-year crackdown against the pro-democracy movement in nearby Hong Kong, the governments of China and the Macau Special Administrative Region worked to limit Macau's political autonomy by suppressing opposition activity in the 2021 legislative elections.

Government type	executive-led limited democracy; a special administrative region of the People's Republic of China
Area	total : 28 sq km land: 28.2 sq km water: 0 sq km
Climate	subtropical; marine with cool winters, warm summers
Natural resources	NEGL
Population	total: 644,426 (2024 est.)
Population growth rate	0.67% (2024 est.)
Ethnic groups	Chinese 89.4%, Chinese and Portuguese 1%, Portuguese 0.8%, Chinese and non-Portuguese 0.2%, Portuguese and others 0.2%, other 8.5% (2021 est.)
Religions	folk religion 58.9%, Buddhist 17.3%, Christian 7.2%, other 1.2%, none 15.4% (2020 est.)
Languages	Cantonese 81%, Mandarin 4.7%, other Chinese dialects 5.4%, English 3.6%, Tagalog 2.9%, Portuguese 0.6%, other 1.8% (2021 est.)
Executive branch	chief of state: President of China XI Jinping (since 14 March 2013) head of government: Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai (since 20 December 2024)

Legislative branch	legislature name: Legislative Assembly (Regiao Administrativa Especial de Macau)
Diplomatic representation from the US	embassy: the US has no offices in Macau; US Consulate General in Hong Kong is accredited to Macau
Economic overview	high-income, Chinese special administrative region economy; known for apparel exports and gambling tourism; currency pegged to Hong Kong dollar; significant recession due to 2015 Chinese anticorruption campaign; COVID-19 further halved economic activity
Real GDP (purchasing power parity)	\$71.248 billion (2023 est.) \$40.699 billion (2022 est.) \$50.626 billion (2021 est.)
Real GDP per capita	\$105,000 (2023 est.) \$60,100 (2022 est.) \$74,200 (2021 est.)
Exports	\$41.839 billion (2023 est.) \$21.097 billion (2022 est.) \$28.163 billion (2021 est.)
Exports - partners	Hong Kong 73%, China 6%, USA 6%, Philippines 3%, Singapore 1% (2023)
Exports - commodities	jewelry, garments, broadcasting equipment, precious metal watches, video and card games (2023)
Imports	\$23.205 billion (2023 est.) \$20.923 billion (2022 est.) \$23.77 billion (2021 est.)
Imports - partners	China 36%, Hong Kong 17%, USA 6%, France 6%, Japan 5% (2023)
Imports - commodities	jewelry, garments, trunks and cases, broadcasting equipment, electricity (2023)

Population Pyramid

