



# Serbia



**Background** In 1918, the Croats, Serbs, and Slovenes formed a kingdom known after 1929 as Yugoslavia. The monarchy remained in power until 1945, when the communist Partisans headed by Josip Broz (aka TITO) took control of the newly created Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY). After TITO died in 1980, communism in Yugoslavia gradually gave way to resurgent nationalism. In 1989, Slobodan MILOSEVIC became president of the Republic of Serbia, and his calls for Serbian domination led to the violent breakup of Yugoslavia along ethnic lines. In 1991, Croatia, Slovenia, and Macedonia declared independence, followed by Bosnia in 1992. The remaining republics of Serbia and Montenegro declared a new Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) in 1992, and MILOSEVIC led military campaigns to unite ethnic Serbs in neighboring republics into a "Greater Serbia." These actions ultimately failed, and international intervention led to the signing of the Dayton Accords in 1995. In 1998, an ethnic Albanian insurgency in the formerly autonomous Serbian province of Kosovo resulted in a brutal Serbian counterinsurgency campaign. Serbia rejected a proposed international settlement, and NATO responded with a bombing campaign that forced Serbian forces to withdraw from Kosovo in June 1999. In 2003, the FRY became the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro, a loose federation of the two republics. In 2006, Montenegro seceded and declared itself an independent nation. In 2008, Kosovo also declared independence -- an action Serbia still refuses to recognize. In 2013, Serbia and Kosovo signed the first agreement of principles governing the normalization of relations between the two countries. Additional agreements were reached in 2015 and 2023, but implementation remains incomplete. Serbia has been an official candidate for EU membership since 2012, and President Aleksandar VUCIC has promoted the ambitious goal of Serbia joining the EU by 2025.

<b>Capital</b>	name: Belgrade (Beograd)
<b>Government type</b>	parliamentary republic
<b>Area</b>	total : 77,474 sq km land: 77,474 sq km water: 0 sq km
<b>Climate</b>	in the north, continental climate (cold winters and hot, humid summers with well-distributed rainfall); in other parts, continental and Mediterranean climate (relatively cold winters with heavy snowfall and hot, dry summers and autumns)
<b>Natural resources</b>	oil, gas, coal, iron ore, copper, zinc, antimony, chromite, gold, silver, magnesium, pyrite, limestone, marble, salt, arable land
<b>Population</b>	total: 6,612,318 (2025 est.)

<b>Population growth rate</b>	-0.6% (2025 est.)
<b>Ethnic groups</b>	Serb 83.3%, Hungarian 3.5%, Romani 2.1%, Bosniak 2%, other 5.7%, undeclared or unknown 3.4% (2011 est.)
<b>Religions</b>	Serbian Orthodox 81.1%, unknown 5.3%, Islam 4.2%, Catholic 3.9%, no response 2.5%, atheist 1.1%; less than 1%: other Christians, Protestant, agnostic (2022)
<b>Languages</b>	Serbian (official) 88.1%, Hungarian 3.4%, Bosnian 1.9%, Romani 1.4%, other 3.4%, undeclared or unknown 1.8% (2011 est.)
<b>Executive branch</b>	chief of state: President Aleksandar VUCIC (since 31 May 2017) head of government: Prime Minister Djuro MACUT (since 16 April 2025)
<b>Legislative branch</b>	legislature name: National Assembly (Narodna skupstina)
<b>Diplomatic representation in the US</b>	chief of mission: Ambassador Dragan ŠUTANOVAC (since 24 July 2025)
<b>Diplomatic representation from the US</b>	chief of mission: Ambassador (vacant); Chargé d'Affaires Alexander TITOLO (since January 2025)
<b>Economic overview</b>	upper middle-income Balkan economy; current EU accession candidate; hit by COVID-19; pursuing green growth development; manageable public debt; new anticorruption efforts; falling unemployment; historic Russian relations; energy import-dependent
<b>Real GDP (purchasing power parity)</b>	\$177.093 billion (2024 est.) \$170.482 billion (2023 est.) \$164.166 billion (2022 est.)
<b>Real GDP per capita</b>	\$26,900 (2024 est.) \$25,700 (2023 est.) \$24,600 (2022 est.)
<b>Exports</b>	\$44.352 billion (2023 est.) \$39.905 billion (2022 est.) \$34.035 billion (2021 est.)
<b>Exports - partners</b>	Germany 15%, Hungary 7%, Bosnia & Herzegovina 5%, Italy 5%, Romania 5% (2023)
<b>Exports - commodities</b>	insulated wire, electricity, copper ore, plastic products, electric motors (2023)
<b>Imports</b>	\$48.158 billion (2023 est.) \$47.395 billion (2022 est.) \$39.476 billion (2021 est.)
<b>Imports - partners</b>	Germany 12%, China 10%, Italy 7%, Turkey 5%, Hungary 5% (2023)
<b>Imports - commodities</b>	crude petroleum, natural gas, packaged medicine, plastic products, cars (2023)

Population Pyramid

