



North Macedonia



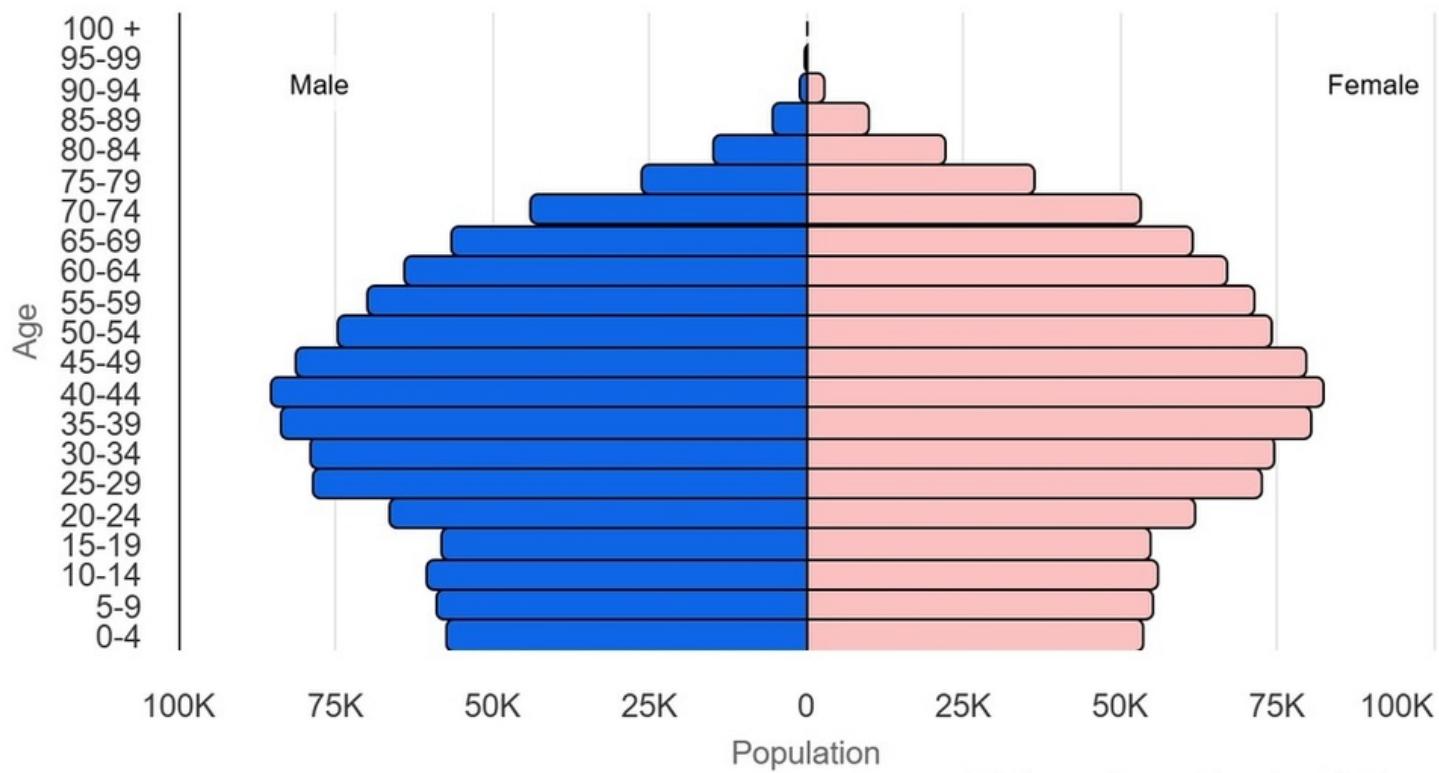
Background	North Macedonia gained its independence peacefully from Yugoslavia in 1991 under the name of "Macedonia." Greece objected to the new country's name, insisting it implied territorial pretensions to the northern Greek province of Macedonia, and democratic backsliding for several years stalled 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.
Economy	Economic growth has been slow and uneven, with significant regional disparities. The service sector is the largest contributor to GDP, followed by agriculture, industry, and construction. Key sectors include tourism, agriculture, and manufacturing. The economy is heavily dependent on foreign investment and remittances from the diaspora. Challenges include high unemployment, particularly among youth, and a large informal sector. The government faces the task of diversifying the economy away from its traditional focus on agriculture and tourism.
Geography	North Macedonia is a landlocked country located in Southeastern Europe. It borders four countries: Serbia to the north, Montenegro to the northwest, Albania to the west, and Greece to the south. The terrain is mostly mountainous, with the Baba Mountains being the highest point. Rivers like the Vardar and Crna (Morača) flow through the country. The capital, Skopje, is the largest city and a major cultural and political center.
Government	The government is a semi-presidential republic. The president is the head of state and the prime minister is the head of government. The unicameral National Assembly (Sobranie) is the legislative body. The executive branch includes the president, prime minister, and various ministries. The judicial branch consists of the Constitutional Court and the regular court system.
History	North Macedonia has a complex history, shaped by its position at the crossroads of Europe. It was part of the Ottoman Empire, then became part of Yugoslavia. After the fall of Yugoslavia, it declared independence in 1991. This led to a dispute with Greece over the name "Macedonia". A peace agreement was reached in 2018, changing the country's name to "North Macedonia". The country joined NATO in 2020 and is currently in accession talks with the EU.
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-DAKOVA (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

North Macedonia (2024)

U.S. Census Bureau, International Database