



Paraguay



Background Several Indigenous groups, principally belonging to the Guaraní language family, inhabited the area of modern Paraguay before the arrival of the Spanish in the early 16th century, when the territory was incorporated into the Viceroyalty of Peru. Paraguay achieved its independence from Spain in 1811 with the help of neighboring states. In the aftermath of independence, a series of military dictators ruled the country until 1870. During the disastrous War of the Triple Alliance (1864-70) -- fought against Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay -- Paraguay lost two thirds of its adult males and much of its territory. The country stagnated economically for the next half-century and experienced a tumultuous series of political regimes. Following the Chaco War of 1932-35 with Bolivia, Paraguay gained a large part of the Chaco lowland region. The 35-year military dictatorship of Alfredo STROESSNER ended in 1989, and Paraguay has held relatively free and regular presidential elections since the country's return to democracy.

Capital name: Asunción

Government type presidential republic

Area total : 406,752 sq km
land: 397,302 sq km
water: 9,450 sq km

Climate subtropical to temperate; substantial rainfall in the eastern portions, becoming semiarid in the far west

Natural resources hydropower, timber, iron ore, manganese, limestone

Population total: 7,522,549 (2024 est.)

Population growth rate 1.09% (2024 est.)

Ethnic groups Mestizo (mixed Spanish and Indigenous ancestry) 95%, other 5%

Religions Roman Catholic 80.4%, Protestant 7% (Evangelical (non-specific) 6.7%, Evangelical Pentecostal <0.1%, Adventist <0.1%, Protestant (non-specific) <0.1%), Believer (not belonging to the church) 5.7%, other 0.6%, agnostic <0.1%, none 0.2%, unspecified 6.2% (2023 est.)

Languages Spanish (official) and Guaraní (official) 46.3%, only Guaraní 34%, only Spanish 15.2%, other (includes Portuguese, German, other Indigenous languages) 4.1%, no response 0.4% (2012 est.)

Executive branch	chief of state: President Santiago PEÑA Palacios (since 15 August 2023) head of government: President Santiago PEÑA Palacios (since 15 August 2023)
Legislative branch	legislature name: Congress (Congreso)
Diplomatic representation in the US	chief of mission: Ambassador Gustavo Alfredo LEITE Gusinky (since 5 September 2025)
Diplomatic representation from the US	chief of mission: Ambassador (vacant); Chargé d'Affaires Robert ALTER (since July 2025)
Economic overview	upper middle-income South American economy; COVID-19 hit while still recovering from 2019 Argentina-driven recession; global hydroelectricity leader; major corruption and money-laundering locale; highly agrarian economy; significant income inequality
Real GDP (purchasing power parity)	\$112.919 billion (2024 est.) \$108.316 billion (2023 est.) \$103.159 billion (2022 est.)
Real GDP per capita	\$16,300 (2024 est.) \$15,800 (2023 est.) \$15,300 (2022 est.)
Exports	\$17.395 billion (2024 est.) \$18.581 billion (2023 est.) \$14.971 billion (2022 est.)
Exports - partners	Argentina 33%, Brazil 25%, Chile 10%, USA 2%, Uruguay 2% (2023)
Exports - commodities	soybeans, beef, electricity, corn, soybean meal (2023)
Imports	\$18.377 billion (2024 est.) \$17.848 billion (2023 est.) \$17.088 billion (2022 est.)
Imports - partners	China 33%, Brazil 24%, USA 8%, Argentina 7%, Germany 2% (2023)
Imports - commodities	broadcasting equipment, refined petroleum, fertilizers, cars, pesticides (2023)

Population Pyramid

