



Ecuador



Background What is now Ecuador formed part of the northern Inca Empire until the Spanish conquest in 1533. Quito -- the traditional name for the area -- became a seat of Spanish colonial government in 1563 and part of the Viceroyalty of New Granada in 1717. The territories of the Viceroyalty -- New Granada (Colombia), Venezuela, and Quito -- gained their independence between 1819 and 1822 and formed a federation known as Gran Colombia. When Quito withdrew to become an independent republic in 1830, the traditional name was changed to the "Republic of the Equator." Between 1904 and 1942, Ecuador lost territories in a series of conflicts with its neighbors. A border war with Peru that flared in 1995 was resolved in 1999. Although Ecuador has had nearly 50 years of civilian governance, the period has been marked by political instability.

Capital name: Quito

Government type presidential republic

Area
total : 283,561 sq km
land: 276,841 sq km
water: 6,720 sq km

Climate tropical along coast, becoming cooler inland at higher elevations; tropical in Amazonian jungle lowlands

Natural resources petroleum, fish, timber, hydropower

Population total: 18,309,984 (2024 est.)

Population growth rate 0.94% (2024 est.)

Ethnic groups Mestizo (mixed Indigenous and White) 77.5%, Montubio 7.7%, Indigenous 7.7%, White 2.2%, Afroecuadorian 2%, Mulatto 1.4%, Black 1.3%, other 0.1% (2022 est.)

Religions Roman Catholic 68.2%, Protestant 19% (Evangelical 18.3%, Adventist 0.6%, other Protestant 0.2%), Jehovah's Witness 1.4%, other 2.3%, none 8.2% don't know/no response 1% (2023 est.)

Languages Spanish (Castilian; official) 98.6%, indigenous 3.9% (Quechua 3.2%, other indigenous 0.7%), foreign 2.8%, other 0.6% (includes Ecuadorian sign language) (2022 est.)

Executive branch	chief of state: President Daniel NOBOA Azin (since 23 November 2023) head of government: President Daniel NOBOA Azin (since 23 November 2023)
Legislative branch	legislature name: National Assembly (Asamblea Nacional)
Diplomatic representation in the US	chief of mission: Ambassador Pablo Agustín ZAMBRANO Albuja (since 24 July 2025)
Diplomatic representation from the US	chief of mission: Ambassador (vacant); Chargé d'Affaires Lawrence PETRONI (since 17 April 2025)
Economic overview	highly informal South American economy; USD currency user; major banana exporter; hard hit by COVID-19; macroeconomic fragility from oil dependency; successful debt restructuring; China funding budget deficits; social unrest hampering economic activity
Real GDP (purchasing power parity)	\$252.728 billion (2024 est.) \$257.889 billion (2023 est.) \$252.861 billion (2022 est.)
Real GDP per capita	\$13,900 (2024 est.) \$14,300 (2023 est.) \$14,200 (2022 est.)
Exports	\$38.468 billion (2024 est.) \$35.687 billion (2023 est.) \$36.588 billion (2022 est.)
Exports - partners	USA 22%, China 21%, Panama 12%, Japan 3%, Peru 3% (2023)
Exports - commodities	crude petroleum, shellfish, bananas, fish, gold (2023)
Imports	\$33.97 billion (2024 est.) \$35.421 billion (2023 est.) \$36.644 billion (2022 est.)
Imports - partners	USA 27%, China 20%, Colombia 7%, Brazil 4%, Peru 4% (2023)
Imports - commodities	refined petroleum, coal tar oil, cars, packaged medicine, plastics (2023)

Population Pyramid

