



Norway



Background	Two centuries of Viking raids into Europe tapered off after King Olav TRYGGVASON adopted Christianity in 994; conversion of the Norwegian kingdom occurred over the next several decades. In 1397, Norway was absorbed into a union with Denmark that lasted more than four centuries. In 1814, Norwegians resisted the cession of their country to Sweden and adopted a new constitution. Sweden then invaded Norway but agreed to let Norway keep its constitution in return for accepting the union under a Swedish king. Rising nationalism throughout the 19th century led to a 1905 referendum granting Norway independence. Norway remained neutral in World War I and proclaimed its neutrality at the outset of World War II, but Nazi Germany nonetheless occupied the country for five years (1940-45). In 1949, Norway abandoned neutrality and became a member of NATO. Discovery of oil and gas in adjacent waters in the late 1960s boosted Norway's economic fortunes. In referenda held in 1972 and 1994, Norway rejected joining the EU. Key domestic issues include immigration and integration of ethnic minorities, maintaining the country's extensive social safety net with an aging population, and preserving economic competitiveness.
Capital	name: Oslo
Government type	parliamentary constitutional monarchy
Area	total : 323,802 sq km land: 304,282 sq km water: 19,520 sq km
Climate	temperate along coast, modified by North Atlantic Current; colder interior with increased precipitation and colder summers; rainy year-round on west coast
Natural resources	petroleum, natural gas, iron ore, copper, lead, zinc, titanium, pyrites, nickel, fish, timber, hydropower
Population	total: 5,509,733 (2024 est.)
Population growth rate	0.59% (2024 est.)
Ethnic groups	Norwegian 81.5% (includes about 60,000 Sami), other European 8.9%, other 9.6% (2021 est.)
Religions	Church of Norway (Evangelical Lutheran - official) 67.5%, Muslim 3.1%, Roman Catholic 3.1%, other Christian 3.8%, other 2.6%, unspecified 19.9% (2021 est.)
Languages	Bokmal Norwegian (official), Nynorsk Norwegian (official), small Sami- and Finnish-speaking minorities
Executive branch	chief of state: King HARALD V (since 17 January 1991) head of government: Prime Minister Jonas Gahr STORE (since 14 October 2021)
Legislative branch	legislature name: Parliament (Stortinget)
Diplomatic representation in the US	chief of mission: Ambassador Anniken Scharning HUITFELDT (since 18 September 2024)
Diplomatic representation from the US	chief of mission: Ambassador (vacant); Chargé d'Affaires Eric MEYER (since August 2024)
Economic overview	high-income, non-EU economy with trade links via European Economic Area (EEA); key role in European energy security as leader in oil, gas, and electricity exports; major fishing, forestry, and oil(?) extraction industries; oil sovereign fund supports generous welfare system; low unemployment; inflation moderating but remains above target level
Real GDP (purchasing power parity)	\$507.68 billion (2024 est.) \$497.236 billion (2023 est.) \$496.877 billion (2022 est.)
Real GDP per capita	\$91,100 (2024 est.) \$90,100 (2023 est.) \$91,100 (2022 est.)
Exports	\$229.205 billion (2024 est.) \$230.882 billion (2023 est.) \$323.875 billion (2022 est.)
Exports - partners	Germany 18%, UK 17%, Sweden 9%, Denmark 7%, Netherlands 6% (2023)
Exports - commodities	natural gas, crude petroleum, fish, refined petroleum, aluminum (2023)
Imports	\$162.467 billion (2024 est.) \$156.11 billion (2023 est.) \$160.649 billion (2022 est.)
Imports - partners	Sweden 11%, Germany 11%, China 11%, USA 7%, Netherlands 5% (2023)
Imports - commodities	cars, refined petroleum, ships, nickel, garments (2023)

Population Pyramid

