



# Croatia



**Background** The lands that today comprise Croatia were part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire until the end of World War I. In 1918, the Croats, Serbs, and Slovenes formed a kingdom known after 1929 as Yugoslavia. Following World War II, Yugoslavia became a federal independent communist state consisting of six socialist republics, including Croatia, under the strong hand of Josip Broz, aka TITO. Although Croatia declared its independence from Yugoslavia in 1991, it took four years of sporadic, but often bitter, fighting before Yugoslav forces were cleared from Croatian lands, along with a majority of Croatia's ethnic Serb population. Under UN supervision, the last Serb-held enclave in eastern Slavonia was returned to Croatia in 1998. The country joined NATO in 2009 and the EU in 2013. In January 2023, Croatia further integrated into the EU by joining the Eurozone and the Schengen Area.

**Capital** name: Zagreb

**Government type** parliamentary republic

**Area** total : 56,594 sq km  
land: 55,974 sq km  
water: 620 sq km

**Climate** Mediterranean and continental; continental climate predominant with hot summers and cold winters; mild winters, dry summers along coast

**Natural resources** oil, some coal, bauxite, low-grade iron ore, calcium, gypsum, natural asphalt, silica, mica, clays, salt, hydropower

**Population** total: 4,150,116 (2024 est.)

**Population growth rate** -0.46% (2024 est.)

**Ethnic groups** Croat 91.6%, Serb 3.2%, other 3.9% (including Bosniak, Romani, Albanian, Italian, and Hungarian), unspecified 1.3% (2021 est.)

**Religions** Roman Catholic 79%, Orthodox 3.3%, Protestant 0.3%, other Christian 4.8%, Muslim 1.3%, other 1.1%, agnostic 1.7%, none or atheist 4.7%, unspecified 3.9% (2021 est.)

**Languages** Croatian (official) 95.2%, Serbian 1.2%, other 3.1% (including Bosnian, Romani, Albanian, and Italian) unspecified 0.5% (2021 est.)

**Executive branch** chief of state: President Zoran MILANOVIC (since 18 February 2020)

head of government: Prime Minister Andrej PLENKOVIC (since 19 October 2016)

**Legislative branch** legislature name: Croatian Parliament (Hrvatski Sabor)

**Diplomatic representation in the US** chief of mission: Ambassador Pjer ŠIMUNOVIĆ (since 8 September 2017)

<b>Diplomatic representation from the US</b>	chief of mission: Ambassador (vacant); Chargé d'Affaires Trey LYONS (since January 2025)
<b>Economic overview</b>	upper-middle-income Balkan economy; newest euro user (introduced in 2023); increased investments from EU structural funds and tourism sector contributing to strong but moderating economic growth; declining energy prices and restrictive monetary policy easing inflation; historically low unemployment rate with labor shortages within services and manufacturing sectors
<b>Real GDP (purchasing power parity)</b>	\$164.825 billion (2024 est.) \$158.769 billion (2023 est.) \$153.693 billion (2022 est.)
<b>Real GDP per capita</b>	\$42,600 (2024 est.) \$41,100 (2023 est.) \$39,900 (2022 est.)
<b>Exports</b>	\$46.601 billion (2024 est.) \$45.064 billion (2023 est.) \$41.907 billion (2022 est.)
<b>Exports - partners</b>	Italy 14%, Germany 11%, Slovenia 11%, Bosnia & Herzegovina 6%, Austria 6% (2023)
<b>Exports - commodities</b>	ships, garments, electricity, packaged medicine, wood (2023)
<b>Imports</b>	\$49.86 billion (2024 est.) \$46.811 billion (2023 est.) \$46.769 billion (2022 est.)
<b>Imports - partners</b>	Italy 14%, Germany 14%, Slovenia 11%, Hungary 6%, Austria 5% (2023)
<b>Imports - commodities</b>	refined petroleum, cars, garments, natural gas, crude petroleum (2023)

**Population Pyramid**