



# Uruguay



**Background** The Spanish founded the city of Montevideo in modern-day Uruguay in 1726 as a military stronghold, and it soon became an important commercial center due to its natural harbor. Argentina initially claimed Uruguay, but Brazil annexed the country in 1821. Uruguay declared its independence in 1825 and secured its freedom in 1828 after a three-year struggle. The administrations of President Jose BATLLE in the early 20th century launched widespread political, social, and economic reforms that established a statist tradition. A violent Marxist urban guerrilla movement named the Tupamaros (or Movimiento de Liberación Nacional-Tupamaros) launched in the late 1960s and pushed Uruguay's president to cede control of the government to the military in 1973. By year-end, the rebels had been crushed, but the military continued to expand its hold over the government. Civilian rule was restored in 1985. In 2004, the left-of-center Frente Amplio (FA) Coalition won national elections that effectively ended 170 years of political control by the Colorado and National (Blanco) parties. The left-of-center coalition retained the presidency and control of both chambers of congress until 2019. Uruguay's political and labor conditions are among the freest on the South American continent.

**Capital** name: Montevideo

**Government type** presidential republic

**Area** total : 176,215 sq km  
land: 175,015 sq km  
water: 1,200 sq km

**Climate** warm temperate; freezing temperatures almost unknown

**Natural resources** arable land, hydropower, minor minerals, fish

**Population** total: 3,425,330 (2024 est.)

**Population growth rate** 0.26% (2024 est.)

**Ethnic groups** White 87.7%, Black 4.6%, Indigenous 2.4%, other 0.3%, none or unspecified 5% (2011 est.)

<b>Religions</b>	Roman Catholic 36.5%, Protestant 5% (Evangelical (non-specific) 4.6%, Adventist 0.2%, Protestant (non-specific) 0.3%), African American Cults/Umbanda 2.8%, Jehovah's Witness 0.6%, Church of Jesus Christ 0.2%, other 1%, Believer (not belonging to the church) 1.8%, agnostic 0.3%, atheist 1.3%, none 47.3%, unspecified 3.4%
<b>Languages</b>	Roman Catholic 42%, Protestant 15%, other 6%, agnostic 3%, atheist 10%, unspecified 24% (2023 est.)
<b>Executive branch</b>	Spanish (official, Rioplatense is the most widely spoken dialect)
<b>Legislative branch</b>	chief of state: President Yamandú ORSI Martínez (since 1 March 2025) head of government: President Yamandú ORSI Martínez (since 1 March 2025) legislature name: General Assembly (Asamblea General)
<b>Diplomatic representation in the US</b>	chief of mission: Ambassador Daniel CASTILLOS Gómez (since 5 September 2025)
<b>Diplomatic representation from the US</b>	chief of mission: Ambassador-designate Lou RINALDI (since September 2025)
<b>Economic overview</b>	high-income, export-oriented South American economy; South America's largest middle class; low socioeconomic inequality; growing homicide rates; growing Chinese and EU relations; 2019 Argentine recession hurt; key milk, beef, rice, and wool exporter
<b>Real GDP (purchasing power parity)</b>	\$108.502 billion (2024 est.) \$105.231 billion (2023 est.) \$104.456 billion (2022 est.)
<b>Real GDP per capita</b>	\$32,000 (2024 est.) \$31,100 (2023 est.) \$30,800 (2022 est.)
<b>Exports</b>	\$23.329 billion (2024 est.) \$21.946 billion (2023 est.) \$23.56 billion (2022 est.)
<b>Exports - partners</b>	China 21%, Brazil 17%, USA 8%, Argentina 5%, Netherlands 5% (2023)
<b>Exports - commodities</b>	wood pulp, beef, milk, rice, wood (2023)
<b>Imports</b>	\$19.117 billion (2024 est.) \$19.259 billion (2023 est.) \$19.639 billion (2022 est.)
<b>Imports - partners</b>	Brazil 22%, China 18%, Argentina 11%, USA 9%, Nigeria 4% (2023)
<b>Imports - commodities</b>	crude petroleum, refined petroleum, cars, trucks, fertilizers (2023)

## Population Pyramid

