

## West Bank



<b>Background</b>	The landlocked West Bank -- the larger of the two Palestinian territories -- is home to some three million Palestinians. Inhabited since at least the 15th century B.C., the area currently known as the West Bank has been dominated by a succession of different powers. In the early 16th century, it was incorporated into the Ottoman Empire. The West Bank fell to British forces during World War I, becoming part of the British Mandate of Palestine. After the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, Transjordan (later renamed Jordan) captured the West Bank and annexed it in 1950; Israel then captured it in the Six-Day War in 1967. Under the Oslo Accords -- a series of agreements that were signed between 1993 and 1999 -- Israel transferred to the newly created Palestinian Authority (PA) security and civilian responsibility for the many Palestinian-populated areas of the West Bank, as well as the Gaza Strip. In addition to establishing the PA as an interim government, the Oslo Accords divided the West Bank into three areas, with one fully managed by the PA (Area A), another fully managed by Israel (Area C), and a third with shared control (Area B) until a permanent agreement could be reached between the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel. In 2000, a violent intifada, or uprising, began across the Palestinian territories, and in 2001, negotiations for a permanent agreement between the PLO and Israel on final status issues stalled. Subsequent attempts to re-start direct negotiations have not resulted in progress toward determining final status of the area. The PA last held national elections in 2006, when the Islamic Resistance Movement (HAMAS) won a majority of seats in the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC). Fatah, the dominant Palestinian political faction in the West Bank, and HAMAS failed to maintain a unity government, leading to violent clashes between their respective supporters and to HAMAS's violent seizure of all PA military and governmental institutions in the Gaza Strip in 2007. In 2018, the Palestinian Constitutional Court dissolved the PLC. In recent years, Fatah and HAMAS have made several attempts at reconciliation, but the factions have been unable to implement agreements.
<b>Area</b>	total : 5,860 sq km land: 5,640 sq km water: 220 sq km
<b>Climate</b>	temperate; temperature and precipitation vary with altitude, warm to hot summers, cool to mild winters
<b>Natural resources</b>	arable land
<b>Population</b>	total: 3,243,369 (2024 est.)
<b>Population growth rate</b>	2.07% (2024 est.)
<b>Ethnic groups</b>	Palestinian Arab, Jewish, other
<b>Religions</b>	Muslim 80-85% (predominantly Sunni), Jewish 12-14%, Christian 1-2.5% (mainly Greek Orthodox), other, unaffiliated, unspecified <1% (2012 est.)
<b>Languages</b>	Arabic, Hebrew (spoken by Israeli settlers and many Palestinians), English (widely understood)
<b>Real GDP (purchasing power parity)</b>	\$20.339 billion (2024 est.) \$27.694 billion (2023 est.) \$29.016 billion (2022 est.)
<b>Real GDP per capita</b>	\$3,800 (2024 est.) \$5,400 (2023 est.) \$5,800 (2022 est.)
<b>Exports</b>	\$2.885 billion (2024 est.) \$3.413 billion (2023 est.) \$3.533 billion (2022 est.)
<b>Exports - partners</b>	Jordan 51%, Turkey 12%, UAE 8%, Saudi Arabia 5%, UK 4% (2023)
<b>Exports - commodities</b>	scrap iron, tropical fruits, olive oil, building stone, prepared meat (2023)
<b>Imports</b>	\$8.264 billion (2024 est.) \$11.637 billion (2023 est.) \$12.257 billion (2022 est.)
<b>Imports - partners</b>	Egypt 25%, Jordan 17%, China 8%, Germany 7%, UAE 7% (2023)
<b>Imports - commodities</b>	cement, raw sugar, cars, baked goods, perfumes (2023)

Population Pyramid

