



Greece



Background Greece won independence from the Ottoman Empire in 1830 and became a kingdom. During the second half of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century, it gradually added neighboring islands and territories, most with Greek-speaking populations. In World War II, Greece was first invaded by Italy (1940) and subsequently occupied by Germany (1941-44); fighting endured in a protracted civil war between supporters of the king and other anti-communist and communist rebels. The communists were defeated in 1949, and Greece joined NATO in 1952. In 1967, a military coup forced the king to flee the country. The ensuing military dictatorship collapsed in 1974, and Greece abolished the monarchy to become a parliamentary republic.

In 1981, Greece joined the EC (now the EU); it became the 12th member of the European Economic and Monetary Union in 2001. From 2009 until 2019, Greece suffered a severe economic crisis due to nearly a decade of chronic overspending and structural rigidities. Beginning in 2010, Greece entered three bailout agreements -- the first two with the European Commission, the European Central Bank, and the IMF; and the third in 2015 with the European Stability Mechanism -- worth in total about \$300 billion. The Greek Government formally exited the third bailout in 2018, and Greece's economy has since improved significantly. In 2022, the country finalized its early repayment to the IMF and graduated on schedule from the EU's enhanced surveillance framework.

Capital name: Athens

Government type parliamentary republic

Area
total : 131,957 sq km
land: 130,647 sq km
water: 1,310 sq km

Climate temperate; mild, wet winters; hot, dry summers

Natural resources lignite, petroleum, iron ore, bauxite, lead, zinc, nickel, magnesite, marble, salt, hydropower potential

Population total: 10,461,091 (2024 est.)

Population growth rate -0.35% (2024 est.)

Ethnic groups Greek 91.6%, Albanian 4.4%, other 4% (2011 est.)

Religions Greek Orthodox 81-90%, Muslim 2%, other 3%, none 4-15%, unspecified 1% (2015 est.)

Languages Greek (official) 99%, other (includes English and French) 1%

Executive branch chief of state: President Konstantinos TASOULAS (since 13 March 2025)
head of government: Prime Minister Kyriakos MITSOTAKIS (since 26 June 2023)

Legislative branch	legislature name: Hellenic Parliament (Vouli Ton Ellinon)
Diplomatic representation in the US	chief of mission: Ambassador Ekaterini NASSIKA (since 27 February 2024)
Diplomatic representation from the US	chief of mission: Ambassador Kimberly Ann GUILFOYLE (since 4 November 2025)
Economic overview	high-income EU and eurozone economy; growth above euro average, supported by private consumption and EU fund investments; structural reforms strengthening public finances and enhancing resilience within banking system; declining unemployment but low labor productivity and skill shortages
Real GDP (purchasing power parity)	\$392.205 billion (2024 est.) \$383.493 billion (2023 est.) \$374.753 billion (2022 est.)
Real GDP per capita	\$37,800 (2024 est.) \$36,900 (2023 est.) \$35,900 (2022 est.)
Exports	\$108.424 billion (2024 est.) \$107.218 billion (2023 est.) \$106.189 billion (2022 est.)
Exports - partners	Italy 12%, Germany 6%, Cyprus 6%, Bulgaria 4%, USA 4% (2023)
Exports - commodities	refined petroleum, packaged medicine, aluminum, olive oil, tobacco (2023)
Imports	\$122.408 billion (2024 est.) \$119.234 billion (2023 est.) \$127.82 billion (2022 est.)
Imports - partners	Germany 10%, China 10%, Italy 8%, Iraq 7%, Netherlands 6% (2023)
Imports - commodities	crude petroleum, refined petroleum, natural gas, cars, packaged medicine (2023)

Population Pyramid

