Bangladesh

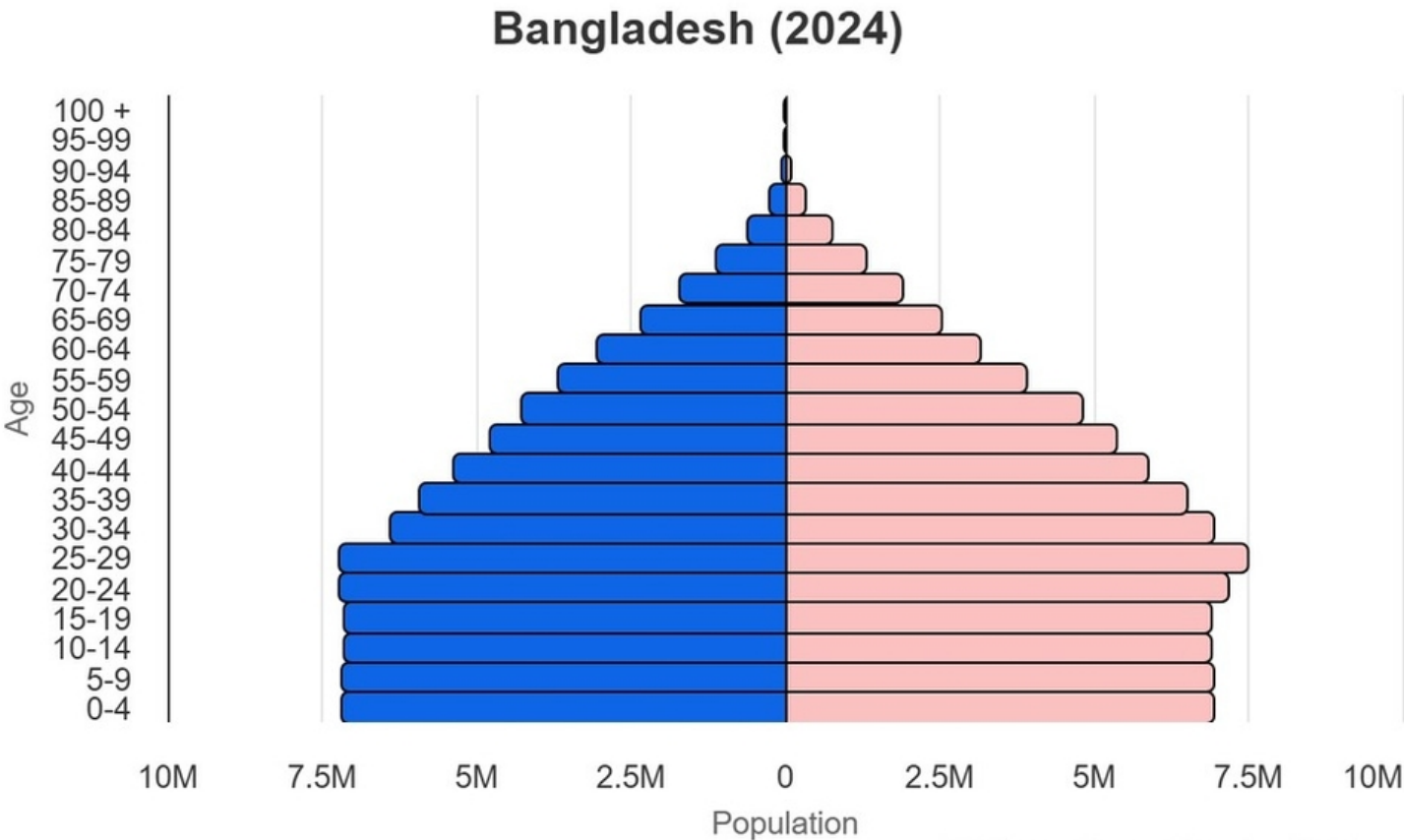| Background	The huge delta region at the confluence of the Ganges and Brahmaputra River systems -- now referred to as Bangladesh -- was a loosely incorporated outpost of various empires for much of the first millennium A.D. Muslim conversions and settlement in the region began in the 10th century, primarily from Arab and Persian traders and preachers. Europeans established trading posts in the area in the 16th century. Eventually the area known as Bengal, which is primarily Hindu in the western section and mostly Muslim in the eastern half, became part of British India. After the partition of India in 1947, the Muslim-majority area became East Pakistan. Calls for greater autonomy and animosity between the eastern and western areas of Pakistan led to a Bengali independence movement. That movement, led by the Awami League (AL) and supported by India, won the independence war for Bangladesh in 1971.
	The military overthrew the post-independence AL government in 1975, the first of a series of military coups that resulted in a military-backed government and the subsequent creation of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) that took power in 1979. That government also ended in a coup in 1981, followed by military-backed rule until democratic elections were held in 1991. The BNP and AL alternated in power from 1991 to 2008, with the exception of a military-backed, emergency caretaker regime in 2007. The country returned to fully democratic rule in 2008 with the election of the AL and Prime Minister Sheikh HASINA. With the help of international development assistance, Bangladesh is on track to graduate from the UN's Least Developed Countries (LDC) list in 2026.
	The economy has grown at an annual average of about 6.25% for the last two decades. Poverty declined from 11.8 percent in 2010 to 5.0 percent in 2022, based on the international poverty line of $2.15 a day (using 2017 Purchasing Power Parity exchange rate). The country made a rapid recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, but still faces economic challenges.
Capital	name: Dhaka
Government type	parliamentary republic
Area	total : 148,460 sq km land: 130,170 sq km water: 18,290 sq km
Climate	tropical; mild winter (October to March); hot, humid summer (March to June); humid, warm rainy monsoon (June to October)
Natural resources	natural gas, arable land, timber, coal

Population	total: 168,697,184 (2024 est.)
Population growth rate	0.89% (2024 est.)
Ethnic groups	Bengali at least 99%, other indigenous ethnic groups 1% (2022 est.)
Religions	Muslim 91%, Hindu 8%, other 1% (2022 est.)
Languages	Bangla 98.8% (official, also known as Bengali), other 1.2% (2011 est.)
Executive branch	chief of state: President Mohammad SHAHABUDDIN Chuppi (since 24 April 2023) head of government: Interim Prime Minister Muhammad YUNUS (since 8 August 2024)
Legislative branch	expected date of next election: February 2026
Diplomatic representation in the US	chief of mission: Ambassador Tareq Md Ariful ISLAM (since 5 September 2025)
Diplomatic representation from the US	chief of mission: Ambassador (vacant); Chargé d'Affaires Ambassador Tracey Ann JACOBSEN (since 11 January 2025)
Economic overview	one of the fastest growing emerging market economies; strong economic rebound following COVID-19; significant poverty reduction; exports dominated by textile industry; weakened exports and remittances resulted in declining foreign exchange reserves and 2022 IMF loan request
Real GDP (purchasing power parity)	$1.473 trillion (2024 est.) $1.413 trillion (2023 est.) $1.336 trillion (2022 est.)
Real GDP per capita	$8,500 (2024 est.) $8,200 (2023 est.) $7,900 (2022 est.)
Exports	$53.848 billion (2024 est.) $58.885 billion (2023 est.) $60.066 billion (2022 est.)
Exports - partners	USA 16%, Germany 15%, UK 8%, Spain 7%, Poland 6% (2023)
Exports - commodities	garments, footwear, fabric, textiles, trunks and cases (2023)
Imports	$74.96 billion (2024 est.) $73.172 billion (2023 est.) $93.635 billion (2022 est.)
Imports - partners	China 34%, India 17%, Indonesia 5%, Singapore 5%, Malaysia 4% (2023)
Imports - commodities	refined petroleum, cotton fabric, natural gas, cotton, fabric (2023)

Population Pyramid

Bangladesh (2024)