



# South Sudan



**Background** South Sudan, which gained independence from Sudan in 2011, is the world's newest country. When Sudan attained independence in 1956, the southerners were assured of full participation in the political system, but the Arab government in Khartoum reneged on its promises. Since independence, South Sudan has struggled to form a viable governing system and has been plagued by widespread corruption, political conflict, and communal violence. Implementation of a 2018 peace agreement has been stalled as South Sudanese leaders wrangle over power-sharing.

**Capital** name: Juba

**Government type** presidential republic

**Area** total : 644,329 sq km

**Climate** hot with seasonal rainfall influenced by the annual shift of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone; rainfall heaviest in upland areas of the south and diminishes to the north

**Natural resources** hydropower, fertile agricultural land, gold, diamonds, petroleum, hardwoods, limestone, iron ore, copper, chromium ore, zinc, tungsten, mica, silver

**Population** total: 12,703,714 (2024 est.)

**Population growth rate** 4.65% (2024 est.)

**Ethnic groups** Dinka (Jieng) approximately 35–40%, Nuer (Naath) approximately 15%, Shilluk (Chollo), Azande, Bari, Kakwa, Kuku, Murle, Mandari, Didinga, Ndogo, Bviri, Lndi, Anuak, Bongo, Lango, Dungotona, Acholi, Baka, Fertit (2011 est.)

**Religions** Christian 60.5%, folk religion 32.9%, Muslim 6.2%, other <1%, unaffiliated <1% (2020 est.)

**Languages** English (official), Arabic (includes Juba and Sudanese variants), ethnic languages include Dinka, Nuer, Bari, Zande, Shilluk

**Executive branch** chief of state: President Salva Kiir Mayardit (since 9 July 2011)

head of government: President Salva Kiir Mayardit (since 9 July 2011)

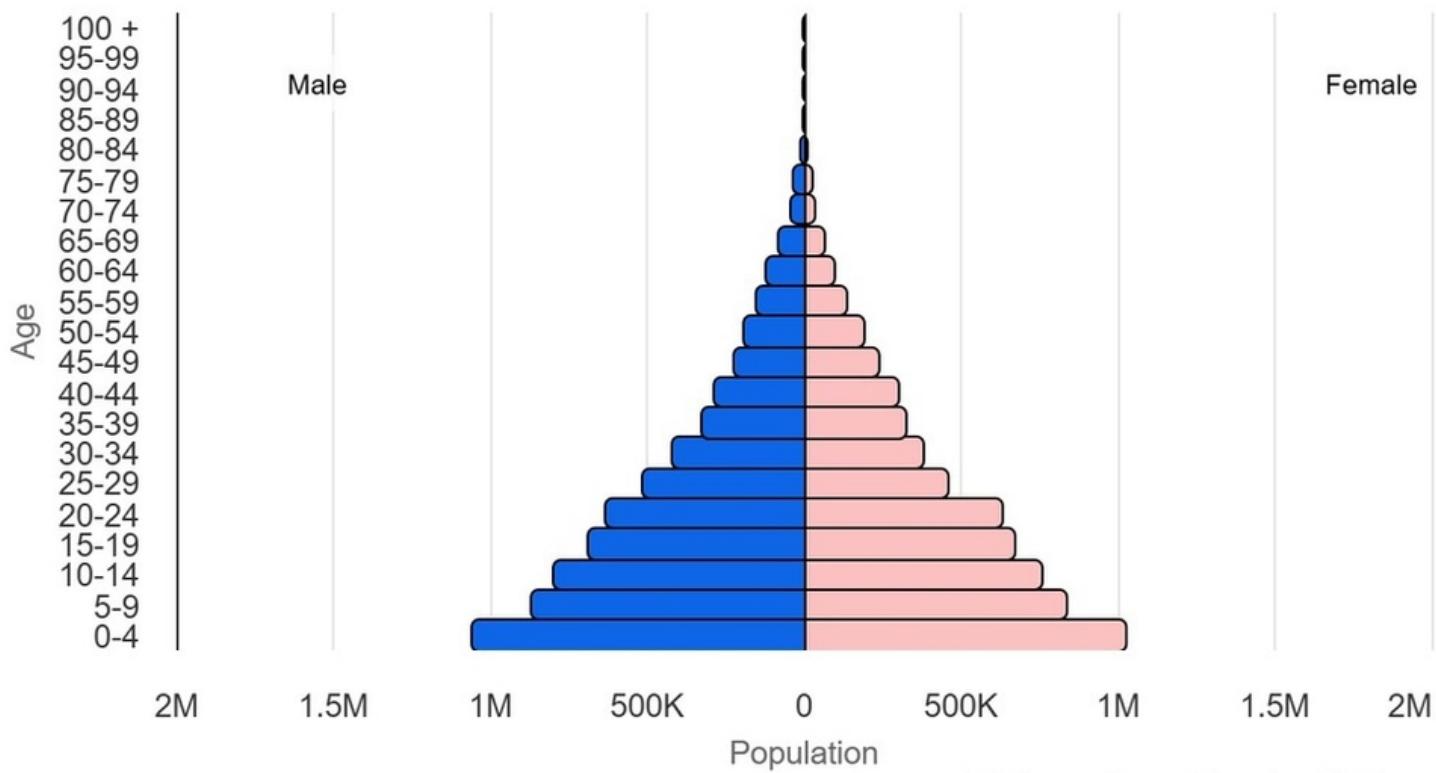
**Diplomatic representation in the US** chief of mission: Ambassador Santino Fardol Watod DICKEN (since 18 September 2024)

**Diplomatic representation from the US** chief of mission: Ambassador Michael J. ADLER (since 24 August 2022)

**Economic overview** low-income, oil-based Sahelian economy; extreme poverty and food insecurity; COVID-19 and ongoing violence threaten socioeconomic potential; environmentally fragile; ongoing land and property rights issues; natural resource rich but lacks infrastructure

<b>Real GDP (purchasing power parity)</b>	\$6.752 billion (2023 est.) \$6.585 billion (2022 est.) \$6.945 billion (2021 est.)
<b>Real GDP per capita</b>	\$400 (2023 est.) \$400 (2022 est.) \$400 (2021 est.)
<b>Exports</b>	\$4.499 billion (2023 est.) \$5.811 billion (2022 est.) \$4.652 billion (2021 est.)
<b>Exports - partners</b>	China 51%, Singapore 29%, UAE 10%, Germany 4%, Uganda 3% (2023)
<b>Exports - commodities</b>	crude petroleum, refined petroleum, forage crops, gold, scrap iron (2023)
<b>Imports</b>	\$4.443 billion (2023 est.) \$6.402 billion (2022 est.) \$4.037 billion (2021 est.)
<b>Imports - partners</b>	Uganda 33%, UAE 26%, Kenya 14%, China 10%, USA 3% (2023)
<b>Imports - commodities</b>	garments, cement, other foods, iron bars, cereal flours (2023)

## Population Pyramid

**South Sudan (2024)**

U.S. Census Bureau, International Database