



# Guatemala



**Background** The Maya civilization flourished in Guatemala and surrounding regions during the first millennium A.D. After almost three centuries as a Spanish colony, Guatemala won its independence in 1821. During the second half of the 20th century, it experienced a variety of military and civilian governments, as well as a 36-year guerrilla war. In 1996, the government signed a peace agreement formally ending the internal conflict.

**Capital** name: Guatemala City

**Government type** presidential republic

**Area** total : 108,889 sq km  
land: 107,159 sq km  
water: 1,730 sq km

**Climate** tropical; hot, humid in lowlands; cooler in highlands

**Natural resources** petroleum, nickel, rare woods, fish, chicle, hydropower

**Population** total: 18,255,216 (2024 est.)

**Population growth rate** 1.49% (2024 est.)

**Ethnic groups** Mestizo (mixed Indigenous-Spanish - in local Spanish called Ladino) 56%, Maya 41.7%, Xinca (Indigenous, non-Maya) 1.8%, African descent 0.2%, Garifuna (mixed West and Central African, Island Carib, and Arawak) 0.1%, foreign 0.2% (2018 est.)

**Religions** Evangelical 45.7%, Roman Catholic 42.4%, none 11%, unspecified 0.9% (2023 est.)

**Languages** Spanish (official) 69.9%, Maya languages 29.7% (Q'eqchi' 8.3%, K'iche 7.8%, Mam 4.4%, Kaqchikel 3%, Q'anjob'al 1.2%, Poqomchi' 1%, other 4%), other 0.4% (includes Xinca and Garifuna) (2018 est.)

**Executive branch** chief of state: President Bernardo ARÉVALO de León (since 15 January 2024)

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**Legislative branch** legislature name: Congress of the Republic (Congreso de la República)

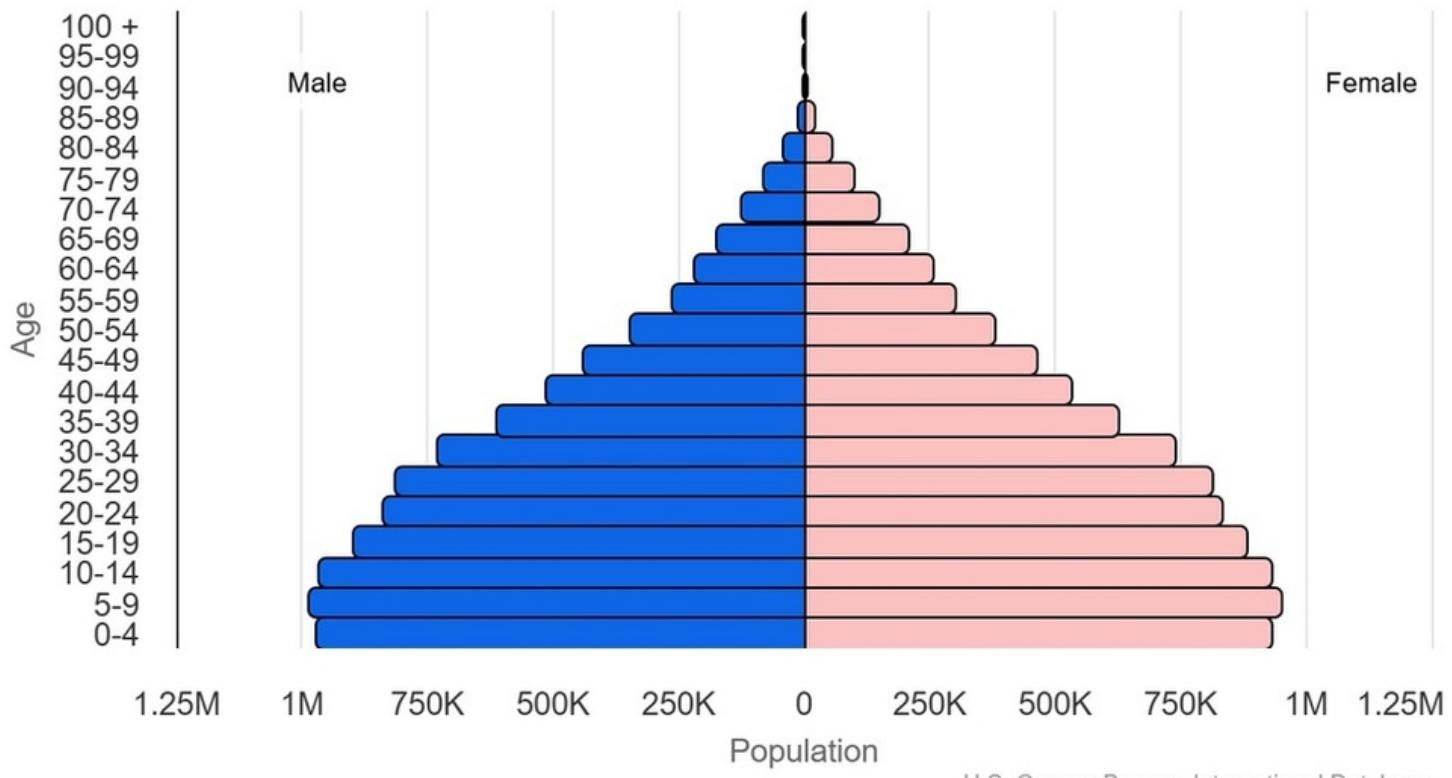
chief of mission: Ambassador Hugo Eduardo BETETA (since 17 June 2024)

**Diplomatic representation in the US** chief of mission: Ambassador Tobin BRADLEY (since 12 February 2024)

**Economic overview** developing Central American economy; steady economic growth fueled by remittances; high poverty and income inequality; limited government services, lack of employment opportunities, and frequent natural disasters impede human development efforts and drive emigration

<b>Real GDP (purchasing power parity)</b>	\$232.673 billion (2024 est.) \$224.475 billion (2023 est.) \$216.815 billion (2022 est.)
<b>Real GDP per capita</b>	\$12,600 (2024 est.) \$12,400 (2023 est.) \$12,100 (2022 est.)
<b>Exports</b>	\$17.997 billion (2024 est.) \$17.342 billion (2023 est.) \$18.141 billion (2022 est.)
<b>Exports - partners</b>	USA 33%, El Salvador 11%, Honduras 9%, Nicaragua 6%, Mexico 4% (2023)
<b>Exports - commodities</b>	garments, bananas, coffee, palm oil, raw sugar (2023)
<b>Imports</b>	\$35.576 billion (2024 est.) \$33.056 billion (2023 est.) \$33.943 billion (2022 est.)
<b>Imports - partners</b>	USA 30%, China 19%, Mexico 11%, El Salvador 4%, Costa Rica 3% (2023)
<b>Imports - commodities</b>	refined petroleum, video displays, cars, trucks, packaged medicine (2023)

## Population Pyramid

**Guatemala (2024)**

U.S. Census Bureau, International Database