



The United States of America

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Country Profile

ECON 317

Historical Overview

- A former British Colony
 - Independence July 4, 1776 – American Revolutionary War
- Established a constitutional presidential federal republic
 - U.S. Constitution 1789
- Civil War 1861-1865 between Union and Confederate States of America
- Key roles in WWI and WWII
- Cold War vs Soviet Union
- Dominant power in latter 20th Century

Demographics¹

- Population (2018): 327,167,434 (0.619% growth)
- HDI (2017)²: 0.924 (13th)
- Life Expectancy (2018): 78 years
- Happiness³: 6.9/10
- Poverty (% less than \$1.90/day): 1.2% (2018)
- Gini (2016): 41.5

¹ All data (except as otherwise noted) from World Bank Development Indicators

² [U.N. HDI](#)

³ [U.N. World Happiness Report](#)

Institutions & Culture

- Religions¹:
 - No official religion
 - 73% Christian, 21.3% Unaffiliated, 2.1% Jewish, 0.8% Muslim, 2.9% Other
- Languages
 - No official language (at Federal level)
 - English
- Common Law legal system
- Polity IV²: 10/10
- Political Freedom (Freedom House)³: 86/100 – Free
- Economic Freedom (Fraser, 2017)⁴: 8.19/10 (5th)
- Corruption (2018)⁵: 71/100 (22nd)
- Rule of Law Score⁶: 0.71/1.00 (20th)



¹ [Gallup](#)

² [Polity IV](#)

³ [Freedom House](#)

⁴ [Fraser Institute](#)

⁵ [Transparency International: CPI](#)

⁶ [World Justice Project](#)

Economy¹

- **Macroeconomy**

- GDP per capita: \$62,641 (2018) (2.22% growth)
- Inflation: 2.44% (2018)
- Debt % of GDP: 99% (2016)
- Unemployment: 3.87% (2019)

- **Trade**

- Trade % of GDP: 27% (2017)
- Top Trade: Refined Petroleum (\$74.5B), Cars (\$56B), Aircraft (\$54B)²
- Top Trading partners: Mexico, Canada, China, Japan, Germany³

- **Ease of Doing Business (2020)⁴: 85/100**

¹ All data (except as otherwise noted) from World Bank Development Indicators

² [Observatory of Economic Complexity](#)

³ [US Census](#)

⁴ [World Bank: Ease of Doing Business Score](#)





