

Semestral work

BI-XML

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1. Brazil

1.1 Introduction

Background:

Following more than three centuries under Portuguese rule, Brazil gained its independence in 1822, maintaining a monarchical system of government until the abolition of slavery in 1888 and the subsequent proclamation of a republic by the military in 1889. Brazilian coffee exporters politically dominated the country until populist leader Getulio VARGAS rose to power in 1930. By far the largest and most populous country in South America, Brazil underwent more than a half century of populist and military government until 1985, when the military regime peacefully ceded power to civilian rulers. Brazil continues to pursue industrial and agricultural growth and development of its interior. Having successfully weathered a period of global financial difficulty in the late 20th century, Brazil was seen as one of the world's strongest emerging markets and a contributor to global growth. The awarding of the 2014 FIFA World Cup and 2016 Summer Olympic Games, the first ever to be held in South America, was seen as symbolic of the country's rise. However, from about 2013 to 2016, Brazil was plagued by a sagging economy, high unemployment, and high inflation, only emerging from recession in 2017. Political scandal resulted in the impeachment of President Dilma ROUSSEFF in May 2016, a conviction that was upheld by the Senate in August 2016; her vice president, Michel TEMER, will serve as president until 1 January 2019, completing her second term.

BRAZIL SUMMARY

1.2 Geography

Location:

Eastern South America, bordering the Atlantic Ocean

Geographic coordinates:

10 00 S, 55 00 W

Map references:

South America

Area:

total : 8,515,770 sq km8,515,770 sq km

land : 8,358,140 sq km8,358,140 sq km

water : 157,630 sq km157,630 sq km

note : includes Arquipelago de Fernando de Noronha, Atol das Rocas, Ilha da Trindade, Ilhas Martin Vaz, and Penedos de Sao Pedro e Sao Pauloincludes Arquipelago de Fernando de Noronha, Atol das Rocas, Ilha da Trindade, Ilhas Martin Vaz, and Penedos de Sao Pedro e Sao Paulo

country comparison to the world : 66

Area - comparative:

slightly smaller than the US

Land boundaries:

total : 16,145 km16,145 km

border countries (10) : Argentina 1,263 km, Bolivia 3,403 km, Colombia 1,790 km, French Guiana 649 km, Guyana 1,308 km, Paraguay 1,371 km, Peru 2,659 km, Suriname 515 km, Uruguay 1,050 km, Venezuela 2,137 kmArgentina 1,263 km, Bolivia 3,403 km, Colombia 1,790 km, French Guiana 649 km, Guyana 1,308 km, Paraguay 1,371 km, Peru 2,659 km, Suriname 515 km, Uruguay 1,050 km, Venezuela 2,137 km

Coastline:

7,491 km

Maritime claims:

territorial sea : 12 nm12 nm

contiguous zone : 24 nm24 nm

exclusive economic zone : 200 nm200 nm

continental shelf : 200 nm or to edge of the continental margin200 nm or to edge of the continental margin

Climate:

mostly tropical, but temperate in south

Terrain:

mostly flat to rolling lowlands in north; some plains, hills, mountains, and narrow coastal belt

Elevation:

mean elevation : 320 m320 m

elevation extremes : lowest point: Atlantic Ocean 0 mlowest point: Atlantic Ocean 0 m

highest point: Pico da Neblina 2,994 m

Natural resources:

bauxite, gold, iron ore, manganese, nickel, phosphates, platinum, tin, rare earth elements, uranium, petroleum, hydropower, timber

Land use:

agricultural land : 32.9%32.9%

arable land 8.6%; permanent crops 0.8%; permanent pasture 23.5%

forest : 61.9%61.9%

other : 5.2% (2011 est.)5.2% (2011 est.)

Irrigated land:

54,000 sq km (2012)

Population - distribution:

the vast majority of people live along, or relatively near, the Atlantic coast in the east; the population core is in the southeast, anchored by the cities of Sao Paulo, Brasilia, and Rio de Janeiro

Natural hazards:

recurring droughts in northeast; floods and occasional frost in south

Environment - current issues:

deforestation in Amazon Basin destroys the habitat and endangers a multitude of plant and animal species indigenous to the area; illegal wildlife trade; illegal poaching; air and water pollution in Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, and several other large cities; land degradation and water pollution caused by improper mining activities; wetland degradation; severe oil spills

Environment - international agreements:

party to : Antarctic-Environmental Protocol, Antarctic-Marine Living Resources, Antarctic Seals, Antarctic Treaty, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Environmental Modification, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Marine Dumping, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Tropical Timber 83, Tropical Timber 94, Wetlands, Whaling Antarctic-Environmental Protocol, Antarctic-Marine Living Resources, Antarctic Seals, Antarctic Treaty, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Environmental Modification, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Marine Dumping, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Tropical Timber 83, Tropical Timber 94, Wetlands, Whaling

signed, but not ratified : none of the selected agreements none of the selected agreements

Geography - note:

largest country in South America and in the Southern Hemisphere; shares common boundaries with every South American country except Chile and Ecuador; most of the Pantanal, the world's largest tropical wetland, extends through the west central part of the country; shares Iguazu Falls, the world's largest waterfalls system, with Argentina

1.3 People and Society

Population:

207,353,391 (July 2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 55

Nationality:

noun : Brazilian(s) Brazilian(s)

adjective : Brazilian Brazilian

Ethnic groups:

white 47.7%, mulatto (mixed white and black) 43.1%, black 7.6%, Asian 1.1%, indigenous 0.4% (2010 est.)

Languages:

Portuguese (official and most widely spoken language)

note : less common languages include Spanish (border areas and schools), German, Italian, Japanese, English, and a large number of minor Amerindian languages less common languages include Spanish (border areas and schools), German, Italian, Japanese, English, and a large number of minor Amerindian languages

Religions:

Roman Catholic 64.6%, other Catholic 0.4%, Protestant 22.2% (includes Adventist 6.5%, Assembly of God 2.0%, Christian Congregation of Brazil 1.2%, Universal Kingdom of God 1.0%, other Protestant 11.5%), other Christian 0.7%, Spiritist 2.2%, other 1.4%, none 8%, unspecified 0.4% (2010 est.)

Demographic profile:

Brazil's rapid fertility decline since the 1960s is the main factor behind the country's slowing population growth rate, aging population, and fast-paced demographic transition. Brasilia has not taken full advantage of its large working-age population to develop its human capital and strengthen its social and economic institutions but is funding a study abroad program to bring advanced skills back to the country. The current favorable age structure will begin to shift around 2025, with the labor force shrinking and the elderly starting to compose an increasing share of the total population. Well-funded public pensions have nearly wiped out poverty among the elderly, and Bolsa Familia and other social programs have lifted tens of millions out of poverty. More than half of Brazil's population is considered middle class, but poverty and income inequality levels remain high; the Northeast, North, and Center-West, women, and black, mixed race, and indigenous populations are disproportionately affected. Disparities in opportunities foster social exclusion and contribute to Brazil's high crime rate, particularly violent crime in cities and favelas (slums).

Brazil has traditionally been a net recipient of immigrants, with its southeast being the prime destination. After the importation of African slaves was outlawed in the mid-19th century, Brazil sought Europeans (Italians, Portuguese, Spaniards, and Germans) and later Asians (Japanese) to work in agriculture, especially coffee cultivation. Recent immigrants come mainly from Argentina, Chile, and Andean countries (many are unskilled illegal migrants) or are returning Brazilian nationals. Since Brazil's economic downturn in the 1980s, emigration to the United States, Europe, and Japan has been rising but is negligible relative to Brazil's total population. The majority of these emigrants are well-educated and middle-class. Fewer Brazilian peasants are emigrating to neighboring countries to take up agricultural work.

Age structure:

0-14 years : 22.33% (male 23,599,867/female 22,696,756)22.33% (male 23,599,867/female 22,696,756)

15-24 years : 16.36% (male 17,212,048/female 16,721,295)16.36% (male 17,212,048/female 16,721,295)

25-54 years : 43.86% (male 45,114,076/female 45,836,147)43.86% (male 45,114,076/female 45,836,147)

55-64 years : 9.12% (male 8,931,065/female 9,974,723)9.12% (male 8,931,065/female 9,974,723)

65 years and over : 8.33% (male 7,356,838/female 9,910,576) (2017 est.)8.33% (male 7,356,838/female 9,910,576) (2017 est.)

Dependency ratios:

total dependency ratio : 43.843.8

youth dependency ratio : 32.432.4

elderly dependency ratio : 11.411.4

potential support ratio : 8.7 (2015 est.)8.7 (2015 est.)

Median age:

total : 32 years32 years

male : 31.1 years31.1 years

female : 32.8 years (2017 est.)32.8 years (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 102102

Population growth rate:

0.73% (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 140140

Birth rate:

14.1 births/1,000 population (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 136136

Death rate:

6.7 deaths/1,000 population (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 139139

Net migration rate:

-0.1 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 104104

Population distribution:

the vast majority of people live along, or relatively near, the Atlantic coast in the east; the population core is in the southeast, anchored by the cities of Sao Paolo, Brasilia, and Rio de Janeiro

Urbanization:

urban population : 86.6% of total population (2018)86.6% of total population (2018)

rate of urbanization : 1.05% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)1.05% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

Major urban areas - population:

Sao Paulo 21.65 million; Rio de Janeiro 13.293 million; Belo Horizonte 5.972 million; BRASILIA (capital) 4.47 million; Porto Alegre 4.094 million; Recife 4.028 million (2018)

Sex ratio:

at birth : 1.04 male(s)/female1.04 male(s)/female

0-14 years : 1.04 male(s)/female1.04 male(s)/female

15-24 years : 1.03 male(s)/female1.03 male(s)/female

25-54 years : 0.98 male(s)/female0.98 male(s)/female

55-64 years : 0.89 male(s)/female0.89 male(s)/female

65 years and over : 0.74 male(s)/female0.74 male(s)/female

total population : 0.97 male(s)/female (2017 est.)0.97 male(s)/female (2017 est.)

Maternal mortality ratio:

44 deaths/100,000 live births (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 102102

Infant mortality rate:

total : 17.5 deaths/1,000 live births17.5 deaths/1,000 live births

male : 20.5 deaths/1,000 live births20.5 deaths/1,000 live births

female : 14.2 deaths/1,000 live births (2017 est.)14.2 deaths/1,000 live births (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 9292

Life expectancy at birth:

total population : 74 years74 years

male : 70.5 years70.5 years

female : 77.7 years (2017 est.)77.7 years (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 128128

Total fertility rate:

1.75 children born/woman (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 163163

Contraceptive prevalence rate:

80.2% (2013)

Health expenditures:

8.3% of GDP (2014)
country comparison to the world : 5151

Physicians density:

1.85 physicians/1,000 population (2013)

Hospital bed density:

2.2 beds/1,000 population (2014)

Drinking water source:

improved :
urban: 100% of population
rural: 87% of population
total: 98.1% of population
unimproved :
urban: 0% of population
rural: 13% of population
total: 1.9% of population (2015 est.)

Sanitation facility access:

improved :
urban: 88% of population
rural: 51.5% of population
total: 82.8% of population
unimproved :

urban: 12% of population
rural: 48.5% of population
total: 17.2% of population (2015 est.)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:

0.6% (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 6060

HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:

860,000 (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 1111

HIV/AIDS - deaths:

14,000 (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 1818

Major infectious diseases:

degree of risk : very highvery high
food or waterborne diseases : bacterial diarrhea and hepatitis Abacterial diarrhea and hepatitis A
vectorborne diseases : dengue fever and malariadengue fever and malaria
water contact disease : schistosomiasisschistosomiasis
note : active local transmission of Zika virus by Aedes species mosquitoes has been identified in this country (as of August 2016); it poses an important risk (a large number of cases possible) among US citizens if bitten by an infective mosquito; other less common ways to get Zika are through sex, via blood transfusion, or during pregnancy, in which the pregnant woman passes Zika virus to her fetus (2016)active local transmission of Zika virus by Aedes species mosquitoes has been identified in this country (as of August 2016); it poses an important risk (a large number of cases possible) among US citizens if bitten by an infective mosquito; other less common ways to get Zika are through sex, via blood transfusion, or during pregnancy, in which the pregnant woman passes Zika virus to her fetus (2016)

Obesity - adult prevalence rate:

22.1% (2016)
country comparison to the world : 8282

Education expenditures:

5.9% of GDP (2014)

country comparison to the world : 4949

Literacy:

definition : age 15 and over can read and writeage 15 and over can read and write

total population : 92.6%92.6%

male : 92.2%92.2%

female : 92.9% (2015 est.)92.9% (2015 est.)

School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education):

total : 15 years15 years

male : 15 years15 years

female : 16 years (2014)16 years (2014)

Unemployment, youth ages 15-24:

total : 30.2%30.2%

male : 26.5%26.5%

female : 35% (2017 est.)35% (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 8484

1.4 Government

Country name:

conventional long form : Federative Republic of BrazilFederative Republic of Brazil

conventional short form : BrazilBrazil

local long form : Republica Federativa do BrasilRepublica Federativa do Brasil

local short form : BrasilBrasil

etymology : the country name derives from the brazilwood tree that used to grow plentifully along the coast of Brazil and that was used to produce a deep red dyethe country name derives from the brazilwood tree that used to grow plentifully along the coast of Brazil and that was used to produce a deep red dye

Government type:

federal presidential republic

Capital:

name : Brasilia

geographic coordinates : 15 47 S, 47 55 W

time difference : UTC-3 (2 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)

daylight saving time : +1hr, begins third Sunday in October; ends third Sunday in February

note : Brazil has four time zones, including one for the Fernando de Noronha Islands

Administrative divisions:

26 states (estados, singular - estado) and 1 federal district* (distrito federal); Acre, Alagoas, Amapa, Amazonas, Bahia, Ceara, Distrito Federal*, Espirito Santo, Goias, Maranhao, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Minas Gerais, Para, Paraiba, Parana, Pernambuco, Piaui, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Norte, Rio Grande do Sul, Rondonia, Roraima, Santa Catarina, Sao Paulo, Sergipe, Tocantins

Independence:

7 September 1822 (from Portugal)

National holiday:

Independence Day, 7 September (1822)

Constitution:

history : several previous; latest ratified 5 October 1988

amendments : proposed by at least one-third of either house of the National Congress, by the president of the republic, or by simple majority vote by more than half of the state legislative assemblies; passage requires at least three-fifths majority vote by both houses in each of 2 readings; constitutional provisions affecting the federal form of government, separation of powers, suffrage, or individual rights and guarantees cannot be amended; amended many times, last in 2017 (2018)

Legal system:

civil law; note - a new civil law code was enacted in 2002 replacing the 1916 code

International law organization participation:

has not submitted an ICJ jurisdiction declaration; accepts ICCT jurisdiction

Citizenship:

citizenship by birth : yesyes

citizenship by descent : yesyes

dual citizenship recognized : yesyes

residency requirement for naturalization : 4 years4 years

Suffrage:

voluntary between 16 to 18 years of age, over 70, and if illiterate; compulsory between 18 to 70 years of age; note - military conscripts by law cannot vote

Executive branch:

chief of state : President Michel Miguel Elias TEMER Lulia (since 31 August 2016); Vice President (vacant); note - the president is both chief of state and head of governmentPresident Michel Miguel Elias TEMER Lulia (since 31 August 2016); Vice President (vacant); note - the president is both chief of state and head of government

head of government : President Michel Miguel Elias TEMER Lulia (since 31 August 2016); Vice President (vacant)President Michel Miguel Elias TEMER Lulia (since 31 August 2016); Vice President (vacant)

cabinet : Cabinet appointed by the presidentCabinet appointed by the president

elections/appointments : president and vice president directly elected on the same ballot by absolute majority popular vote in 2 rounds if needed for a single 4-year term (eligible for a second term); election last held on 7 October 2018 with runoff on 28 October 2018 (next to be held in October 2022)president and vice president directly elected on the same ballot by absolute majority popular vote in 2 rounds if needed for a single 4-year term (eligible for a second term); election last held on 7 October 2018 with runoff on 28 October 2018 (next to be held in October 2022)

election results : Jair BOLSONARO elected president in second round; percent of vote in first round - Jair BOLSONARO (PSL) 46%, Fernando HADDAD (PT) 29.3%, Ciro GOMEZ (PDT) 12.5%, Geraldo ALCKMIN (PSDB) 4.8%, other 7.4%; percent of vote in second round - Jair BOLSONARO (PSL) 55.1%, Fernando HADDAD (PT) 44.9%; note - BOLSONARO will take office 1 January 2019Jair BOLSONARO elected president in second round; percent of vote in first round - Jair BOLSONARO (PSL) 46%, Fernando HADDAD (PT) 29.3%, Ciro GOMEZ (PDT) 12.5%, Geraldo ALCKMIN (PSDB) 4.8%, other 7.4%; percent of vote in second round - Jair BOLSONARO (PSL)

55.1%, Fernando HADDAD (PT) 44.9%; note - BOLSONARO will take office 1 January 2019

note : on 12 May 2016, Brazil's Senate voted to hold an impeachment trial of President Dilma ROUSSEFF, who was then suspended from her executive duties; Vice President Michel TEMER took over as acting president; on 31 August 2016 the Senate voted 61-20 in favor of conviction and her removal from office; TEMER is serving as president for the remainder of ROUSSEFF's term, which ends 1 January 2019
on 12 May 2016, Brazil's Senate voted to hold an impeachment trial of President Dilma ROUSSEFF, who was then suspended from her executive duties; Vice President Michel TEMER took over as acting president; on 31 August 2016 the Senate voted 61-20 in favor of conviction and her removal from office; TEMER is serving as president for the remainder of ROUSSEFF's term, which ends 1 January 2019

Legislative branch:

description : bicameral National Congress or Congresso Nacional consists of:
bicameral National Congress or Congresso Nacional consists of:

Federal Senate or Senado Federal (81 seats; 3 members each from 26 states and 3 from the federal district directly elected in multi-seat constituencies by simple majority vote to serve 8-year terms, with one-third and two-thirds of the membership elected alternately every 4 years)

Chamber of Deputies or Camara dos Deputados (513 seats; members directly elected in multi-seat constituencies by proportional representation vote to serve 4-year terms)

elections :

Federal Senate - last held on 7 October 2018 for two-thirds of the Senate (next to be held in October 2022 for one-third of the Senate)

Chamber of Deputies - last held on 7 October 2018 (next to be held in October 2022)

election results :

Federal Senate - percent of vote by party - NA; seats by party - PMDB 7, PP 5, REDE 5, DEM 4, PSDB 4, PSDC 4, PSL 4, PT 4, PDT 2, PHS 2, PPS 2, PSB 2, PTB 2, Podemos 1, PR 1, PRB 1, PROS 1, PRP 1, PSC 1, SD 1

Chamber of Deputies - percent of vote by party - NA; seats by party - PT 56, PSL 52, PP 37, PMDB 34, PSDC 34, PR 33, PSB 32, PRB 30, DEM 29, PSDB 29, PDT 28, SD 13, Podemos 11, PSOL 10, PTB 10, PCdoB 9, NOVO 8, PPS 8, PROS 8, PSC 8, Avante 7, PHS 6, Patriota 5, PRP 4, PV 4, PMN 3, PTC 2, DC 1, PPL 1, REDE 1

Judicial branch:

highest court(s) : Supreme Federal Court or Supremo Tribunal Federal (consists of 11 justices)
Supreme Federal Court or Supremo Tribunal Federal (consists of 11 justices)

judge selection and term of office : justices appointed by the president and approved by the Federal Senate; justices appointed to serve until mandatory retirement at age 75
justices appointed by the president and approved by the Federal Senate; justices appointed to serve until mandatory retirement at age 75

subordinate courts : Tribunal of the Union, Federal Appeals Court, Superior Court of Justice, Superior Electoral Court, regional federal courts; state court system
Tribunal of the Union, Federal Appeals Court, Superior Court of Justice, Superior Electoral Court, regional federal courts; state court system

Political parties and leaders:

Avante [Luis TIBE] (formerly Labor Party of Brazil or PTdoB)
Brazilian Communist Party or PCB [Ivan Martins PINHEIRO]
Brazilian Democratic Movement Party or PMDB [Michel TEMER]
Brazilian Labor Party or PTB [Cristiane BRASIL]
Brazilian Renewal Labor Party or PRTB [Jose Levy FIDELIX da Cruz]
Brazilian Republican Party or PRB [Marcos Antonio PEREIRA]
Brazilian Social Democracy Party or PSDB [Aecio NEVES]
Brazilian Socialist Party or PSB [Carlos Roberto SIQUEIRA de Barros]
Christian Democracy or DC [Jose Maria EYMAEL] (formerly Christian Social Democratic Party or PSDC)
Christian Labor Party or PTC [Daniel TOURINHO]
Communist Party of Brazil or PCdoB [Jose Renato RABELO]
Democratic Labor Party or PDT [Carlos Roberto LUIPI]
The Democrats or DEM [Jose AGRIPINO] (formerly Liberal Front Party or PFL)
Free Homeland Party or PPL [Sergio RUBENS]
Green Party or PV [Jose Luiz PENNA]
Humanist Party of Solidarity or PHS [Eduardo MACHADO]
National Mobilization Party or PMN [Telma RIBEIRO dos Santos]
New Party or NOVO [Moises JARDIM]
Party of the Republic or PR [Alfredo NASCIMENTO]
Patriota [Adilson BARROSO Oliveira] (formerly National Ecologic Party or PEN)
Podemos (formerly National Labor Party or PTN) [Renata ABREU]
Popular Socialist Party or PPS [Roberto Joao Pereira FREIRE]
Progressive Party or PP [Ciro NOGUEIRA]
Progressive Republican Party or PRP [Ovasco Roma Altimari RESENDE]
Republican Social Order Party or PROS [Euripedes JUNIOR]
Social Christian Party or PSC [Vitor Jorge Abdala NOSSEIS]
Social Democratic Party or PSD [Guilherme CAMPOS]
Social Liberal Party or PSL [Luciano Caldas BIVAR]
Socialism and Freedom Party or PSOL [Luiz ARAUJO]
Solidarity or SD [Paulo PEREIRA DA SILVA]
Sustainability Network or REDE [Marina SILVA]

United Socialist Workers' Party or PSTU [Jose Maria DE ALMEIDA]

Workers' Cause Party or PCO [Rui Costa PIMENTA]

Workers' Party or PT [Rui FALCAO]

International organization participation:

AfDB (nonregional member), BIS, BRICS, CAN (associate), CD, CELAC, CPLP, FAO, FATF, G-15, G-20, G-24, G-5, G-77, IADB, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC (national committees), ICCT, ICRM, IDA, IFAD, IFC, IFRCS, IHO, ILO, IMF, IMO, IMSO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO, ITSO, ITU, ITUC (NGOs), LAES, LAIA, LAS (observer), Mercosur, MIGA, MINURSO, MINUSTAH, MONUSCO, NAM (observer), NSG, OAS, OECD (enhanced engagement), OPANAL, OPCW, Paris Club (associate), PCA, SICA (observer), UN, UNASUR, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNFICYP, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNIFIL, Union Latina, UNISFA, UNITAR, UNMIL, UNMISS, UNOCI, UNRWA, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WFTU (NGOs), WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

Diplomatic representation in the US:

chief of mission : Ambassador Sergio Silva do AMARAL (since 16 September 2016)
Ambassador Sergio Silva do AMARAL (since 16 September 2016)

chancery : 3006 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008
3006 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008

telephone : [1] (202) 238-2700
[1] (202) 238-2700

FAX : [1] (202) 238-2827
[1] (202) 238-2827

consulate(s) general : Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Hartford (CT), Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, San Francisco, Washington, DC
Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Hartford (CT), Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, San Francisco, Washington, DC

Diplomatic representation from the US:

chief of mission : Ambassador Michael MCKINLEY (since 19 December 2016)
Ambassador Michael MCKINLEY (since 19 December 2016)

embassy : Avenida das Nacoes, Quadra 801, Lote 3, Distrito Federal Cep 70403-900, Brasilia
Avenida das Nacoes, Quadra 801, Lote 3, Distrito Federal Cep 70403-900, Brasilia

mailing address : Unit 7500, DPO, AA 34030
Unit 7500, DPO, AA 34030

telephone : [55] (61) 3312-7000
[55] (61) 3312-7000

FAX : [55] (61) 3225-9136
[55] (61) 3225-9136

consulate(s) general : Recife, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo
Recife, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo

Flag description:

green with a large yellow diamond in the center bearing a blue celestial globe with 27 white five-pointed stars; the globe has a white equatorial band with the motto

ORDEM E PROGRESSO (Order and Progress); the current flag was inspired by the banner of the former Empire of Brazil (1822-1889); on the imperial flag, the green represented the House of Braganza of Pedro I, the first Emperor of Brazil, while the yellow stood for the Habsburg Family of his wife; on the modern flag the green represents the forests of the country and the yellow rhombus its mineral wealth (the diamond shape roughly mirrors that of the country); the blue circle and stars, which replaced the coat of arms of the original flag, depict the sky over Rio de Janeiro on the morning of 15 November 1889 - the day the Republic of Brazil was declared; the number of stars has changed with the creation of new states and has risen from an original 21 to the current 27 (one for each state and the Federal District)

note : one of several flags where a prominent component of the design reflects the shape of the country; other such flags are those of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Eritrea, and Vanuatu
one of several flags where a prominent component of the design reflects the shape of the country; other such flags are those of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Eritrea, and Vanuatu

National symbol(s):

Southern Cross constellation; national colors: green, yellow, blue

National anthem:

name : "Hino Nacional Brasileiro" (Brazilian National Anthem)"Hino Nacional Brasileiro" (Brazilian National Anthem)

lyrics/music : Joaquim Osorio Duque ESTRADA/Francisco Manoel DA SILVAJoaquim Osorio Duque ESTRADA/Francisco Manoel DA SILVA

note : music adopted 1890, lyrics adopted 1922; the anthem's music, composed in 1822, was used unofficially for many years before it was adopted
music adopted 1890, lyrics adopted 1922; the anthem's music, composed in 1822, was used unofficially for many years before it was adopted

1.5 Economy

Economy - overview:

Brazil is the eighth-largest economy in the world, but is recovering from a recession in 2015 and 2016 that ranks as the worst in the country's history. In 2017, Brazil's GDP grew 1%, inflation fell to historic lows of 2.9%, and the Central Bank lowered benchmark interest rates from 13.75% in 2016 to 7%.

The economy has been negatively affected by multiple corruption scandals involving private companies and government officials, including the impeachment and conviction of Former President Dilma ROUSSEFF in August 2016. Sanctions against the firms involved — some of the largest in Brazil — have limited their business opportunities, producing a ripple effect on associated businesses and contractors but creating opportunities for foreign companies to step into what had been a closed market.

The succeeding TEMER administration has implemented a series of fiscal and structural reforms to restore credibility to government finances. Congress approved legislation in December 2016 to cap public spending. Government spending growth had pushed public debt to 73.7% of GDP at the end of 2017, up from over 50% in 2012. The government also boosted infrastructure projects, such as oil and natural gas auctions, in part to raise revenues. Other economic reforms, proposed in 2016, aim to reduce barriers to foreign investment, and to improve labor conditions. Policies to strengthen Brazil's workforce and industrial sector, such as local content requirements, have boosted employment, but at the expense of investment.

Brazil is a member of the Common Market of the South (Mercosur), a trade bloc that includes Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay - Venezuela's membership in the organization was suspended In August 2017. After the Asian and Russian financial crises, Mercosur adopted a protectionist stance to guard against exposure to volatile foreign markets and it currently is negotiating Free Trade Agreements with the European Union and Canada.

GDP (purchasing power parity):

\$3.24 trillion (2017 est.)

\$3.357 trillion (2016 est.)

\$3.48 trillion (2015 est.)

note : data are in 2017 dollarsdata are in 2017 dollars

country comparison to the world : 99

GDP (official exchange rate):

\$2.055 trillion (2017 est.)

GDP - real growth rate:

1% (2017 est.)

-3.5% (2016 est.)

-3.6% (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 183183

GDP - per capita (PPP):

\$15,600 (2017 est.)

\$16,300 (2016 est.)

\$17,000 (2015 est.)

note : data are in 2017 dollarsdata are in 2017 dollars

country comparison to the world : 110110

Gross national saving:

15% of GDP (2017 est.)

14.1% of GDP (2016 est.)

14.2% of GDP (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 126126

GDP - composition, by end use:

household consumption : 63.4%63.4%

government consumption : 20%20%

investment in fixed capital : 15.6%15.6%

investment in inventories : 0%0%

exports of goods and services : 12.6%12.6%

imports of goods and services : -11.6% (2017 est.)-11.6% (2017 est.)

GDP - composition, by sector of origin:

agriculture : 6.2%6.2%

industry : 21%21%

services : 72.8%72.8%

(2017 est.)

Agriculture - products:

coffee, soybeans, wheat, rice, corn, sugarcane, cocoa, citrus; beef

Industries:

textiles, shoes, chemicals, cement, lumber, iron ore, tin, steel, aircraft, motor vehicles and parts, other machinery and equipment

Industrial production growth rate:

5.6% (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 3737

Labor force:

104.2 million (2017)

country comparison to the world : 66

Labor force - by occupation:

agriculture : 9.4%9.4%

industry : 32.1%32.1%

services : 58.5%58.5%

(2017 est.)

Unemployment rate:

11.8% (2017 est.)

12% (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 157157

Population below poverty line:

4.2%

note : approximately 4% of the population are below the "extreme" poverty line (2016 est.)
approximately 4% of the population are below the "extreme" poverty line (2016 est.)

Household income or consumption by percentage share:

lowest 10% : 0.8%0.8%

highest 10% : 43.4% (2016 est.)43.4% (2016 est.)

Distribution of family income - Gini index:

49 (2014)

54 (2004)

country comparison to the world : 1919

Budget:

revenues : \$819.4 billion\$819.4 billion

expenditures : \$845.7 billion (2017 est.)\$845.7 billion (2017 est.)

Taxes and other revenues:

39.4% of GDP (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 3737

Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-):

-1.3% of GDP (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 6868

Public debt:

84% of GDP (2017 est.)

78.4% of GDP (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 3232

Fiscal year:

calendar year

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

3.4% (2017 est.)

8.7% (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 145145

Central bank discount rate:

7% (31 December 2017 est.)

13.75% (31 December 2016)

country comparison to the world : 4949

Commercial bank prime lending rate:

63.3% (31 December 2017 est.)

74.3% (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 22

Stock of narrow money:

\$106.7 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$109.7 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 3737

Stock of broad money:

\$1.75 trillion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$1.621 trillion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 1111

Stock of domestic credit:

\$2.237 trillion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$2.184 trillion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 1313

Market value of publicly traded shares:

\$642.5 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$561.1 billion (31 December 2014 est.)

\$420 billion (31 December 2013 est.)

country comparison to the world : 1919

Current account balance:

-\$9.762 billion (2017 est.)

-\$23.53 billion (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 187187

Exports:

\$217.2 billion (2017 est.)

\$184.5 billion (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 2727

Exports - commodities:

transport equipment, iron ore, soybeans, footwear, coffee, automobiles

Exports - partners:

China 21.8%, US 12.5%, Argentina 8.1%, Netherlands 4.3% (2017)

Imports:

\$153.2 billion (2017 est.)

\$139.4 billion (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 11

Imports - commodities:

machinery, electrical and transport equipment, chemical products, oil, automotive parts, electronics

Imports - partners:

China 18.1%, US 16.7%, Argentina 6.3%, Germany 6.1% (2017)

Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:

\$376.8 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$367.5 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 1111

Debt - external:

\$545.7 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$548.6 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 2121

Stock of direct foreign investment - at home:

\$778.5 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$703.3 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 1414

Stock of direct foreign investment - abroad:

\$358.9 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$341.5 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 2222

Exchange rates:

reals (BRL) per US dollar -

3.19 (2017 est.)

3.48 (2016 est.)

3.49 (2015 est.)

3.33 (2014 est.)

2.35 (2013 est.)

1.6 Energy

Electricity access:

population without electricity : 800,000800,000

electrification - total population : 99.5%99.5%

electrification - urban areas : 100%100%

electrification - rural areas : 97% (2013)97% (2013)

Electricity - production:

578.9 billion kWh (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 99

Electricity - consumption:

460.8 billion kWh (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 1010

Electricity - exports:

219 million kWh (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 7373

Electricity - imports:

34.64 billion kWh (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 44

Electricity - installed generating capacity:

150.3 million kW (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 88

Electricity - from fossil fuels:

3.1% of total installed capacity (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world : 208208

Electricity - from nuclear fuels:

1.3% of total installed capacity (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world : 3333

Electricity - from hydroelectric plants:

60.9% of total installed capacity (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world : 2929

Electricity - from other renewable sources:

6.8% of total installed capacity (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world : 8181

Crude oil - production:

2.517 million bbl/day (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 1010

Crude oil - exports:

798,200 bbl/day (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world : 1616

Crude oil - imports:

178,600 bbl/day (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world : 3131

Crude oil - proved reserves:

12.7 billion bbl (1 January 2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 1515

Refined petroleum products - production:

2.289 million bbl/day (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world : 88

Refined petroleum products - consumption:

3.018 million bbl/day (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 88

Refined petroleum products - exports:

291,400 bbl/day (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 2727

Refined petroleum products - imports:

651,800 bbl/day (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 1313

Natural gas - production:

20.41 billion cu m (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 3333

Natural gas - consumption:

38.49 billion cu m (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 2727

Natural gas - exports:

517.5 million cu m (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 4343

Natural gas - imports:

13.32 billion cu m (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 2323

Natural gas - proved reserves:

377.4 billion cu m (1 January 2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 3535

Carbon dioxide emissions from consumption of energy:

529.8 million Mt (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world : 1414

1.7 Communications

Telephones - fixed lines:

total subscriptions : 40,878,01840,878,018

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants : 20 (2017 est.)20 (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 55

Telephones - mobile cellular:

total subscriptions : 236,488,548236,488,548

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants : 114 (2017 est.)114 (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 55

Telephone system:

general assessment : good working system including an extensive microwave radio relay system and a domestic satellite system with 64 earth stations
good working system including an extensive microwave radio relay system and a domestic satellite system with 64 earth stations

domestic : fixed-line connections have remained relatively stable in recent years and stand at about 20.2 per 100 persons; less-expensive mobile-cellular technology has been a major driver in expanding telephone service to the lower-income segments of the population with mobile-cellular teledensity roughly 117 per 100 persons
fixed-line connections have remained relatively stable in recent years and stand at about 20.2 per 100 persons; less-expensive mobile-cellular technology has been a major driver in expanding telephone service to the lower-income segments of the population with mobile-cellular teledensity roughly 117 per 100 persons

international : country code - 55; landing point for a number of submarine cables, including Americas-1, Americas-2, Atlantis-2, GlobeNet, South America-1, South American Crossing/Latin American Nautilus, and UNISUR that provide direct connectivity to South and Central America, the Caribbean, the US, Africa, and Europe; satellite earth stations - 3 Intelsat (Atlantic Ocean), 1 Inmarsat (Atlantic Ocean region east), connected by microwave relay system to Mercosur Brazilsat B3 satellite earth station (2016)
country code - 55; landing point for a number of submarine cables, including Americas-1, Americas-2, Atlantis-2, GlobeNet, South America-1, South American Crossing/Latin American Nautilus, and UNISUR that

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Broadcast media:

state-run Radiobras operates a radio and a TV network; more than 1,000 radio stations and more than 100 TV channels operating - mostly privately owned; private media ownership highly concentrated (2007)

Internet country code:

.br

Internet users:

total : 122,841,218122,841,218

percent of population : 59.7% (July 2016 est.)59.7% (July 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 55

Broadband - fixed line subscriptions:

total : 28,670,01628,670,016

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants : 14 (2017 est.)14 (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 66

1.8 Transportation

National air transport system:

number of registered air carriers : 99

inventory of registered aircraft operated by air carriers : 443443

annual passenger traffic on registered air carriers : 102,039,359102,039,359

annual freight traffic on registered air carriers : 149.393 million mt-km (2015)149.393 million mt-km (2015)

Civil aircraft registration country code prefix:

PP (2016)

Airports:

4,093 (2013)

country comparison to the world : 22

Airports - with paved runways:

total : 698698

over 3,047 m : 77

2,438 to 3,047 m : 2727

1,524 to 2,437 m : 179179

914 to 1,523 m : 436436

under 914 m : 49 (2017)49 (2017)

Airports - with unpaved runways:

total : 3,3953,395

1,524 to 2,437 m : 9292

914 to 1,523 m : 1,6191,619

under 914 m : 1,684 (2013)1,684 (2013)

Heliports:

13 (2013)

Pipelines:

refined petroleum product 5,959 km (1,165 km distribution, 4,794 km transport); natural gas 11,696 km (2,274 km distribution, 9,422 km transport); crude oil 1,985 km (distribution); ethanol/petrochemical 77 km (37 km distribution, 40 km transport) (2016)

Railways:

total : 29,849.9 km29,849.9 km

broad gauge : 5,822.3 km 1.600-m gauge (498.3 km electrified)5,822.3 km 1.600-m gauge (498.3 km electrified)

dual gauge : 492 km 1.600-1.000-m gauge492 km 1.600-1.000-m gauge

standard gauge : 194 km 1.435-m gauge194 km 1.435-m gauge

narrow gauge : 23,341.6 km 1.000-m gauge (24 km electrified) (2014)23,341.6 km 1.000-m gauge (24 km electrified) (2014)

country comparison to the world : 99

Roadways:

total : 1,580,964 km1,580,964 km

paved : 212,798 km212,798 km

unpaved : 1,368,166 km1,368,166 km

note : does not include urban roads (2010)does not include urban roads (2010)

country comparison to the world : 44

Waterways:

50,000 km (most in areas remote from industry and population) (2012)

country comparison to the world : 33

Merchant marine:

total : 775775

by type : bulk carrier 20, container ship 18, general cargo 48, oil tanker 38, other 651 (2017)bulk carrier 20, container ship 18, general cargo 48, oil tanker 38, other 651 (2017)

country comparison to the world : 2828

Ports and terminals:

major seaport(s) : Belem, Paranagua, Rio Grande, Rio de Janeiro, Santos, Sao Sebastiao, TubaraoBelem, Paranagua, Rio Grande, Rio de Janeiro, Santos, Sao Sebastiao, Tubarao

river port(s) : Manaus (Amazon)Manaus (Amazon)

dry bulk cargo port(s) : Sepetiba ore terminal, TubaraoSepetiba ore terminal, Tubarao

container port(s) (TEUs) : Santos (3,393,593) (2016)Santos (3,393,593) (2016)

oil terminal(s) : DTSE/Gegua oil terminal, Ilha Grande (Gebig), Guaiba Island terminal, Guamare oil terminalDTSE/Gegua oil terminal, Ilha Grande (Gebig), Guaiba Island terminal, Guamare oil terminal

LNG terminal(s) (import) : Pecem, Rio de JaneiroPecem, Rio de Janeiro

1.9 Military and Security

Military expenditures:

1.32% of GDP (2016)

1.36% of GDP (2015)

1.33% of GDP (2014)

1.33% of GDP (2013)

1.38% of GDP (2012)

country comparison to the world : 8888

Military branches:

Brazilian Army (Exercito Brasileiro, EB), Brazilian Navy (Marinha do Brasil, MB, includes Naval Air and Marine Corps (Corpo de Fuzileiros Navais)), Brazilian Air Force (Forca Aerea Brasileira, FAB) (2011)

Military service age and obligation:

18-45 years of age for compulsory military service; conscript service obligation is 10-12 months; 17-45 years of age for voluntary service; an increasing percentage of the ranks are "long-service" volunteer professionals; women were allowed to serve in the armed forces beginning in early 1980s, when the Brazilian Army became the first army in South America to accept women into career ranks; women serve in Navy and Air Force only in Women's Reserve Corps (2012)

1.10 Transnational Issues

Disputes - international:

uncontested boundary dispute between Brazil and Uruguay over Brasileira/Brasileira Island in the Quaraí/Cuareim River leaves the tripoint with Argentina in question; smuggling of firearms and narcotics continues to be an issue along the Uruguay-Brazil border; Colombian-organized illegal narcotics and paramilitary activities penetrate Brazil's border region with Venezuela

Refugees and internally displaced persons:

refugees (country of origin) : 85,462 (Venezuela) (economic and political crisis; includes Venezuelans who have claimed asylum or have received alternative legal stay) (2018)85,462 (Venezuela) (economic and political crisis; includes Venezuelans who have claimed asylum or have received alternative legal stay) (2018)

stateless persons : 294 (2017)294 (2017)

Illicit drugs:

second-largest consumer of cocaine in the world; illicit producer of cannabis; trace amounts of coca cultivation in the Amazon region, used for domestic consumption; government has a large-scale eradication program to control cannabis; important transshipment country for Bolivian, Colombian, and Peruvian cocaine headed for

Europe; also used by traffickers as a way station for narcotics air transshipments between Peru and Colombia; upsurge in drug-related violence and weapons smuggling; important market for Colombian, Bolivian, and Peruvian cocaine; illicit narcotics proceeds are often laundered through the financial system; significant illicit financial activity in the Tri-Border Area

2. Chile

2.1 Introduction

Background:

Prior to the arrival of the Spanish in the 16th century, the Inca ruled northern Chile while an indigenous people, the Mapuche, inhabited central and southern Chile. Although Chile declared its independence in 1810, it did not achieve decisive victory over the Spanish until 1818. In the War of the Pacific (1879-83), Chile defeated Peru and Bolivia to win its present northern regions. In the 1880s, the Chilean central government gained control over the central and southern regions inhabited by the Mapuche. After a series of elected governments, the three-year-old Marxist government of Salvador ALLENDE was overthrown in 1973 by a military coup led by General Augusto PINOCHET, who ruled until a democratically-elected president was inaugurated in 1990. Sound economic policies, maintained consistently since the 1980s, contributed to steady growth, reduced poverty rates by over half, and helped secure the country's commitment to democratic and representative government. Chile has increasingly assumed regional and international leadership roles befitting its status as a stable, democratic nation.

CHILE SUMMARY

2.2 Geography

Location:

Southern South America, bordering the South Pacific Ocean, between Argentina and Peru

Geographic coordinates:

30 00 S, 71 00 W

Map references:

South America

Area:

total : 756,102 sq km756,102 sq km

land : 743,812 sq km743,812 sq km

water : 12,290 sq km12,290 sq km

note : includes Easter Island (Isla de Pascua) and Isla Sala y Gomezincludes Easter Island (Isla de Pascua) and Isla Sala y Gomez

country comparison to the world : 3939

Area - comparative:

slightly smaller than twice the size of Montana

Land boundaries:

total : 7,801 km7,801 km

border countries (3) : Argentina 6,691 km, Bolivia 942 km, Peru 168 kmArgentina 6,691 km, Bolivia 942 km, Peru 168 km

Coastline:

6,435 km

Maritime claims:

territorial sea : 12 nm12 nm

contiguous zone : 24 nm24 nm

exclusive economic zone : 200 nm200 nm

continental shelf : 200/350 nm200/350 nm

Climate:

temperate; desert in north; Mediterranean in central region; cool and damp in south

Terrain:

low coastal mountains, fertile central valley, rugged Andes in east

Elevation:

mean elevation : 1,871 m1,871 m

elevation extremes : lowest point: Pacific Ocean 0 mlowest point: Pacific Ocean 0 m

highest point: Nevado Ojos del Salado 6,880 m

Natural resources:

copper, timber, iron ore, nitrates, precious metals, molybdenum, hydropower

Land use:

agricultural land : 21.1%21.1%

arable land 1.7%; permanent crops 0.6%; permanent pasture 18.8%

forest : 21.9%21.9%

other : 57% (2011 est.)57% (2011 est.)

Irrigated land:

11,100 sq km (2012)

Population - distribution:

90% of the population is located in the middle third of the country around the capital of Santiago; the far north (anchored by the Atacama Desert) and the extreme south are relatively underpopulated

Natural hazards:

severe earthquakes; active volcanism; tsunamis

volcanism : significant volcanic activity due to more than three-dozen active volcanoes along the Andes Mountains; Lascar (5,592 m), which last erupted in 2007, is the most active volcano in the northern Chilean Andes; Llaima (3,125 m) in central Chile, which last erupted in 2009, is another of the country's most active; Chaiten's 2008 eruption forced major evacuations; other notable historically active volcanoes include Cerro Hudson, Calbuco, Copahue, Guallatiri, Llullaillaco, Nevados de Chillan, Puyehue, San Pedro, and Villarrica; see note 2 under "Geography - note" significant volcanic activity due to more than three-dozen active volcanoes along the Andes Mountains; Lascar (5,592 m), which last erupted in 2007, is the most active volcano in the northern Chilean Andes; Llaima (3,125 m) in central Chile, which last erupted in 2009, is another of the country's most active; Chaiten's 2008 eruption forced major evacuations; other notable historically active volcanoes include Cerro Hudson, Calbuco, Copahue, Guallatiri, Llullaillaco, Nevados de Chillan, Puyehue, San Pedro, and Villarrica; see note 2 under "Geography - note"

Environment - current issues:

air pollution from industrial and vehicle emissions; water pollution from raw sewage; noise pollution; improper garbage disposal; soil degradation; widespread deforestation and mining threaten the environment

Environment - international agreements:

party to : Antarctic-Environmental Protocol, Antarctic-Marine Living Resources, Antarctic Seals, Antarctic Treaty, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Environmental Modification,

Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Marine Dumping, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Wetlands, Whaling Antarctic-Environmental Protocol, Antarctic-Marine Living Resources, Antarctic Seals, Antarctic Treaty, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Environmental Modification, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Marine Dumping, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Wetlands, Whaling

signed, but not ratified : none of the selected agreements none of the selected agreements

Geography - note:

note 1 : the longest north-south trending country in the world, extending across 39 degrees of latitude; strategic location relative to sea lanes between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans (Strait of Magellan, Beagle Channel, Drake Passage) the longest north-south trending country in the world, extending across 39 degrees of latitude; strategic location relative to sea lanes between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans (Strait of Magellan, Beagle Channel, Drake Passage)

note 2 : Chile is one of the countries along the Ring of Fire, a belt of active volcanoes and earthquake epicenters bordering the Pacific Ocean; up to 90% of the world's earthquakes and some 75% of the world's volcanoes occur within the Ring of Fire Chile is one of the countries along the Ring of Fire, a belt of active volcanoes and earthquake epicenters bordering the Pacific Ocean; up to 90% of the world's earthquakes and some 75% of the world's volcanoes occur within the Ring of Fire

note 3 : the Atacama Desert - the driest desert in the world - spreads across the northern part of the country; the small crater lake of Ojos del Salado is the world's highest lake (at 6,390 m) the Atacama Desert - the driest desert in the world - spreads across the northern part of the country; the small crater lake of Ojos del Salado is the world's highest lake (at 6,390 m)

2.3 People and Society

Population:

17,789,267 (July 2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 6565

Nationality:

noun : Chilean(s) Chilean(s)

adjective : Chilean Chilean

Ethnic groups:

white and non-indigenous 88.9%, Mapuche 9.1%, Aymara 0.7%, other indigenous groups 1% (includes Rapa Nui, Likan Antai, Quechua, Colla, Diaguita, Kawesqar, Yagan or Yamana), unspecified 0.3% (2012 est.)

Languages:

Spanish 99.5% (official), English 10.2%, indigenous 1% (includes Mapudungun, Aymara, Quechua, Rapa Nui), other 2.3%, unspecified 0.2%

note : shares sum to more than 100% because some respondents gave more than one answer on the census (2012 est.) shares sum to more than 100% because some respondents gave more than one answer on the census (2012 est.)

Religions:

Roman Catholic 66.7%, Evangelical or Protestant 16.4%, Jehovah's Witness 1%, other 3.4%, none 11.5%, unspecified 1.1% (2012 est.)

Demographic profile:

Chile is in the advanced stages of demographic transition and is becoming an aging society - with fertility below replacement level, low mortality rates, and life expectancy on par with developed countries. Nevertheless, with its dependency ratio nearing its low point, Chile could benefit from its favorable age structure. It will need to keep its large working-age population productively employed, while preparing to provide for the needs of its growing proportion of elderly people, especially as women - the traditional caregivers - increasingly enter the workforce. Over the last two decades, Chile has made great strides in reducing its poverty rate, which is now lower than most Latin American countries. However, its severe income inequality ranks as the worst among members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Unequal access to quality education perpetuates this uneven income distribution.

Chile has historically been a country of emigration but has slowly become more attractive to immigrants since transitioning to democracy in 1990 and improving its economic stability (other regional destinations have concurrently experienced deteriorating economic and political conditions). Most of Chile's small but growing foreign-born population consists of transplants from other Latin American countries, especially Peru.

Age structure:

0-14 years : 20.11% (male 1,825,254/female 1,751,735) 20.11% (male 1,825,254/female 1,751,735)

15-24 years : 15.04% (male 1,364,831/female 1,311,216) 15.04% (male 1,364,831/female 1,311,216)

25-54 years : 43.08% (male 3,830,538/female 3,832,989) 43.08% (male 3,830,538/female 3,832,989)

55-64 years : 10.96% (male 918,559/female 1,031,153)10.96% (male 918,559/female 1,031,153)

65 years and over : 10.81% (male 805,880/female 1,117,112) (2017 est.)10.81% (male 805,880/female 1,117,112) (2017 est.)

Dependency ratios:

total dependency ratio : 45.545.5

youth dependency ratio : 30.330.3

elderly dependency ratio : 15.215.2

potential support ratio : 6.6 (2015 est.)6.6 (2015 est.)

Median age:

total : 34.4 years34.4 years

male : 33.2 years33.2 years

female : 35.6 years (2017 est.)35.6 years (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 8585

Population growth rate:

0.77% (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 135135

Birth rate:

13.6 births/1,000 population (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 143143

Death rate:

6.2 deaths/1,000 population (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 155155

Net migration rate:

0.3 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 6666

Population distribution:

90% of the population is located in the middle third of the country around the capital of Santiago; the far north (anchored by the Atacama Desert) and the extreme south are relatively underpopulated

Urbanization:

urban population : 87.6% of total population (2018)87.6% of total population (2018)

rate of urbanization : 0.87% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)0.87% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

Major urban areas - population:

SANTIAGO (capital) 6.68 million; Valparaiso 967,000; Concepcion 857,000 (2018)

Sex ratio:

at birth : 1.04 male(s)/female1.04 male(s)/female

0-14 years : 1.04 male(s)/female1.04 male(s)/female

15-24 years : 1.04 male(s)/female1.04 male(s)/female

25-54 years : 1 male(s)/female1 male(s)/female

55-64 years : 0.89 male(s)/female0.89 male(s)/female

65 years and over : 0.72 male(s)/female0.72 male(s)/female

total population : 0.97 male(s)/female (2017 est.)0.97 male(s)/female (2017 est.)

Maternal mortality ratio:

22 deaths/100,000 live births (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 128128

Infant mortality rate:

total : 6.6 deaths/1,000 live births6.6 deaths/1,000 live births

male : 7.1 deaths/1,000 live births7.1 deaths/1,000 live births

female : 6.1 deaths/1,000 live births (2017 est.)6.1 deaths/1,000 live births (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 164164

Life expectancy at birth:

total population : 78.9 years78.9 years

male : 75.9 years75.9 years

female : 82.1 years (2017 est.)82.1 years (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 5151

Total fertility rate:

1.8 children born/woman (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 152152

Contraceptive prevalence rate:

76.3% (2015/16)

Health expenditures:

7.8% of GDP (2014)
country comparison to the world : 6060

Physicians density:

1.03 physicians/1,000 population (2009)

Hospital bed density:

2.2 beds/1,000 population (2013)

Drinking water source:

improved :
urban: 99.7% of population
rural: 93.3% of population
total: 99% of population
unimproved :
urban: 0.3% of population
rural: 6.7% of population
total: 1% of population (2015 est.)

Sanitation facility access:

improved :
urban: 100% of population
rural: 90.9% of population
total: 99.1% of population
unimproved :

urban: 0% of population
rural: 9.1% of population
total: 0.9% of population (2015 est.)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:

0.6% (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 6363

HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:

67,000 (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 5353

HIV/AIDS - deaths:

NA

Obesity - adult prevalence rate:

28% (2016)
country comparison to the world : 3232

Children under the age of 5 years underweight:

0.5% (2014)
country comparison to the world : 137137

Education expenditures:

4.9% of GDP (2015)
country comparison to the world : 9090

Literacy:

definition : age 15 and over can read and writeage 15 and over can read and write
total population : 97.5%97.5%
male : 97.6%97.6%
female : 97.4% (2015 est.)97.4% (2015 est.)

School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education):

total : 16 years16 years
male : 16 years16 years
female : 17 years (2015)17 years (2015)

Unemployment, youth ages 15-24:

total : 17.2%17.2%
male : 16.1%16.1%
female : 18.8% (2017 est.)18.8% (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 8686

2.4 Government

Country name:

conventional long form : Republic of ChileRepublic of Chile
conventional short form : ChileChile
local long form : Republica de ChileRepublica de Chile
local short form : ChileChile
etymology : derivation of the name is unclear, but it may come from the Mapuche word "chilli" meaning "limit of the earth" or from the Quechua "chiri" meaning "cold"derivation of the name is unclear, but it may come from the Mapuche word "chilli" meaning "limit of the earth" or from the Quechua "chiri" meaning "cold"

Government type:

presidential republic

Capital:

name : Santiago; note - Valparaiso is the seat of the national legislatureSantiago;
note - Valparaiso is the seat of the national legislature
geographic coordinates : 33 27 S, 70 40 W33 27 S, 70 40 W
time difference : UTC-3 (2 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)UTC-3 (2 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)
daylight saving time : +1hr, begins second Sunday in August; ends second Sunday in May; note - Punta Arenas observes DST throughout the year+1hr, begins second Sunday in August; ends second Sunday in May; note - Punta Arenas observes DST throughout the year
note : Chile has three time zones: the continental portion at UTC-3; the southern Magallanes region, which does not use daylight savings time and remains at UTC-3 for the summer months; and Easter Island at UTC-5Chile has three time zones: the

continental portion at UTC-3; the southern Magallanes region, which does not use daylight savings time and remains at UTC-3 for the summer months; and Easter Island at UTC-5

Administrative divisions:

16 regions (regiones, singular - region); Aysen, Antofagasta, Araucania, Arica y Parinacota, Atacama, Biobio, Coquimbo, Libertador General Bernardo O'Higgins, Los Lagos, Los Rios, Magallanes y de la Antartica Chilena (Magallanes and Chilean Antarctica), Maule, Nuble, Region Metropolitana (Santiago), Tarapaca, Valparaiso

note : the US does not recognize any claims to Antarctica the US does not recognize any claims to Antarctica

Independence:

18 September 1810 (from Spain)

National holiday:

Independence Day, 18 September (1810)

Constitution:

history : many previous; latest adopted 11 September 1980, effective 11 March 1981; note - in March 2018, days before her term ended, President BACHELET sent a proposal for a new constitution to the National Congress many previous; latest adopted 11 September 1980, effective 11 March 1981; note - in March 2018, days before her term ended, President BACHELET sent a proposal for a new constitution to the National Congress

amendments : proposed by members of either house of the National Congress or by the president of the republic; passage requires at least three-fifths majority vote of the membership in both houses and approval by the president; passage of amendments to constitutional articles such as the republican form of government, basic rights and freedoms, the Constitutional Tribunal, electoral justice, the Council of National Security, or the constitutional amendment process requires at least two-third majority vote by both houses of Congress and approval by the president; the president can opt to hold a referendum when Congress and the president disagree on an amendment; amended many times, last in 2017 (2018) proposed by members of either house of the National Congress or by the president of the republic; passage requires at least three-fifths majority vote of the membership in both houses and approval by the president; passage of amendments to constitutional articles such as the republican form of government, basic rights and freedoms, the Constitutional Tribunal, electoral justice, the Council of National Security, or the constitutional amendment process requires at least two-third majority vote by both houses of Congress and approval by the president; the president can opt to hold a referendum when Congress and the president disagree on an amendment; amended many times, last in 2017 (2018)

Legal system:

civil law system influenced by several West European civil legal systems; judicial review of legislative acts by the Constitutional Tribunal

International law organization participation:

has not submitted an ICJ jurisdiction declaration; accepts ICtJ jurisdiction

Citizenship:

citizenship by birth : yesyes

citizenship by descent : yesyes

dual citizenship recognized : yesyes

residency requirement for naturalization : 5 years5 years

Suffrage:

18 years of age; universal

Executive branch:

chief of state : President Sebastian PINERA Echenique (since 11 March 2018); note - the president is both chief of state and head of government
President Sebastian PINERA Echenique (since 11 March 2018); note - the president is both chief of state and head of government

head of government : President Sebastian PINERA Echenique (since 11 March 2018)
President Sebastian PINERA Echenique (since 11 March 2018)

cabinet : Cabinet appointed by the president
Cabinet appointed by the president

elections/appointments : president directly elected by absolute majority popular vote in 2 rounds if needed for a single 4-year term; election last held on 19 November 2017 with a runoff held 17 December 2017 (next to be held in November 2021)
president directly elected by absolute majority popular vote in 2 rounds if needed for a single 4-year term; election last held on 19 November 2017 with a runoff held 17 December 2017 (next to be held in November 2021)

election results : Sebastian PINERA Echenique elected president in second round; percent of vote in first round - Sebastian PINERA Echenique (independent) 36.6%; Alejandro GUILLIER (independent) 22.7%; Beatriz SANCHEZ (independent) 20.3%; Jose Antonio KAST (independent) 7.9%; Carolina GOIC (PDC) 5.9%; Marco ENRIQUEZ-OMINAMI (PRO) 5.7%; other 0.9%; percent of vote in second round - Sebastian PINERA Echenique 54.6%, Alejandro GUILLIER 45.4%
Sebastian PINERA Echenique elected president in second round; percent of vote in first round - Sebastian PINERA Echenique (independent) 36.6%; Alejandro GUILLIER (independent) 22.7%; Beatriz SANCHEZ (independent) 20.3%; Jose Antonio KAST (independent) 7.9%; Carolina GOIC (PDC) 5.9%; Marco ENRIQUEZ-OMINAMI (PRO)

5.7%; other 0.9%; percent of vote in second round - Sebastian PINERA Echenique 54.6%, Alejandro GUILLIER 45.4%

Legislative branch:

description : bicameral National Congress or Congreso Nacional consists of: bicameral National Congress or Congreso Nacional consists of:

Senate or Senado (43 seats following the 2017 election; to increase to 50 in 2022); members directly elected in multi-seat constituencies by open party-list proportional representation vote to serve 8-year terms with one-half of the membership renewed every 4 years)

Chamber of Deputies or Camara de Diputados (155 seats; members directly elected in multi-seat constituencies by open party-list proportional representation vote to serve 4-year terms)

elections :

Senate - last held on 19 November 2017 (next to be held in 2021)

Chamber of Deputies - last held on 19 November 2017 (next to be held in 2021)

election results :

Senate - percent of vote by party - NA; seats by party - New Majority Coalition (formerly known as Concertacion) 19 (PDC 6, PS 6, PPD 6, MAS 1), Let's Go Chile Coalition (formerly known as the Coalition for Change and the Alianza coalition) 15 (RN 6, UDI 8, Amplitud Party 1), independent 4

Chamber of Deputies - percent of vote by party - NA; seats by party - New Majority 68 (PDC 21, PS 16, PPD 14, PC 6, PRSD 6, Citizen Left 1, independent 4), Coalition for Change 47 (UDI 29, RN 14, independent 3, EP 1), Liberal Party 1, independent 4

Judicial branch:

highest court(s) : Supreme Court or Corte Suprema (consists of a court president and 20 members or ministros); Constitutional Court (consists of 10 members); Elections Qualifying Court (consists of 5 members) Supreme Court or Corte Suprema (consists of a court president and 20 members or ministros); Constitutional Court (consists of 10 members); Elections Qualifying Court (consists of 5 members)

judge selection and term of office : Supreme Court president and judges (ministers) appointed by the president of the republic and ratified by the Senate from lists of candidates provided by the court itself; judges appointed for life with mandatory retirement at age 70; Constitutional Court members appointed - 3 by the Supreme Court, 3 by the president of the republic, 2 by the Chamber of Deputies, and 2 by the Senate; members serve 9-year terms with partial membership replacement every 3 years (the court reviews constitutionality of legislation); Elections Qualifying Court members appointed by lottery - 1 by the former president or vice-president of the Senate and 1 by the former president or vice-president of the Chamber of Deputies, 2 by the Supreme Court, and 1 by the Appellate Court of Valparaiso; members appointed for 4-year terms Supreme Court president and judges (ministers) appointed by the president of the republic and ratified by the Senate from lists of candidates provided by the court itself; judges appointed for life with mandatory retirement at age 70; Constitutional Court members appointed - 3 by the Supreme Court, 3 by the president of the republic, 2 by the Chamber of Deputies, and 2 by the Senate;

members serve 9-year terms with partial membership replacement every 3 years (the court reviews constitutionality of legislation); Elections Qualifying Court members appointed by lottery - 1 by the former president or vice-president of the Senate and 1 by the former president or vice-president of the Chamber of Deputies, 2 by the Supreme Court, and 1 by the Appellate Court of Valparaiso; members appointed for 4-year terms

subordinate courts : Courts of Appeal; oral criminal tribunals; military tribunals; local police courts; specialized tribunals and courts in matters such as family, labor, customs, taxes, and electoral affairs Courts of Appeal; oral criminal tribunals; military tribunals; local police courts; specialized tribunals and courts in matters such as family, labor, customs, taxes, and electoral affairs

Political parties and leaders:

Amplitude (Amplitud) [Lily PEREZ]

Broad Social Movement or MAS [Cristian TAPIA Ramos]

Christian Democratic Party or PDC [Carolina GOIC Boroovic]

Communist Party of Chile or PC [Guillermo TEILLIER del Valle]

Democratic Revolution or RD [Rodrigo ECHECOPAR]

Independent Democratic Union or UDI [Jacqueline VAN RYSSELBERGHE Herrera]

Independent Regionalist Party or PRI [Alejandra BRAVO Hidalgo]

Let's Go Chile Coalition (Chile Vamos) [Sebastian PINERA] (includes EVOPOLI, PRI, RN, UDI)

Liberal Party (Partido Liberal de Chile) [Vlado MIROSEVIC]

National Renewal or RN [Cristian MONCKEBERG Bruner]

New Majority Coalition (Nueva Mayoria) [Michelle BACHELET] (includes PDC, PC, PPD, PRSD, PS); note - dissolved in March 2018

Party for Democracy or PPD [Gonzalo NAVARRETE]

Political Evolution or EVOPOLI [Jorge SAINT JEAN]

Progressive Party or PRO [Patricia MORALES]

Radical Social Democratic Party or PRSD [Ernesto VELASCO Rodriguez],

Socialist Party or PS [Alvaro ELIZALDE Soto] (formerly known as Concertacion)

International organization participation:

APEC, BIS, CAN (associate), CD, CELAC, FAO, G-15, G-77, IADB, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC (national committees), ICCT, ICRM, IDA, IFAD, IFC, IFRCS, IHO, ILO, IMF, IMO, IMSO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO, ITSO, ITU, ITUC (NGOs), LAES, LAIA, Mercosur (associate), MIGA, MINUSTAH, NAM, OAS, OECD (enhanced engagement), OPANAL, OPCW, Pacific Alliance, PCA, SICA (observer), UN, UNASUR, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNFICYP, UNHCR, UNIDO, Union Latina, UNMOGIP, UNTSO, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WFTU (NGOs), WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

Diplomatic representation in the US:

chief of mission : Ambassador Oscar Alfonso Sebastian SILVA Navarro (since 17 September 2018)
Ambassador Oscar Alfonso Sebastian SILVA Navarro (since 17 September 2018)

chancery : 1732 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20036
1732 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20036

telephone : [1] (202) 785-1746 [1] (202) 785-1746

FAX : [1] (202) 887-5579 [1] (202) 887-5579

consulate(s) general : Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, San Francisco
Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, San Francisco

Diplomatic representation from the US:

chief of mission : Ambassador Carol PEREZ (since 14 November 2016)
Ambassador Carol PEREZ (since 14 November 2016)

embassy : Avenida Andres Bello 2800, Las Condes, Santiago
Avenida Andres Bello 2800, Las Condes, Santiago

mailing address : APO AA 34033
APO AA 34033

telephone : [56] (2) 2330-3000 [56] (2) 2330-3000

FAX : [56] (2) 2330-3710, 2330-3160 [56] (2) 2330-3710, 2330-3160

Flag description:

two equal horizontal bands of white (top) and red; a blue square the same height as the white band at the hoist-side end of the white band; the square bears a white five-pointed star in the center representing a guide to progress and honor; blue symbolizes the sky, white is for the snow-covered Andes, and red represents the blood spilled to achieve independence

note : design influenced by the US flag
design influenced by the US flag

National symbol(s):

huemul (mountain deer), Andean condor; national colors: red, white, blue

National anthem:

name : "Himno Nacional de Chile" (National Anthem of Chile)
"Himno Nacional de Chile" (National Anthem of Chile)

lyrics/music : Eusebio LILLO Robles and Bernardo DE VERA y Pintado/Ramon CARNICER y Battle
Eusebio LILLO Robles and Bernardo DE VERA y Pintado/Ramon CARNICER y Battle

note : music adopted 1828, original lyrics adopted 1818, adapted lyrics adopted 1847; under Augusto PINOCHET's military rule, a verse glorifying the army was added; however, as a protest, some citizens refused to sing this verse; it was removed when democracy was restored in 1990 music adopted 1828, original lyrics adopted 1818, adapted lyrics adopted 1847; under Augusto PINOCHET's military rule, a verse glorifying the army was added; however, as a protest, some citizens refused to sing this verse; it was removed when democracy was restored in 1990

2.5 Economy

Economy - overview:

Chile has a market-oriented economy characterized by a high level of foreign trade and a reputation for strong financial institutions and sound policy that have given it the strongest sovereign bond rating in South America. Exports of goods and services account for approximately one-third of GDP, with commodities making up some 60% of total exports. Copper is Chile's top export and provides 20% of government revenue.

From 2003 through 2013, real growth averaged almost 5% per year, despite a slight contraction in 2009 that resulted from the global financial crisis. Growth slowed to an estimated 1.4% in 2017. A continued drop in copper prices prompted Chile to experience its third consecutive year of slow growth.

Chile deepened its longstanding commitment to trade liberalization with the signing of a free trade agreement with the US, effective 1 January 2004. Chile has 26 trade agreements covering 60 countries including agreements with the EU, Mercosur, China, India, South Korea, and Mexico. In May 2010, Chile signed the OECD Convention, becoming the first South American country to join the OECD. In October 2015, Chile signed the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement, which was finalized as the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and signed at a ceremony in Chile in March 2018.

The Chilean Government has generally followed a countercyclical fiscal policy, under which it accumulates surpluses in sovereign wealth funds during periods of high copper prices and economic growth, and generally allows deficit spending only during periods of low copper prices and growth. As of 31 October 2016, those sovereign wealth funds - kept mostly outside the country and separate from Central Bank reserves - amounted to more than \$23.5 billion. Chile used these funds to finance fiscal stimulus packages during the 2009 economic downturn.

In 2014, then-President Michelle BACHELET introduced tax reforms aimed at delivering her campaign promise to fight inequality and to provide access to education and health care. The reforms are expected to generate additional tax revenues equal to 3% of Chile's GDP, mostly by increasing corporate tax rates to OECD averages.

GDP (purchasing power parity):

\$451.1 billion (2017 est.)

\$445.4 billion (2016 est.)

\$435.4 billion (2015 est.)

note : data are in 2017 dollars

country comparison to the world : 4545

GDP (official exchange rate):

\$277 billion (2017 est.)

GDP - real growth rate:

1.5% (2017 est.)

1.3% (2016 est.)

2.3% (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 171171

GDP - per capita (PPP):

\$24,500 (2017 est.)

\$24,500 (2016 est.)

\$24,200 (2015 est.)

note : data are in 2017 dollars

country comparison to the world : 8383

Gross national saving:

20.5% of GDP (2017 est.)

20.9% of GDP (2016 est.)

21.4% of GDP (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 9191

GDP - composition, by end use:

household consumption : 63.9%

government consumption : 13.6%

investment in fixed capital : 22.2%

investment in inventories : -0.2%

exports of goods and services : 28.2%

imports of goods and services : -27.6% (2017 est.)

GDP - composition, by sector of origin:

agriculture : 4.4%4.4%
industry : 31.4%31.4%
services : 64.3% (2017 est.)64.3% (2017 est.)

Agriculture - products:

grapes, apples, pears, onions, wheat, corn, oats, peaches, garlic, asparagus, beans;
beef, poultry, wool; fish; timber

Industries:

copper, lithium, other minerals, foodstuffs, fish processing, iron and steel, wood and
wood products, transport equipment, cement, textiles

Industrial production growth rate:

1.4% (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 156156

Labor force:

8.881 million (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 5959

Labor force - by occupation:

agriculture : 9.2%9.2%
industry : 23.7%23.7%
services : 67.1% (2013)67.1% (2013)

Unemployment rate:

7% (2017 est.)
6.5% (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world : 107107

Population below poverty line:

14.4% (2013)

Household income or consumption by percentage share:

lowest 10% : 1.7%1.7%

highest 10% : 41.5% (2013 est.)41.5% (2013 est.)

Distribution of family income - Gini index:

50.5 (2013)

57.1 (2000)

country comparison to the world : 1515

Budget:

revenues : \$56.73 billion\$56.73 billion

expenditures : \$64.89 billion (2017 est.)\$64.89 billion (2017 est.)

Taxes and other revenues:

21.6% of GDP (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 141141

Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-):

-3.1% of GDP (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 120120

Public debt:

23.6% of GDP (2017 est.)

21% of GDP (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 183183

Fiscal year:

calendar year

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

2.2% (2017 est.)

3.8% (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 112112

Central bank discount rate:

3.35% (31 December 2015)
3% (31 December 2014)
country comparison to the world : 103103

Commercial bank prime lending rate:

4.6% (31 December 2017 est.)
5.59% (31 December 2016 est.)
country comparison to the world : 151151

Stock of narrow money:

\$51.77 billion (31 December 2017 est.)
\$44.01 billion (31 December 2016 est.)
country comparison to the world : 5454

Stock of broad money:

\$174.7 billion (31 December 2017 est.)
\$158.3 billion (31 December 2016 est.)
country comparison to the world : 4646

Stock of domestic credit:

\$233.3 billion (31 December 2017 est.)
\$211.6 billion (31 December 2016 est.)
country comparison to the world : 4343

Market value of publicly traded shares:

\$190.4 billion (31 December 2015 est.)
\$233.2 billion (31 December 2014 est.)
\$265.2 billion (31 December 2013 est.)
country comparison to the world : 3636

Current account balance:

-\$4.092 billion (2017 est.)
-\$3.462 billion (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world : 176176

Exports:

\$64.51 billion (2017 est.)

\$60.6 billion (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 4343

Exports - commodities:

copper, fruit, fish products, paper and pulp, chemicals, wine

Exports - partners:

China 27.5%, US 14.5%, Japan 9.3%, South Korea 6.2%, Brazil 5% (2017)

Imports:

\$59.92 billion (2017 est.)

\$55.34 billion (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 4747

Imports - commodities:

petroleum and petroleum products, chemicals, electrical and telecommunications equipment, industrial machinery, vehicles, natural gas

Imports - partners:

China 23.9%, US 18.1%, Brazil 8.6%, Argentina 4.5%, Germany 4% (2017)

Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:

\$39.11 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$40.49 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 4545

Debt - external:

\$167.9 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$158.1 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 3939

Stock of direct foreign investment - at home:

\$208.8 billion (31 December 2017 est.)
\$199.8 billion (31 December 2016 est.)
country comparison to the world : 2929

Stock of direct foreign investment - abroad:

\$97.59 billion (31 December 2017 est.)
\$90.54 billion (31 December 2016 est.)
country comparison to the world : 3636

Exchange rates:

Chilean pesos (CLP) per US dollar -
653.9 (2017 est.)
676.94 (2016 est.)
676.94 (2015 est.)
658.93 (2014 est.)
570.37 (2013 est.)

2.6 Energy

Electricity access:

population without electricity : 70,60070,600
electrification - total population : 99.6%99.6%
electrification - urban areas : 100%100%
electrification - rural areas : 98% (2012)98% (2012)

Electricity - production:

71.66 billion kWh (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world : 4141

Electricity - consumption:

67.95 billion kWh (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 4141

Electricity - exports:

0 kWh (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 118118

Electricity - imports:

0 kWh (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 132132

Electricity - installed generating capacity:

21.64 million kW (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 4141

Electricity - from fossil fuels:

60.8% of total installed capacity (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 127127

Electricity - from nuclear fuels:

0% of total installed capacity (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 6767

Electricity - from hydroelectric plants:

30% of total installed capacity (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 7575

Electricity - from other renewable sources:

16.1% of total installed capacity (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 4040

Crude oil - production:

4,423 bbl/day (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 8181

Crude oil - exports:

0 bbl/day (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 102102

Crude oil - imports:

163,000 bbl/day (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 3333

Crude oil - proved reserves:

150 million bbl (1 January 2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 6464

Refined petroleum products - production:

215,300 bbl/day (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 5050

Refined petroleum products - consumption:

337,400 bbl/day (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 4141

Refined petroleum products - exports:

4,500 bbl/day (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 9696

Refined petroleum products - imports:

160,900 bbl/day (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 4343

Natural gas - production:

1.008 billion cu m (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 6767

Natural gas - consumption:

4.392 billion cu m (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 6363

Natural gas - exports:

0 cu m (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world : 8181

Natural gas - imports:

3.727 billion cu m (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 3939

Natural gas - proved reserves:

97.97 billion cu m (1 January 2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 5454

Carbon dioxide emissions from consumption of energy:

76 million Mt (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world : 4646

2.7 Communications

Telephones - fixed lines:

total subscriptions : 3,193,1313,193,131

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants : 18 (2017 est.)18 (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 4343

Telephones - mobile cellular:

total subscriptions : 23,013,14723,013,147

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants : 129 (2017 est.)129 (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 5353

Telephone system:

general assessment : privatization began in 1988; most advanced telecommunications infrastructure in South America; modern system based on extensive microwave radio relay facilities; domestic satellite system with 3 earth stations
privatization began in 1988; most advanced telecommunications infrastructure in South America; modern system based on extensive microwave radio relay facilities; domestic satellite system with 3 earth stations

domestic : number of fixed-line connections have stagnated in recent years as mobile-cellular usage continues to increase, reaching 130 telephones per 100 persons
number of fixed-line connections have stagnated in recent years as mobile-cellular usage continues to increase, reaching 130 telephones per 100 persons

international : country code - 56; landing points for the Pan American, South America-1, and South American Crossing/Latin America Nautilus submarine cables providing links to the US and to Central and South America; satellite earth stations - 2 Intelsat (Atlantic Ocean) (2016)
country code - 56; landing points for the Pan American, South America-1, and South American Crossing/Latin America Nautilus submarine cables providing links to the US and to Central and South America; satellite earth stations - 2 Intelsat (Atlantic Ocean) (2016)

Broadcast media:

national and local terrestrial TV channels, coupled with extensive cable TV networks; the state-owned Television Nacional de Chile (TVN) network is self-financed through commercial advertising revenues and is not under direct government control; large number of privately owned TV stations; about 250 radio stations (2007)

Internet country code:

.cl

Internet users:

total : 11,650,840
11,650,840

percent of population : 66.0% (July 2016 est.)
66.0% (July 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 46
46

Broadband - fixed line subscriptions:

total : 3,058,979
3,058,979

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants : 17 (2017 est.)
17 (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 40
40

2.8 Transportation

National air transport system:

number of registered air carriers : 99

inventory of registered aircraft operated by air carriers : 173173

annual passenger traffic on registered air carriers : 15,006,76215,006,762

annual freight traffic on registered air carriers : 1,392.236 million mt-km
(2015)1,392.236 million mt-km (2015)

Civil aircraft registration country code prefix:

CC (2016)

Airports:

481 (2013)

country comparison to the world : 1515

Airports - with paved runways:

total : 9090

over 3,047 m : 55

2,438 to 3,047 m : 77

1,524 to 2,437 m : 2323

914 to 1,523 m : 3131

under 914 m : 24 (2017)24 (2017)

Airports - with unpaved runways:

total : 391391

2,438 to 3,047 m : 55

1,524 to 2,437 m : 1111

914 to 1,523 m : 5656

under 914 m : 319 (2013)319 (2013)

Heliports:

1 (2013)

Pipelines:

gas 3,160 km; liquid petroleum gas 781 km; oil 985 km; refined products 722 km (2013)

Railways:

total : 7,281.5 km7,281.5 km

broad gauge : 3,428 km 1.676-m gauge (1,691 km electrified)3,428 km 1.676-m gauge (1,691 km electrified)

narrow gauge : 3,853.5 km 1.000-m gauge (2014)3,853.5 km 1.000-m gauge (2014)

country comparison to the world : 3030

Roadways:

total : 77,764 km77,764 km

paved : 18,119 km (includes 2,387 km of expressways)18,119 km (includes 2,387 km of expressways)

unpaved : 59,645 km (2010)59,645 km (2010)

country comparison to the world : 6262

Merchant marine:

total : 211211

by type : bulk carrier 10, container ship 5, general cargo 54, oil tanker 12, other 130 (2017)bulk carrier 10, container ship 5, general cargo 54, oil tanker 12, other 130 (2017)

country comparison to the world : 6464

Ports and terminals:

major seaport(s) : Coronel, Huasco, Lirquen, Puerto Ventanas, San Antonio, San Vicente, ValparaísoCoronel, Huasco, Lirquen, Puerto Ventanas, San Antonio, San Vicente, Valparaíso

LNG terminal(s) (import) : Mejillones, QuinteroMejillones, Quintero

2.9 Military and Security

Military expenditures:

1.87% of GDP (2016)

1.91% of GDP (2015)

1.96% of GDP (2014)

1.99% of GDP (2013)

2.05% of GDP (2012)

country comparison to the world : 5252

Military branches:

Chilean Army, Chilean Navy (Armada de Chile, includes Naval Aviation, Marine Corps, and Maritime Territory and Merchant Marine Directorate (Directemar)), Chilean Air Force (Fuerza Aerea de Chile, FACH) (2015)

Military service age and obligation:

18-45 years of age for voluntary male and female military service, although the right to compulsory recruitment of males 18-45 is retained; service obligation is 12 months for Army and 22 months for Navy and Air Force (2015)

2.10 Transnational Issues

Disputes - international:

Chile and Peru rebuff Bolivia's reactivated claim to restore the Atacama corridor, ceded to Chile in 1884, but Chile has offered instead unrestricted but not sovereign maritime access through Chile to Bolivian natural gas; Chile rejects Peru's unilateral legislation to change its latitudinal maritime boundary with Chile to an equidistance line with a southwestern axis favoring Peru; in October 2007, Peru took its maritime complaint with Chile to the ICJ; territorial claim in Antarctica (Chilean Antarctic Territory) partially overlaps Argentine and British claims; the joint boundary commission, established by Chile and Argentina in 2001, has yet to map and demarcate the delimited boundary in the inhospitable Andean Southern Ice Field (Campo de Hielo Sur)

Refugees and internally displaced persons:

refugees (country of origin) : 118,576 (Venezuela) (economic and political crisis; includes Venezuelans who have claimed asylum or have received alternative legal stay) (2018) 118,576 (Venezuela) (economic and political crisis; includes Venezuelans who have claimed asylum or have received alternative legal stay) (2018)

Illicit drugs:

transshipment country for cocaine destined for Europe and the region; some money laundering activity, especially through the Iquique Free Trade Zone; imported

precursors passed on to Bolivia; domestic cocaine consumption is rising, making Chile a significant consumer of cocaine

3. Cuba

3.1 Introduction

Background:

The native Amerindian population of Cuba began to decline after the European discovery of the island by Christopher COLUMBUS in 1492 and following its development as a Spanish colony during the next several centuries. Large numbers of African slaves were imported to work the coffee and sugar plantations, and Havana became the launching point for the annual treasure fleets bound for Spain from Mexico and Peru. Spanish rule eventually provoked an independence movement and occasional rebellions that were harshly suppressed. US intervention during the Spanish-American War in 1898 assisted the Cubans in overthrowing Spanish rule. The Treaty of Paris established Cuban independence from Spain in 1898 and, following three-and-a-half years of subsequent US military rule, Cuba became an independent republic in 1902 after which the island experienced a string of governments mostly dominated by the military and corrupt politicians. Fidel CASTRO led a rebel army to victory in 1959; his authoritarian rule held the subsequent regime together for nearly five decades. He stepped down as president in February 2008 in favor of his younger brother Raul CASTRO. Cuba's communist revolution, with Soviet support, was exported throughout Latin America and Africa during the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s. On 8-9 September 2017, Hurricane Irma passed along the north coast of Cuba causing extensive damage to structures, roads, and power supplies. Miguel DIAZ-CANEL Bermudez, hand-picked by Raul CASTRO to succeed him, was approved as president by the National Assembly and took office on 19 April 2018.

The country faced a severe economic downturn in 1990 following the withdrawal of former Soviet subsidies worth \$4-6 billion annually. Cuba at times portrays the US embargo, in place since 1961, as the source of its difficulties. Over the past decade, there has been growing communication with the Cuban Government to address national interests. As a result of efforts begun in December 2014 to re-establish diplomatic relations with the Cuban Government, which were severed in January 1961, the US and Cuba reopened embassies in their respective countries on 20 July 2015. However, the embargo remains in place.

Illicit migration of Cuban nationals to the US via maritime and overland routes has been a longstanding challenge. On 12 January 2017, the US and Cuba signed a Joint Statement ending the so-called “wet-foot, dry-foot” policy – by which Cuban nationals who reached US soil were permitted to stay – facilitating the repatriation of Cuban migrants. Illicit Cuban migration has since dropped significantly. In FY 2017, the US Coast Guard interdicted 1,606 Cuban nationals at sea. Also in FY 2017, 20,995 Cuban migrants presented themselves at various land border ports of entry throughout the US.

3.2 Geography

Location:

Caribbean, island between the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean, 150 km south of Key West, Florida

Geographic coordinates:

21 30 N, 80 00 W

Map references:

Central America and the Caribbean

Area:

total : 110,860 sq km110,860 sq km

land : 109,820 sq km109,820 sq km

water : 1,040 sq km1,040 sq km

country comparison to the world : 107107

Area - comparative:

slightly smaller than Pennsylvania

Land boundaries:

total : 28.5 km28.5 km

border countries : US Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay 28.5 kmUS Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay 28.5 km

note : Guantanamo Naval Base is leased by the US and remains part of CubaGuantanamo Naval Base is leased by the US and remains part of Cuba

Coastline:

3,735 km

Maritime claims:

territorial sea : 12 nm12 nm

contiguous zone : 24 nm24 nm

exclusive economic zone : 200 nm200 nm

Climate:

tropical; moderated by trade winds; dry season (November to April); rainy season (May to October)

Terrain:

mostly flat to rolling plains, with rugged hills and mountains in the southeast

Elevation:

mean elevation : 108 m108 m

elevation extremes : lowest point: Caribbean Sea 0 mlowest point: Caribbean Sea 0 m

highest point: Pico Turquino 1,974 m

Natural resources:

cobalt, nickel, iron ore, chromium, copper, salt, timber, silica, petroleum, arable land

Land use:

agricultural land : 60.3%60.3%

arable land 33.8%; permanent crops 3.6%; permanent pasture 22.9%

forest : 27.3%27.3%

other : 12.4% (2011 est.)12.4% (2011 est.)

Irrigated land:

8,700 sq km (2012)

Population - distribution:

large population clusters found throughout the country, the more significant ones being in the larger towns and cities, particularly the capital of Havana

Natural hazards:

the east coast is subject to hurricanes from August to November (in general, the country averages about one hurricane every other year); droughts are common

Environment - current issues:

soil degradation and desertification (brought on by poor farming techniques and natural disasters) are the main environmental problems; biodiversity loss; deforestation; air and water pollution

Environment - international agreements:

party to : Antarctic Treaty, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Environmental Modification, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Marine Dumping, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Wetlands
Antarctic Treaty, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Environmental Modification, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Marine Dumping, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Wetlands

signed, but not ratified : Marine Life Conservation
Marine Life Conservation

Geography - note:

largest country in Caribbean and westernmost island of the Greater Antilles

3.3 People and Society

Population:

11,147,407 (July 2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 8080

Nationality:

noun : Cuban(s)
Cuban(s)

adjective : Cuban
Cuban

Ethnic groups:

white 64.1%, mulatto or mixed 26.6%, black 9.3%

note : data represent racial self-identification from Cuba's 2012 national census (2012 est.)
data represent racial self-identification from Cuba's 2012 national census (2012 est.)

Languages:

Spanish (official)

Religions:

nominally Roman Catholic 85%, Protestant, Jehovah's Witnesses, Jewish, Santeria
note : prior to CASTRO assuming powerprior to CASTRO assuming power

Age structure:

0-14 years : 16.57% (male 950,870/female 896,476)16.57% (male 950,870/female 896,476)

15-24 years : 12.22% (male 706,882/female 655,446)12.22% (male 706,882/female 655,446)

25-54 years : 44.43% (male 2,490,483/female 2,462,250)44.43% (male 2,490,483/female 2,462,250)

55-64 years : 11.84% (male 640,150/female 679,603)11.84% (male 640,150/female 679,603)

65 years and over : 14.94% (male 763,058/female 902,189) (2017 est.)14.94% (male 763,058/female 902,189) (2017 est.)

Dependency ratios:

total dependency ratio : 43.343.3

youth dependency ratio : 23.323.3

elderly dependency ratio : 19.919.9

potential support ratio : 5 (2015 est.)5 (2015 est.)

Median age:

total : 41.5 years41.5 years

male : 40.1 years40.1 years

female : 42.6 years (2017 est.)42.6 years (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 3737

Population growth rate:

-0.29% (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 217217

Birth rate:

10.7 births/1,000 population (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 184184

Death rate:

8.7 deaths/1,000 population (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 7474

Net migration rate:

-4.9 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 190190

Population distribution:

large population clusters found throughout the country, the more significant ones being in the larger towns and cities, particularly the capital of Havana

Urbanization:

urban population : 77% of total population (2018)77% of total population (2018)
rate of urbanization : 0.14% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)0.14% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

Major urban areas - population:

HAVANA (capital) 2.136 million (2018)

Sex ratio:

at birth : 1.06 male(s)/female1.06 male(s)/female
0-14 years : 1.06 male(s)/female1.06 male(s)/female
15-24 years : 1.08 male(s)/female1.08 male(s)/female
25-54 years : 1.01 male(s)/female1.01 male(s)/female
55-64 years : 0.94 male(s)/female0.94 male(s)/female
65 years and over : 0.81 male(s)/female0.81 male(s)/female
total population : 0.99 male(s)/female (2017 est.)0.99 male(s)/female (2017 est.)

Maternal mortality ratio:

39 deaths/100,000 live births (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world : 106106

Infant mortality rate:

total : 4.4 deaths/1,000 live births4.4 deaths/1,000 live births

male : 4.9 deaths/1,000 live births4.9 deaths/1,000 live births

female : 3.9 deaths/1,000 live births (2017 est.)3.9 deaths/1,000 live births (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 181181

Life expectancy at birth:

total population : 78.8 years78.8 years

male : 76.5 years76.5 years

female : 81.3 years (2017 est.)81.3 years (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 5757

Total fertility rate:

1.71 children born/woman (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 171171

Contraceptive prevalence rate:

73.7% (2014)

Health expenditures:

11.1% of GDP (2014)

country comparison to the world : 1212

Physicians density:

7.52 physicians/1,000 population (2014)

Hospital bed density:

5.2 beds/1,000 population (2014)

Drinking water source:

improved :

urban: 96.4% of population

rural: 89.8% of population

total: 94.9% of population
unimproved :
urban: 3.6% of population
rural: 10.2% of population
total: 5.1% of population (2015 est.)

Sanitation facility access:

improved :
urban: 94.4% of population
rural: 89.1% of population
total: 93.2% of population
unimproved :
urban: 5.6% of population
rural: 10.9% of population
total: 6.8% of population (2015 est.)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:

0.4% (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 7171

HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:

30,000 (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 7070

HIV/AIDS - deaths:

<500 (2017 est.)

Major infectious diseases:

degree of risk : intermediateintermediate
food or waterborne diseases : bacterial diarrhea and hepatitis Abacterial diarrhea and hepatitis A
vectorborne diseases : dengue feverdengue fever
note : active local transmission of Zika virus by Aedes species mosquitoes has been identified in this country (as of August 2016); it poses an important risk (a large number of cases possible) among US citizens if bitten by an infective mosquito; other less common ways to get Zika are through sex, via blood transfusion, or during pregnancy, in which the pregnant woman passes Zika virus to her fetus (2016)active

local transmission of Zika virus by Aedes species mosquitoes has been identified in this country (as of August 2016); it poses an important risk (a large number of cases possible) among US citizens if bitten by an infective mosquito; other less common ways to get Zika are through sex, via blood transfusion, or during pregnancy, in which the pregnant woman passes Zika virus to her fetus (2016)

Obesity - adult prevalence rate:

24.6% (2016)

country comparison to the world : 5656

Education expenditures:

12.8% of GDP (2010)

country comparison to the world : 22

Literacy:

definition : age 15 and over can read and writeage 15 and over can read and write

total population : 99.8%99.8%

male : 99.9%99.9%

female : 99.8% (2015 est.)99.8% (2015 est.)

School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education):

total : 14 years14 years

male : 13 years13 years

female : 14 years (2015)14 years (2015)

Unemployment, youth ages 15-24:

total : 6.1%6.1%

male : 6.4%6.4%

female : 5.6% (2010 est.)5.6% (2010 est.)

country comparison to the world : 145145

People - note:

illicit emigration is a continuing problem; Cubans attempt to depart the island and enter the US using homemade rafts, alien smugglers, direct flights, or falsified visas; Cubans also use non-maritime routes to enter the US including direct flights to Miami and overland via the southwest border; the number of Cubans migrating to the US surged after the announcement of normalization of US-Cuban relations in late

December 2014 but has decreased since the end of the so-called “wet-foot, dry-foot” policy on 12 January 2017

3.4 Government

Country name:

conventional long form : Republic of CubaRepublic of Cuba

conventional short form : CubaCuba

local long form : Republica de CubaRepublica de Cuba

local short form : CubaCuba

etymology : name derives from the Taino Indian designation for the island "coabana" meaning "great place" name derives from the Taino Indian designation for the island "coabana" meaning "great place"

Government type:

communist state

Capital:

name : HavanaHavana

geographic coordinates : 23 07 N, 82 21 W23 07 N, 82 21 W

time difference : UTC-5 (same time as Washington, DC, during Standard Time)UTC-5 (same time as Washington, DC, during Standard Time)

daylight saving time : +1hr, begins second Sunday in March; ends first Sunday in November; note - Cuba has been known to alter the schedule of DST on short notice in an attempt to conserve electricity for lighting+1hr, begins second Sunday in March; ends first Sunday in November; note - Cuba has been known to alter the schedule of DST on short notice in an attempt to conserve electricity for lighting

Administrative divisions:

15 provinces (provincias, singular - provincia) and 1 special municipality* (municipio especial); Artemisa, Camaguey, Ciego de Avila, Cienfuegos, Granma, Guantanamo, Holguin, Isla de la Juventud*, La Habana, Las Tunas, Matanzas, Mayabeque, Pinar del Rio, Sancti Spiritus, Santiago de Cuba, Villa Clara

Independence:

20 May 1902 (from Spain 10 December 1898; administered by the US from 1898 to 1902); not acknowledged by the Cuban Government as a day of independence

National holiday:

Triumph of the Revolution (Liberation Day), 1 January (1959)

Constitution:

history : several previous; latest adopted by referendum 15 February 1976, effective 24 February 1976; note - in early June 2018, the Cuban Government announced that Raul CASTRO would head a commission to rewrite the country's constitutionseveral previous; latest adopted by referendum 15 February 1976, effective 24 February 1976; note - in early June 2018, the Cuban Government announced that Raul CASTRO would head a commission to rewrite the country's constitution

amendments : proposed by the National Assembly of People's Power; passage requires approval of at least two-thirds majority of the National Assembly membership; amendments to constitutional articles on the authorities of the National Assembly, Council of State, or any rights and duties in the constitution also require approval in a referendum; constitutional articles on the Cuban political, social, and economic system cannot be amended; amended 1978, 1992, 2002 (2018)proposed by the National Assembly of People's Power; passage requires approval of at least two-thirds majority of the National Assembly membership; amendments to constitutional articles on the authorities of the National Assembly, Council of State, or any rights and duties in the constitution also require approval in a referendum; constitutional articles on the Cuban political, social, and economic system cannot be amended; amended 1978, 1992, 2002 (2018)

Legal system:

civil law system based on Spanish civil code

International law organization participation:

has not submitted an ICJ jurisdiction declaration; non-party state to the ICCt

Citizenship:

citizenship by birth : yesyes

citizenship by descent : yesyes

dual citizenship recognized : nono

residency requirement for naturalization : unknownunknown

Suffrage:

16 years of age; universal

Executive branch:

chief of state : President of the Council of State and President of the Council of Ministers Miguel DIAZ-CANEL Bermudez (since 19 April 2018); First Vice President of the Council of State and First Vice President of the Council of Ministers Salvador Antonio VALDES Mesa (since 19 April 2018); note - the president is both chief of state and head of government
President of the Council of State and President of the Council of Ministers Miguel DIAZ-CANEL Bermudez (since 19 April 2018); **First Vice President of the Council of State and First Vice President of the Council of Ministers** Salvador Antonio VALDES Mesa (since 19 April 2018); note - the president is both chief of state and head of government

head of government : President of the Council of State and President of the Council of Ministers Miguel DIAZ-CANEL Bermudez (since 19 April 2018); First Vice President of the Council of State and First Vice President of the Council of Ministers Salvador Antonio VALDES Mesa (since 19 April 2018)
President of the Council of State and President of the Council of Ministers Miguel DIAZ-CANEL Bermudez (since 19 April 2018); **First Vice President of the Council of State and First Vice President of the Council of Ministers** Salvador Antonio VALDES Mesa (since 19 April 2018)

cabinet : Council of Ministers proposed by the president of the Council of State and appointed by the National Assembly; it is subordinate to the 31-member Council of State, which is elected by the Assembly to act on its behalf when it is not in session
Council of Ministers proposed by the president of the Council of State and appointed by the National Assembly; it is subordinate to the 31-member Council of State, which is elected by the Assembly to act on its behalf when it is not in session

elections/appointments : president and vice presidents indirectly elected by the National Assembly for a 5-year term (may be reelected for another 5-year term); election last held on 19 April 2018 (next to be held in 2023)
president and vice presidents indirectly elected by the National Assembly for a 5-year term (may be reelected for another 5-year term); election last held on 19 April 2018 (next to be held in 2023)

election results : Miguel DIAZ-CANEL Bermudez (PCC) elected president; percent of National Assembly vote - 98.8%; Salvador Antonio VALDES Mesa (PCC) elected vice president; percent of National Assembly vote - 100%
Miguel DIAZ-CANEL Bermudez (PCC) elected president; percent of National Assembly vote - 98.8%; **Salvador Antonio VALDES Mesa (PCC)** elected vice president; percent of National Assembly vote - 100%

Legislative branch:

description : unicameral National Assembly of People's Power or Asamblea Nacional del Poder Popular (605 seats; members directly elected by absolute majority vote; members serve 5-year terms); note - the National Candidature Commission submits a slate of approved candidates; to be elected, candidates must receive more than 50% of valid votes otherwise the seat remains vacant or the Council of State can declare another election
unicameral National Assembly of People's Power or Asamblea Nacional del Poder Popular (605 seats; members directly elected by absolute majority vote; members serve 5-year terms); note - the National Candidature Commission submits a slate of approved candidates; to be elected, candidates

must receive more than 50% of valid votes otherwise the seat remains vacant or the Council of State can declare another election

elections : last held on 11 March 2018 (next to be held in early 2023)last held on 11 March 2018 (next to be held in early 2023)

election results : Cuba's Communist Party is the only legal party, and officially sanctioned candidates run unopposedCuba's Communist Party is the only legal party, and officially sanctioned candidates run unopposed

Judicial branch:

highest court(s) : People's Supreme Court (consists of court president, vice president, 41 professional justices, and NA lay judges); organization includes the State Council, criminal, civil, administrative, labor, crimes against the state, and military courts)People's Supreme Court (consists of court president, vice president, 41 professional justices, and NA lay judges); organization includes the State Council, criminal, civil, administrative, labor, crimes against the state, and military courts)

judge selection and term of office : professional judges elected by the National Assembly are not subject to a specific term; lay judges nominated by workplace collectives and neighborhood associations and elected by municipal or provincial assemblies; lay judges appointed for 5-year terms and serve up to 30 days per yearprofessional judges elected by the National Assembly are not subject to a specific term; lay judges nominated by workplace collectives and neighborhood associations and elected by municipal or provincial assemblies; lay judges appointed for 5-year terms and serve up to 30 days per year

subordinate courts : People's Provincial Courts; People's Regional Courts; People's CourtsPeople's Provincial Courts; People's Regional Courts; People's Courts

Political parties and leaders:

Cuban Communist Party or PCC [Raul CASTRO Ruz]

International organization participation:

ACP, ALBA, AOSIS, CELAC, FAO, G-77, IAEA, ICAO, ICC (national committees), ICRM, IFAD, IFRCS, IHO, ILO, IMO, IMSO, Interpol, IOC, IOM (observer), IPU, ISO, ITSO, ITU, LAES, LAIA, NAM, OAS (excluded from formal participation since 1962), OPANAL, OPCW, PCA, Petrocaribe, PIF (partner), UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, Union Latina, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WFTU (NGOs), WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

Diplomatic representation in the US:

chief of mission : Ambassador Jose Ramon CABANAS Rodriguez (since 17 September 2015)Ambassador Jose Ramon CABANAS Rodriguez (since 17 September 2015)

chancery : 2630 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 200092630 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 20009

telephone : [1] (202) 797-8518[1] (202) 797-8518

FAX : NANA

consulate(s) general : NANA

Diplomatic representation from the US:

chief of mission : Ambassador (vacant); Charge d'Affaires Phillip Goldberg (Since February 2018) Ambassador (vacant); Charge d'Affaires Phillip Goldberg (Since February 2018)

embassy : Calzada between L & M Streets, Vedado, Havana Calzada between L & M Streets, Vedado, Havana

mailing address : use embassy street address use embassy street address

telephone : [53] (7) 839-4100 [53] (7) 839-4100

FAX : NANA

Flag description:

five equal horizontal bands of blue (top, center, and bottom) alternating with white; a red equilateral triangle based on the hoist side bears a white, five-pointed star in the center; the blue bands refer to the three old divisions of the island: central, occidental, and oriental; the white bands describe the purity of the independence ideal; the triangle symbolizes liberty, equality, and fraternity, while the red color stands for the blood shed in the independence struggle; the white star, called La Estrella Solitaria (the Lone Star) lights the way to freedom and was taken from the flag of Texas

note : design similar to the Puerto Rican flag, with the colors of the bands and triangle reversed design similar to the Puerto Rican flag, with the colors of the bands and triangle reversed

National symbol(s):

royal palm; national colors: red, white, blue

National anthem:

name : "La Bayamesa" (The Bayamo Song) "La Bayamesa" (The Bayamo Song)

lyrics/music : Pedro FIGUEREDO Pedro FIGUEREDO

note : adopted 1940; Pedro FIGUEREDO first performed "La Bayamesa" in 1868 during the Ten Years War against the Spanish; a leading figure in the uprising, FIGUEREDO was captured in 1870 and executed by a firing squad; just prior to the fusillade he is reputed to have shouted, "Morir por la Patria es vivir" (To die for the country is to live), a line from the anthem adopted 1940; Pedro FIGUEREDO first performed "La Bayamesa" in 1868 during the Ten Years War against the Spanish; a leading figure in the uprising, FIGUEREDO was captured in 1870 and executed by a

firing squad; just prior to the fusillade he is reputed to have shouted, "Morir por la Patria es vivir" (To die for the country is to live), a line from the anthem

3.5 Economy

Economy - overview:

The government continues to balance the need for loosening its socialist economic system against a desire for firm political control. In April 2011, the government held the first Cuban Communist Party Congress in almost 13 years, during which leaders approved a plan for wide-ranging economic changes. Since then, the government has slowly and incrementally implemented limited economic reforms, including allowing Cubans to buy electronic appliances and cell phones, stay in hotels, and buy and sell used cars. The government has cut state sector jobs as part of the reform process, and it has opened up some retail services to "self-employment," leading to the rise of so-called "cuentapropistas" or entrepreneurs. More than 500,000 Cuban workers are currently registered as self-employed.

The Cuban regime has updated its economic model to include permitting the private ownership and sale of real estate and new vehicles, allowing private farmers to sell agricultural goods directly to hotels, allowing the creation of non-agricultural cooperatives, adopting a new foreign investment law, and launching a "Special Development Zone" around the Mariel port.

Since 2016, Cuba has attributed slowed economic growth in part to problems with petroleum product deliveries from Venezuela. Since late 2000, Venezuela provided petroleum products to Cuba on preferential terms, supplying at times nearly 100,000 barrels per day. Cuba paid for the oil, in part, with the services of Cuban personnel in Venezuela, including some 30,000 medical professionals.

GDP (purchasing power parity):

\$137 billion (2017 est.)

\$134.8 billion (2016 est.)

\$134.2 billion (2015 est.)

note : data are in 2016 US dollarsdata are in 2016 US dollars

country comparison to the world : 7979

GDP (official exchange rate):

\$93.79 billion (2017 est.)

note : data are in Cuban Pesos at 1 CUP = 1 US\$; official exchange ratedata are in Cuban Pesos at 1 CUP = 1 US\$; official exchange rate

GDP - real growth rate:

1.6% (2017 est.)

0.5% (2016 est.)

4.4% (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 170170

GDP - per capita (PPP):

\$12,300 (2016 est.)

\$12,200 (2015 est.)

\$12,100 (2014 est.)

note : data are in 2016 US dollarsdata are in 2016 US dollars

country comparison to the world : 128128

Gross national saving:

10.1% of GDP (2017 est.)

11% of GDP (2016 est.)

12.1% of GDP (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 158158

GDP - composition, by end use:

household consumption : 58.2%58.2%

government consumption : 31.7%31.7%

investment in fixed capital : 9.9%9.9%

investment in inventories : 0%0%

exports of goods and services : 13.6%13.6%

imports of goods and services : -13.5% (2017 est.)-13.5% (2017 est.)

GDP - composition, by sector of origin:

agriculture : 3.9%3.9%

industry : 21.5%21.5%

services : 74.2% (2017 est.)74.2% (2017 est.)

Agriculture - products:

sugar, tobacco, citrus, coffee, rice, potatoes, beans; livestock

Industries:

petroleum, nickel, cobalt, pharmaceuticals, tobacco, construction, steel, cement, agricultural machinery, sugar

Industrial production growth rate:

0.6% (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 177177

Labor force:

4.691 million

note : state sector 72.3%, non-state sector 27.7% (2017 est.)state sector 72.3%, non-state sector 27.7% (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 8787

Labor force - by occupation:

agriculture : 18%18%

industry : 10%10%

services : 72% (2016 est.)72% (2016 est.)

Unemployment rate:

2.2% (2017 est.)

2% (2016 est.)

note : data are official rates; unofficial estimates are about doubledata are official rates; unofficial estimates are about double

country comparison to the world : 2323

Population below poverty line:

NA%

Household income or consumption by percentage share:

lowest 10% : NA%NA%

highest 10% : NA%NA%

Budget:

revenues : \$51.76 billion\$51.76 billion

expenditures : \$62.11 billion (2017 est.)\$62.11 billion (2017 est.)

Taxes and other revenues:

55.2% of GDP (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 1010

Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-):

-11% of GDP (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 210210

Public debt:

49.5% of GDP (2017 est.)

43.5% of GDP (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 104104

Fiscal year:

calendar year

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

4.8% (2017 est.)

4.5% (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 171171

Central bank discount rate:

NA%

Commercial bank prime lending rate:

NA%

Stock of narrow money:

\$23.49 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$21.92 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 6868

Stock of broad money:

\$50.2 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$48.19 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 6868

Stock of domestic credit:

\$NA

Current account balance:

\$985.4 million (2017 est.)

\$2.008 billion (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 4646

Exports:

\$2.885 billion (2017 est.)

\$2.546 billion (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 128128

Exports - commodities:

petroleum, nickel, medical products, sugar, tobacco, fish, citrus, coffee

Exports - partners:

Venezuela 17.8%, Spain 12.2%, Russia 7.9%, Lebanon 6.1%, Indonesia 4.5%, Germany 4.3% (2017)

Imports:

\$10.84 billion (2017 est.)

\$10.3 billion (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 9595

Imports - commodities:

petroleum, food, machinery and equipment, chemicals

Imports - partners:

China 22%, Spain 14%, Russia 5%, Brazil 5%, Mexico 4.9%, Italy 4.8%, US 4.5% (2017)

Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:

\$12.8 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$12.3 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 7070

Debt - external:

\$30.02 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$29.89 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 8282

Stock of direct foreign investment - at home:

\$NA

Stock of direct foreign investment - abroad:

\$4.138 billion (2006 est.)

country comparison to the world : 7777

Exchange rates:

Cuban pesos (CUP) per US dollar -

1 (2017 est.)

1 (2016 est.)

1 (2015 est.)

1 (2014 est.)

22.7 (2013 est.)

3.6 Energy

Electricity access:

population without electricity : 200,000200,000

electrification - total population : 99.9%99.9%

electrification - urban areas : 100%100%

electrification - rural areas : 95% (2013)95% (2013)

Electricity - production:

20.46 billion kWh (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 7474

Electricity - consumption:

17.34 billion kWh (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 7575

Electricity - exports:

0 kWh (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 124124

Electricity - imports:

0 kWh (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 137137

Electricity - installed generating capacity:

6.454 million kW (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 7575

Electricity - from fossil fuels:

90.6% of total installed capacity (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 5757

Electricity - from nuclear fuels:

0% of total installed capacity (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 7474

Electricity - from hydroelectric plants:

1% of total installed capacity (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 146146

Electricity - from other renewable sources:

8.4% of total installed capacity (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 7676

Crude oil - production:

45,600 bbl/day (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 5757

Crude oil - exports:

0 bbl/day (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world : 107107

Crude oil - imports:

87,000 bbl/day (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 4444

Crude oil - proved reserves:

124 million bbl (1 January 2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 7272

Refined petroleum products - production:

94,000 bbl/day (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 6868

Refined petroleum products - consumption:

180,000 bbl/day (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 6060

Refined petroleum products - exports:

63,000 bbl/day (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 4848

Refined petroleum products - imports:

69,000 bbl/day (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 6767

Natural gas - production:

1.185 billion cu m (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 6363

Natural gas - consumption:

1.185 billion cu m (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 8787

Natural gas - exports:

0 cu m (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 8787

Natural gas - imports:

0 cu m (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 113113

Natural gas - proved reserves:

70.79 billion cu m (1 January 2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 5959

Carbon dioxide emissions from consumption of energy:

26 million Mt (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world : 7777

3.7 Communications

Telephones - fixed lines:

total subscriptions : 1,349,1881,349,188

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants : 12 (2017 est.)12 (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 6767

Telephones - mobile cellular:

total subscriptions : 4,613,7824,613,782

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants : 41 (2017 est.)41 (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 123123

Telephone system:

general assessment : fixed-line and mobile services run by the state-run ETESCA; mobile-cellular telephone service is expensive and must be paid in convertible pesos; Cuban Government has opened several hundred Wi-Fi hotspots around the island, which are expensive, and launched a new residential Internet pilot in Havana and other provincesfixed-line and mobile services run by the state-run ETESCA; mobile-cellular telephone service is expensive and must be paid in convertible pesos; Cuban Government has opened several hundred Wi-Fi hotspots around the island, which are expensive, and launched a new residential Internet pilot in Havana and other provinces

domestic : fixed-line density remains low at about 12 per 100 inhabitants; mobile-cellular service expanding but remains only about 36 per 100 personsfixed-line density remains low at about 12 per 100 inhabitants; mobile-cellular service expanding but remains only about 36 per 100 persons

international : country code - 53; the ALBA-1 fiber-optic submarine cable links Cuba, Jamaica, and Venezuela; fiber-optic cable laid to but not linked to US network; satellite earth station - 1 Intersputnik (Atlantic Ocean region); several US telecommunication companies have signed voice and data deals to serve their customers while in Cuba (2017)country code - 53; the ALBA-1 fiber-optic submarine cable links Cuba, Jamaica, and Venezuela; fiber-optic cable laid to but not linked to US network; satellite earth station - 1 Intersputnik (Atlantic Ocean region); several US telecommunication companies have signed voice and data deals to serve their customers while in Cuba (2017)

Broadcast media:

government owns and controls all broadcast media with private ownership of electronic media prohibited; however, several online independent news sites exist and those that are not openly critical of the government are often tolerated; government operates 5 national TV networks and many local TV stations; government operates 6 national radio networks, an international station, and many local radio stations; Radio-TV Marti is beamed from the US (2017)

Internet country code:

.cu

Internet users:

total : 4,334,0224,334,022

percent of population : 38.8%38.8%

note : private citizens are prohibited from buying computers or accessing the Internet without special authorization; foreigners may access the Internet in large hotels but are subject to firewalls; some Cubans buy illegal passwords on the black market or take advantage of public outlets to access limited email and the government-controlled "intranet" (July 2016 est.)private citizens are prohibited from buying computers or accessing the Internet without special authorization; foreigners may access the Internet in large hotels but are subject to firewalls; some Cubans buy illegal passwords on the black market or take advantage of public outlets to access limited email and the government-controlled "intranet" (July 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 8585

Broadband - fixed line subscriptions:

total : 33,53633,536

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants : less than 1 (2017 est.)less than 1 (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 138138

3.8 Transportation

National air transport system:

number of registered air carriers : 44

inventory of registered aircraft operated by air carriers : 1818

annual passenger traffic on registered air carriers : 1,294,4581,294,458

annual freight traffic on registered air carriers : 20,919,645 mt-km (2015)20,919,645 mt-km (2015)

Civil aircraft registration country code prefix:

CU (2016)

Airports:

133 (2017)

country comparison to the world : 4343

Airports - with paved runways:

total : 6464
over 3,047 m : 77
2,438 to 3,047 m : 1010
1,524 to 2,437 m : 1616
914 to 1,523 m : 44
under 914 m : 27 (2017)27 (2017)

Airports - with unpaved runways:

total : 6969
914 to 1,523 m : 1111
under 914 m : 58 (2013)58 (2013)

Pipelines:

gas 41 km; oil 230 km (2013)

Railways:

total : 8,367 km8,367 km
standard gauge : 8,195 km 1.435-m gauge (124 km electrified)8,195 km 1.435-m gauge (124 km electrified)
narrow gauge : 172 km 1.000-m gauge172 km 1.000-m gauge
note : 70 km of standard gauge track is not for public use (2015)70 km of standard gauge track is not for public use (2015)
country comparison to the world : 2626

Roadways:

total : 60,858 km60,858 km
paved : 29,820 km (includes 639 km of expressways)29,820 km (includes 639 km of expressways)
unpaved : 31,038 km (2001)31,038 km (2001)
country comparison to the world : 6969

Waterways:

240 km (almost all navigable inland waterways are near the mouths of rivers) (2011)

country comparison to the world : 9494

Merchant marine:

total : 4343

by type : general cargo 11, oil tanker 3, other 29 (2017)general cargo 11, oil tanker 3, other 29 (2017)

country comparison to the world : 118118

Ports and terminals:

major seaport(s) : Antilla, Cienfuegos, Guantanamo, Havana, Matanzas, Mariel, Nuevitas Bay, Santiago de CubaAntilla, Cienfuegos, Guantanamo, Havana, Matanzas, Mariel, Nuevitas Bay, Santiago de Cuba

3.9 Military and Security

Military expenditures:

3.08% of GDP (2015)

3.54% of GDP (2014)

3.51% of GDP (2013)

3.94% of GDP (2012)

3.08% of GDP (2011)

country comparison to the world : 2828

Military branches:

Revolutionary Armed Forces (Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias, FAR): Revolutionary Army (Ejercito Revolucionario, ER, includes Territorial Militia Troops (Milicia de Tropas de Territoriales, MTT)), Revolutionary Navy (Marina de Guerra Revolucionaria, MGR, includes Marine Corps), Revolutionary Air and Air Defense Forces (Defensas Anti-Aereas y Fuerza Aerea Revolucionaria, DAAFAR); Youth Labor Army (Ejercito Juvenil del Trabajo, EJT) (2013)

Military service age and obligation:

17-28 years of age for compulsory military service; 2-year service obligation for males, optional for females (2017)

Military - note:

the collapse of the Soviet Union deprived the Cuban military of its major economic and logistic support and had a significant impact on the state of Cuban equipment; the army remains well trained and professional in nature; the lack of replacement parts for its existing equipment has increasingly affected operational capabilities (2013)

3.10 Transnational Issues

Disputes - international:

US Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay is leased to the United States and only mutual agreement or US abandonment of the facility can terminate the lease

Trafficking in persons:

current situation : Cuba is a source country for adults and children subjected to sex trafficking and forced labor; child sex trafficking and child sex tourism occur in Cuba, while some Cubans are forced into prostitution in South America and the Caribbean; allegations have been made that some Cubans have been forced or coerced to work at Cuban medical missions abroad; assessing the scope of trafficking within Cuba is difficult because of the lack of information

tier rating : Tier 2 Watch List - Cuba does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so; Cuba's penal code does not criminalize all forms of human trafficking, but the government reported that it is in the process of amending its criminal code to comply with the 2000 UN TIP Protocol, to which it acceded in 2013; the government in 2014 prosecuted and convicted 13 sex traffickers and provided services to the victims in those cases but does not have shelters specifically for trafficking victims; the government did not recognize forced labor as a problem and took no action to address it; state media produced newspaper articles and TV and radio programs to raise public awareness about sex trafficking (2015)

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Illicit drugs:

territorial waters and air space serve as transshipment zone for US- and European-bound drugs; established the death penalty for certain drug-related crimes in 1999

4. Egypt

4.1 Introduction

Background:

The regularity and richness of the annual Nile River flood, coupled with semi-isolation provided by deserts to the east and west, allowed for the development of one of the world's great civilizations. A unified kingdom arose circa 3200 B.C., and a series of dynasties ruled in Egypt for the next three millennia. The last native dynasty fell to the Persians in 341 B.C., who in turn were replaced by the Greeks, Romans, and Byzantines. It was the Arabs who introduced Islam and the Arabic language in the 7th century and who ruled for the next six centuries. A local military caste, the Mamluks took control about 1250 and continued to govern after the conquest of Egypt by the Ottoman Turks in 1517. Completion of the Suez Canal in 1869 elevated Egypt as an important world transportation hub. Ostensibly to protect its investments, Britain seized control of Egypt's government in 1882, but nominal allegiance to the Ottoman Empire continued until 1914. Partially independent from the UK in 1922, Egypt acquired full sovereignty from Britain in 1952. The completion of the Aswan High Dam in 1971 and the resultant Lake Nasser have reaffirmed the time-honored place of the Nile River in the agriculture and ecology of Egypt. A rapidly growing population (the largest in the Arab world), limited arable land, and dependence on the Nile all continue to overtax resources and stress society. The government has struggled to meet the demands of Egypt's population through economic reform and massive investment in communications and physical infrastructure.

Inspired by the 2010 Tunisian revolution, Egyptian opposition groups led demonstrations and labor strikes countrywide, culminating in President Hosni MUBARAK's ouster in 2011. Egypt's military assumed national leadership until a new parliament was in place in early 2012; later that same year, Mohammed MORSI won the presidential election. Following often violent protests throughout the spring of 2013 against MORSI's government and the Muslim Brotherhood, the Egyptian Armed Forces intervened and removed MORSI from power in July 2013 and replaced him with interim president Adly MANSOUR. In January 2014, voters approved a new constitution by referendum and in May 2014 elected former defense minister Abdelfattah ELSISI president. Egypt elected a new legislature in December 2015, the first parliament since 2012. ELSISI was reelected to a second four-year term in March 2018.

4.2 Geography

Location:

Northern Africa, bordering the Mediterranean Sea, between Libya and the Gaza Strip, and the Red Sea north of Sudan, and includes the Asian Sinai Peninsula

Geographic coordinates:

27 00 N, 30 00 E

Map references:

Africa

Area:

total : 1,001,450 sq km1,001,450 sq km

land : 995,450 sq km995,450 sq km

water : 6,000 sq km6,000 sq km

country comparison to the world : 3131

Area - comparative:

more than eight times the size of Ohio; slightly more than three times the size of New Mexico

Land boundaries:

total : 2,612 km2,612 km

border countries (4) : Gaza Strip 13 km, Israel 208 km, Libya 1,115 km, Sudan 1,276 km
Gaza Strip 13 km, Israel 208 km, Libya 1,115 km, Sudan 1,276 km

Coastline:

2,450 km

Maritime claims:

territorial sea : 12 nm12 nm

contiguous zone : 24 nm24 nm

exclusive economic zone : 200 nm or the equidistant median line with Cyprus200 nm
or the equidistant median line with Cyprus

continental shelf : 200 nm200 nm

Climate:

desert; hot, dry summers with moderate winters

Terrain:

vast desert plateau interrupted by Nile valley and delta

Elevation:

mean elevation : 321 m321 m

elevation extremes : lowest point: Qattara Depression -133 mlowest point: Qattara Depression -133 m

highest point: Mount Catherine 2,629 m

Natural resources:

petroleum, natural gas, iron ore, phosphates, manganese, limestone, gypsum, talc, asbestos, lead, rare earth elements, zinc

Land use:

agricultural land : 3.6%3.6%

arable land 2.8%; permanent crops 0.8%; permanent pasture 0%

forest : 0.1%0.1%

other : 96.3% (2011 est.)96.3% (2011 est.)

Irrigated land:

36,500 sq km (2012)

Population - distribution:

approximately 95% of the population lives within 20 km of the Nile River and its delta; vast areas of the country remain sparsely populated or uninhabited

Natural hazards:

periodic droughts; frequent earthquakes; flash floods; landslides; hot, driving windstorms called khamsin occur in spring; dust storms; sandstorms

Environment - current issues:

agricultural land being lost to urbanization and windblown sands; increasing soil salination below Aswan High Dam; desertification; oil pollution threatening coral reefs, beaches, and marine habitats; other water pollution from agricultural pesticides, raw sewage, and industrial effluents; limited natural freshwater resources

away from the Nile, which is the only perennial water source; rapid growth in population overstraining the Nile and natural resources

Environment - international agreements:

party to : Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Environmental Modification, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Marine Dumping, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Tropical Timber 83, Tropical Timber 94, Wetlands Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Environmental Modification, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Marine Dumping, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Tropical Timber 83, Tropical Timber 94, Wetlands

signed, but not ratified : none of the selected agreements none of the selected agreements

Geography - note:

controls Sinai Peninsula, the only land bridge between Africa and remainder of Eastern Hemisphere; controls Suez Canal, a sea link between Indian Ocean and Mediterranean Sea; size, and juxtaposition to Israel, establish its major role in Middle Eastern geopolitics; dependence on upstream neighbors; dominance of Nile basin issues; prone to influxes of refugees from Sudan and the Palestinian territories

4.3 People and Society

Population:

97,041,072 (July 2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 1414

Nationality:

noun : Egyptian(s) Egyptian(s)

adjective : Egyptian Egyptian

Ethnic groups:

Egyptian 99.7%, other 0.3%

note : data represent respondents by nationality (2006 est.) data represent respondents by nationality (2006 est.)

Languages:

Arabic (official), English and French widely understood by educated classes

Religions:

Muslim (predominantly Sunni) 90%, Christian (majority Coptic Orthodox, other Christians include Armenian Apostolic, Catholic, Maronite, Orthodox, and Anglican) 10% (2015 est.)

Demographic profile:

Egypt is the most populous country in the Arab world and the third most populous country in Africa, behind Nigeria and Ethiopia. Most of the country is desert, so about 95% of the population is concentrated in a narrow strip of fertile land along the Nile River, which represents only about 5% of Egypt's land area. Egypt's rapid population growth – 46% between 1994 and 2014 – stresses limited natural resources, jobs, housing, sanitation, education, and health care.

Although the country's total fertility rate (TFR) fell from roughly 5.5 children per woman in 1980 to just over 3 in the late 1990s, largely as a result of state-sponsored family planning programs, the population growth rate dropped more modestly because of decreased mortality rates and longer life expectancies. During the last decade, Egypt's TFR decline stalled for several years and then reversed, reaching 3.6 in 2011, and has plateaued the last few years. Contraceptive use has held steady at about 60%, while preferences for larger families and early marriage may have strengthened in the wake of the recent 2011 revolution. The large cohort of women of or nearing childbearing age will sustain high population growth for the foreseeable future (an effect called population momentum).

Nevertheless, post-MUBARAK governments have not made curbing population growth a priority. To increase contraceptive use and to prevent further overpopulation will require greater government commitment and substantial social change, including encouraging smaller families and better educating and empowering women. Currently, literacy, educational attainment, and labor force participation rates are much lower for women than men. In addition, the prevalence of violence against women, the lack of female political representation, and the perpetuation of the nearly universal practice of female genital cutting continue to keep women from playing a more significant role in Egypt's public sphere.

Population pressure, poverty, high unemployment, and the fragmentation of inherited land holdings have historically motivated Egyptians, primarily young men, to migrate internally from rural and smaller urban areas in the Nile Delta region and the poorer rural south to Cairo, Alexandria, and other urban centers in the north, while a much smaller number migrated to the Red Sea and Sinai areas. Waves of forced internal migration also resulted from the 1967 Arab-Israeli War and the floods caused by the completion of the Aswan High Dam in 1970. Limited numbers of students and professionals emigrated temporarily prior to the early 1970s, when economic problems and high unemployment pushed the Egyptian Government to lift restrictions on labor migration. At the same time, high oil revenues enabled Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and other Gulf states, as well as Libya and Jordan, to fund development projects, creating a demand for unskilled labor (mainly in construction), which attracted tens of thousands of young Egyptian men.

Between 1970 and 1974 alone, Egyptian migrants in the Gulf countries increased from approximately 70,000 to 370,000. Egyptian officials encouraged legal labor migration both to alleviate unemployment and to generate remittance income

(remittances continue to be one of Egypt's largest sources of foreign currency and GDP). During the mid-1980s, however, depressed oil prices resulting from the Iran-Iraq War, decreased demand for low-skilled labor, competition from less costly South Asian workers, and efforts to replace foreign workers with locals significantly reduced Egyptian migration to the Gulf States. The number of Egyptian migrants dropped from a peak of almost 3.3 million in 1983 to about 2.2 million at the start of the 1990s, but numbers gradually recovered.

In the 2000s, Egypt began facilitating more labor migration through bilateral agreements, notably with Arab countries and Italy, but illegal migration to Europe through overstayed visas or maritime human smuggling via Libya also rose. The Egyptian Government estimated there were 6.5 million Egyptian migrants in 2009, with roughly 75% being temporary migrants in other Arab countries (Libya, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates) and 25% being predominantly permanent migrants in the West (US, UK, Italy, France, and Canada).

During the 2000s, Egypt became an increasingly important transit and destination country for economic migrants and asylum seekers, including Palestinians, East Africans, and South Asians and, more recently, Iraqis and Syrians. Egypt draws many refugees because of its resettlement programs with the West; Cairo has one of the largest urban refugee populations in the world. Many East African migrants are interned or live in temporary encampments along the Egypt-Israel border, and some have been shot and killed by Egyptian border guards.

Age structure:

0-14 years : 33.29% (male 16,720,307/female 15,583,019)33.29% (male 16,720,307/female 15,583,019)

15-24 years : 18.94% (male 9,464,262/female 8,919,614)18.94% (male 9,464,262/female 8,919,614)

25-54 years : 37.6% (male 18,545,422/female 17,944,582)37.6% (male 18,545,422/female 17,944,582)

55-64 years : 5.95% (male 2,861,136/female 2,911,586)5.95% (male 2,861,136/female 2,911,586)

65 years and over : 4.22% (male 1,993,248/female 2,097,896) (2017 est.)4.22% (male 1,993,248/female 2,097,896) (2017 est.)

Dependency ratios:

total dependency ratio : 61.861.8

youth dependency ratio : 53.653.6

elderly dependency ratio : 8.28.2

potential support ratio : 12.2 (2015 est.)12.2 (2015 est.)

Median age:

total : 23.9 years23.9 years

male : 23.6 years23.6 years

female : 24.2 years (2017 est.)24.2 years (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 166166

Population growth rate:

2.45% (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 2222

Birth rate:

29.6 births/1,000 population (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 4040

Death rate:

4.6 deaths/1,000 population (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 203203

Net migration rate:

-0.5 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 123123

Population distribution:

approximately 95% of the population lives within 20 km of the Nile River and its delta; vast areas of the country remain sparsely populated or uninhabited

Urbanization:

urban population : 42.7% of total population (2018)42.7% of total population (2018)

rate of urbanization : 1.86% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)1.86% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

Major urban areas - population:

CAIRO (capital) 20.076 million; Alexandria 5.086 million (2018)

Sex ratio:

at birth : 1.06 male(s)/female1.06 male(s)/female

0-14 years : 1.07 male(s)/female1.07 male(s)/female

15-24 years : 1.06 male(s)/female1.06 male(s)/female

25-54 years : 1.03 male(s)/female1.03 male(s)/female
55-64 years : 0.98 male(s)/female0.98 male(s)/female
65 years and over : 0.82 male(s)/female0.82 male(s)/female
total population : 1.05 male(s)/female (2017 est.)1.05 male(s)/female (2017 est.)

Mother's mean age at first birth:

22.7 years

note : median age at first birth among women 25-29 (2014 est.)median age at first birth among women 25-29 (2014 est.)

Maternal mortality ratio:

33 deaths/100,000 live births (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 110110

Infant mortality rate:

total : 19 deaths/1,000 live births19 deaths/1,000 live births

male : 20.2 deaths/1,000 live births20.2 deaths/1,000 live births

female : 17.7 deaths/1,000 live births (2017 est.)17.7 deaths/1,000 live births (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 8484

Life expectancy at birth:

total population : 73 years73 years

male : 71.6 years71.6 years

female : 74.4 years (2017 est.)74.4 years (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 142142

Total fertility rate:

3.47 children born/woman (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 4444

Contraceptive prevalence rate:

58.5% (2014)

Health expenditures:

5.6% of GDP (2014)

country comparison to the world : 119119

Physicians density:

0.81 physicians/1,000 population (2014)

Hospital bed density:

1.6 beds/1,000 population (2014)

Drinking water source:

improved :

urban: 100% of population

rural: 99% of population

total: 99.4% of population

unimproved :

urban: 0% of population

rural: 1% of population

total: 0.6% of population (2015 est.)

Sanitation facility access:

improved :

urban: 96.8% of population

rural: 93.1% of population

total: 94.7% of population

unimproved :

urban: 3.2% of population

rural: 6.9% of population

total: 5.3% of population (2015 est.)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:

<.1% (2017 est.)

HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:

16,000 (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 9090

HIV/AIDS - deaths:

<500 (2017 est.)

Major infectious diseases:

degree of risk : intermediateintermediate

food or waterborne diseases : bacterial diarrhea, hepatitis A, and typhoid feverbacterial diarrhea, hepatitis A, and typhoid fever

water contact disease : schistosomiasis (2016)schistosomiasis (2016)

Obesity - adult prevalence rate:

32% (2016)

country comparison to the world : 1818

Children under the age of 5 years underweight:

7% (2014)

country comparison to the world : 7777

Education expenditures:

3.8% of GDP (2008)

country comparison to the world : 117117

Literacy:

definition : age 15 and over can read and writeage 15 and over can read and write

total population : 73.8%73.8%

male : 82.2%82.2%

female : 65.4% (2015 est.)65.4% (2015 est.)

School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education):

total : 13 years13 years

male : 13 years13 years

female : 13 years (2014)13 years (2014)

Unemployment, youth ages 15-24:

total : 30.8%30.8%
male : 27.2%27.2%
female : 38.5% (2016 est.)38.5% (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world : 3232

4.4 Government

Country name:

conventional long form : Arab Republic of EgyptArab Republic of Egypt
conventional short form : EgyptEgypt
local long form : Jumhuriyat Misr al-ArabiyahJumhuriyat Misr al-Arabiyah
local short form : MisrMisr
former : United Arab Republic (with Syria)United Arab Republic (with Syria)
etymology : the English name "Egypt" derives from the ancient Greek name for the country "Aigypptos"; the Arabic name "Misr" can be traced to the ancient Akkadian "misru" meaning border or frontierthe English name "Egypt" derives from the ancient Greek name for the country "Aigypptos"; the Arabic name "Misr" can be traced to the ancient Akkadian "misru" meaning border or frontier

Government type:

presidential republic

Capital:

name : CairoCairo
geographic coordinates : 30 03 N, 31 15 E30 03 N, 31 15 E
time difference : UTC+2 (7 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)UTC+2 (7 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)

Administrative divisions:

27 governorates (muhafazat, singular - muhafazat); Ad Daqahliyah, Al Bahr al Ahmar (Red Sea), Al Buhayrah, Al Fayyum, Al Gharbiyah, Al Iskandariyah (Alexandria), Al Isma'iliyah (Ismailia), Al Jizah (Giza), Al Minufiyah, Al Minya, Al Qahirah (Cairo), Al Qalyubiyah, Al Uqsar (Luxor), Al Wadi al Jadid (New Valley), As Suways (Suez), Ash Sharqiyah, Aswan, Asyut, Bani Suwayf, Bur Sa'id (Port Said), Dumyat (Damietta), Janub Sina' (South Sinai), Kafr ash Shaykh, Matruh, Qina, Shamal Sina' (North Sinai), Suhaj

Independence:

28 February 1922 (from UK protectorate status; the revolution that began on 23 July 1952 led to a republic being declared on 18 June 1953 and all British troops withdrawn on 18 June 1956); note - it was ca. 3200 B.C. that the Two Lands of Upper (southern) and Lower (northern) Egypt were first united politically

National holiday:

Revolution Day, 23 July (1952)

Constitution:

history : several previous; latest approved by a constitutional committee in December 2013, approved by referendum held on 14-15 January 2014, ratified by interim president on 19 January 2014

amendments : proposed by the president of the republic or by one-fifth of the House of Representatives members; a decision to accept the proposal requires majority vote by House members; passage of amendment requires a two-thirds majority vote by House members and passage by majority vote in a referendum; articles of reelection of the president and principles of freedom not amendable unless the amendment "brings more guarantees" (2017)

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Legal system:

mixed legal system based on Napoleonic civil and penal law, Islamic religious law, and vestiges of colonial-era laws; judicial review of the constitutionality of laws by the Supreme Constitutional Court

International law organization participation:

accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations; non-party state to the ICCt

Citizenship:

citizenship by birth : none

citizenship by descent only : if the father was born in Egypt if the father was born in Egypt

dual citizenship recognized : only with prior permission from the government
only with prior permission from the government

residency requirement for naturalization : 10 years
10 years

Suffrage:

18 years of age; universal and compulsory

Executive branch:

Chief of state : President Abdelfattah ELSISI (since 8 June 2014)
President Abdelfattah ELSISI (since 8 June 2014)

head of government : Prime Minister Mostafa MADBOULY (since 7 June 2018); note - Prime Minister Sherif ISMAIL (since 12 September 2015) resigned 6 June 2018
Prime Minister Mostafa MADBOULY (since 7 June 2018); note - Prime Minister Sherif ISMAIL (since 12 September 2015) resigned 6 June 2018

cabinet : Cabinet ministers nominated by the executive authorities and approved by the House of Representatives
Cabinet ministers nominated by the executive authorities and approved by the House of Representatives

elections/appointments : president elected by absolute majority popular vote in 2 rounds if needed for a 4-year term (eligible for a second term); election last held on 26-28 March 2018 (next to be held in 2022); prime minister appointed by the president, approved by the House of Representatives
president elected by absolute majority popular vote in 2 rounds if needed for a 4-year term (eligible for a second term); election last held on 26-28 March 2018 (next to be held in 2022); prime minister appointed by the president, approved by the House of Representatives

election results : Abdelfattah Said ELSISI reelected president in first round; percent of valid votes cast - Abdelfattah Said ELSISI (independent) 97.8%, Moussa Mostafa MOUSSA (El Ghad Party) 2.3%; note - over 7% of ballots cast were deemed invalid
Abdelfattah Said ELSISI reelected president in first round; percent of valid votes cast - Abdelfattah Said ELSISI (independent) 97.8%, Moussa Mostafa MOUSSA (El Ghad Party) 2.3%; note - over 7% of ballots cast were deemed invalid

Legislative branch:

description : unicameral House of Representatives (Majlis Al-Nowaab); 596 seats; 448 members directly elected by individual candidacy system, 120 members - with quotas for women, youth, Christians and workers - elected in party-list constituencies by simple majority popular vote, and 28 members appointed by the president; member term 5 years; note - inaugural session held on 10 January 2016
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elections : multi-phase election completed on 16 December 2015 (next to be held in 2020)
multi-phase election completed on 16 December 2015 (next to be held in 2020)

election results : percent of vote by party - NA; seats by party — Free Egyptians Party 65, Future of the Nation 53, New Wafd Party 36, Homeland's Protector Party 18, Republican People's Party 13, Congress Party 12, Al-Nour Party 11, Conservative Party 6, Democratic Peace Party 5, Egyptian National Movement 4, Egyptian Social Democratic Party 4, Modern Egypt Party 4, Freedom Party 3, My Homeland Egypt Party 3, Reform and Development Party 3, National Progressive Unionist Party 2, Arab Democratic Nasserist Party 1, El Serh El Masry el Hor 1, Revolutionary Guards Party 1, independent 351; composition - men 507, women 89, percent of women 14.9% percent of vote by party - NA; seats by party — Free Egyptians Party 65, Future of the Nation 53, New Wafd Party 36, Homeland's Protector Party 18, Republican People's Party 13, Congress Party 12, Al-Nour Party 11, Conservative Party 6, Democratic Peace Party 5, Egyptian National Movement 4, Egyptian Social Democratic Party 4, Modern Egypt Party 4, Freedom Party 3, My Homeland Egypt Party 3, Reform and Development Party 3, National Progressive Unionist Party 2, Arab Democratic Nasserist Party 1, El Serh El Masry el Hor 1, Revolutionary Guards Party 1, independent 351; composition - men 507, women 89, percent of women 14.9%

Judicial branch:

highest court(s) : Supreme Constitutional Court or SCC (consists of the court president and 10 justices); the SCC serves as the final court of arbitration on the constitutionality of laws and conflicts between lower courts regarding jurisdiction and rulings; Court of Cassation (CC) (consists of the court president and 550 judges organized in circuits with cases heard by panels of 5 judges); the CC is the highest appeals body for civil and criminal cases, also known as "ordinary justices"; Supreme Administrative Court (SAC) - consists of the court president and organized in circuits with cases heard by panels of 5 judges); the SAC is the highest court of the State Council Supreme Constitutional Court or SCC (consists of the court president and 10 justices); the SCC serves as the final court of arbitration on the constitutionality of laws and conflicts between lower courts regarding jurisdiction and rulings; Court of Cassation (CC) (consists of the court president and 550 judges organized in circuits with cases heard by panels of 5 judges); the CC is the highest appeals body for civil and criminal cases, also known as "ordinary justices"; Supreme Administrative Court (SAC) - consists of the court president and organized in circuits with cases heard by panels of 5 judges); the SAC is the highest court of the State Council

judge selection and term of office : under the 2014 constitution, all judges and justices selected by the Supreme Judiciary Council and appointed by the president of the Republic; judges appointed for life under the 2014 constitution, all judges and justices selected by the Supreme Judiciary Council and appointed by the president of the Republic; judges appointed for life

subordinate courts : Courts of Appeal; Courts of First Instance; courts of limited jurisdiction; Family Court (established in 2004) Courts of Appeal; Courts of First Instance; courts of limited jurisdiction; Family Court (established in 2004)

Political parties and leaders:

Al-Nour [Yunis MAKHYUN]

Arab Democratic Nasserist Party [Sayed Abdel GHANY]

Congress Party [Omar Al-Mokhtar SEMIDA]
 Conservative Party [Akmal KOURTAM]
 Democratic Peace Party [Ahmed FADALY]
 Egyptian National Movement Party [Gen. Raouf EL SAYED]
 Egyptian Social Democratic Party [Farid ZAHARAN]
 El Ghad Party [Moussa Mostafa MOUSSA]
 El Serh El Masry el Hor [Tarek Ahmed Abbas NADIM]
 Freedom Party [Salah HASSABALAH]
 Free Egyptians Party [Essam KHALIL]
 Homeland's Protector Party [Lt. Gen. (retired) Galal AL-HARIDI]
 Modern Egypt Party [Nabil DEIBIS]
 Nation's Future Party (Mostaqbal Watan) [Mohamed Ashraf RASHAD]
 My Homeland Egypt Party [Qadry ABU HUSSEIN]
 National Progressive Unionist (Tagammu) Party [Sayed Abdel AAL]
 Reform and Development Party [Mohamad Anwar al-SADAT]
 Republican People's Party [Hazim AMR]
 Wafd Party [Bahaa ABU SHOKA];; Revolutionary Guards Party [Magdy EL-SHARIF]

International organization participation:

ABEDA, AfDB, AFESD, AMF, AU, BSEC (observer), CAEU, CD, CICA, COMESA, D-8, EBRD, FAO, G-15, G-24, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC (national committees), ICRM, IDA, IDB, IFAD, IFC, IFRCS, IHO, ILO, IMF, IMO, IMSO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO, ITSO, ITU, LAS, MIGA, MINURSO, MINUSMA, MONUSCO, NAM, OAPEC, OAS (observer), OIC, OIF, OSCE (partner), PCA, UN, UN Security Council (temporary), UNAMID, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNMISS, UNOCI, UNRWA, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WFTU (NGOs), WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

Diplomatic representation in the US:

chief of mission : Ambassador Yasser REDA (since 19 September 2015) Ambassador Yasser REDA (since 19 September 2015)
 chancery : 3521 International Court NW, Washington, DC 20008 3521 International Court NW, Washington, DC 20008
 telephone : [1] (202) 895-5400 [1] (202) 895-5400
 FAX : [1] (202) 244-5131 [1] (202) 244-5131
 consulate(s) general : Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, New York Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, New York

Diplomatic representation from the US:

chief of mission : Ambassador (vacant); Charge d'Affaires Thomas H. GOLDBERGER (since 30 June 2017)
Ambassador (vacant); Charge d'Affaires Thomas H. GOLDBERGER (since 30 June 2017)

embassy : 5 Tawfik Diab St., Garden City, Cairo5 Tawfik Diab St., Garden City, Cairo

mailing address : Unit 64900, Box 15, APO AE 09839-4900; 5 Tawfik Diab Street, Garden City, CairoUnit 64900, Box 15, APO AE 09839-4900; 5 Tawfik Diab Street, Garden City, Cairo

telephone : [20-2] 2797-3300[20-2] 2797-3300

FAX : [20-2] 2797-3200[20-2] 2797-3200

Flag description:

three equal horizontal bands of red (top), white, and black; the national emblem (a gold Eagle of Saladin facing the hoist side with a shield superimposed on its chest above a scroll bearing the name of the country in Arabic) centered in the white band; the band colors derive from the Arab Liberation flag and represent oppression (black), overcome through bloody struggle (red), to be replaced by a bright future (white)

note : similar to the flag of Syria, which has two green stars in the white band, Iraq, which has an Arabic inscription centered in the white band, and Yemen, which has a plain white band
similar to the flag of Syria, which has two green stars in the white band, Iraq, which has an Arabic inscription centered in the white band, and Yemen, which has a plain white band

National symbol(s):

golden eagle, white lotus; national colors: red, white, black

National anthem:

name : "Bilady, Bilady, Bilady" (My Homeland, My Homeland, My Homeland)"Bilady, Bilady, Bilady" (My Homeland, My Homeland, My Homeland)

lyrics/music : Younis-al QADI/Sayed DARWISHYounis-al QADI/Sayed DARWISH

note : adopted 1979; the current anthem, less militaristic than the previous one, was created after the signing of the 1979 peace treaty with Israel; Sayed DARWISH, commonly considered the father of modern Egyptian music, composed the anthem
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4.5 Economy

Economy - overview:

Occupying the northeast corner of the African continent, Egypt is bisected by the highly fertile Nile valley where most economic activity takes place. Egypt's economy was highly centralized during the rule of former President Gamal Abdel NASSER but opened up considerably under former Presidents Anwar EL-SADAT and Mohamed Hosni MUBARAK. Agriculture, hydrocarbons, manufacturing, tourism, and other service sectors drove the country's relatively diverse economic activity.

Despite Egypt's mixed record for attracting foreign investment over the past two decades, poor living conditions and limited job opportunities have contributed to public discontent. These socioeconomic pressures were a major factor leading to the January 2011 revolution that ousted MUBARAK. The uncertain political, security, and policy environment since 2011 has restricted economic growth and failed to alleviate persistent unemployment, especially among the young.

In late 2016, persistent dollar shortages and waning aid from its Gulf allies led Cairo to turn to the IMF for a 3-year, \$12 billion loan program. To secure the deal, Cairo floated its currency, introduced new taxes, and cut energy subsidies - all of which pushed inflation above 30% for most of 2017, a high that had not been seen in a generation. Since the currency float, foreign investment in Egypt's high interest treasury bills has risen exponentially, boosting both dollar availability and central bank reserves. Cairo will be challenged to obtain foreign and local investment in manufacturing and other sectors without a sustained effort to implement a range of business reforms.

GDP (purchasing power parity):

\$1.201 trillion (2017 est.)

\$1.152 trillion (2016 est.)

\$1.103 trillion (2015 est.)

note : data are in 2017 dollarsdata are in 2017 dollars

country comparison to the world : 2222

GDP (official exchange rate):

\$237.1 billion (2017 est.)

GDP - real growth rate:

4.2% (2017 est.)

4.3% (2016 est.)

4.4% (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 7070

GDP - per capita (PPP):

\$12,700 (2017 est.)

\$12,800 (2016 est.)

\$12,400 (2015 est.)

note : data are in 2017 dollars

country comparison to the world : 123123

Gross national saving:

8.8% of GDP (2017 est.)

9.1% of GDP (2016 est.)

10.6% of GDP (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 163163

GDP - composition, by end use:

household consumption : 79.2%

government consumption : 12.2%

investment in fixed capital : 17.3%

investment in inventories : 1.3%

exports of goods and services : 13.5%

imports of goods and services : -23.5% (2017 est.)

GDP - composition, by sector of origin:

agriculture : 11.9%

industry : 33.1%

services : 55.7% (2017 est.)

Agriculture - products:

cotton, rice, corn, wheat, beans, fruits, vegetables; cattle, water buffalo, sheep, goats

Industries:

textiles, food processing, tourism, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, hydrocarbons, construction, cement, metals, light manufactures

Industrial production growth rate:

3.5% (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 8686

Labor force:

29.95 million (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 2323

Labor force - by occupation:

agriculture : 25.8%25.8%

industry : 25.1%25.1%

services : 49.1% (2015 est.)49.1% (2015 est.)

Unemployment rate:

11.9% (2017 est.)

12.7% (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 159159

Population below poverty line:

27.8% (2016 est.)

Household income or consumption by percentage share:

lowest 10% : 4%4%

highest 10% : 26.6% (2008)26.6% (2008)

Distribution of family income - Gini index:

31.8 (2015)

29.8 (2012)

country comparison to the world : 123123

Budget:

revenues : \$37.63 billion\$37.63 billion

expenditures : \$58.55 billion (2017 est.)\$58.55 billion (2017 est.)

Taxes and other revenues:

19.4% of GDP (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 160160

Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-):

-10.8% of GDP (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 209209

Public debt:

103.3% of GDP (2017 est.)

96.8% of GDP (2016 est.)

note : data cover central government debt and include debt instruments issued (or owned) by government entities other than the treasury; the data include treasury debt held by foreign entities; the data include debt issued by subnational entities, as well as intragovernmental debt; intragovernmental debt consists of treasury borrowings from surpluses in the social funds, such as for retirement, medical care, and unemployment; debt instruments for the social funds are sold at public auctions

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country comparison to the world : 1515

Fiscal year:

1 July - 30 June

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

23.5% (2017 est.)

10.2% (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 219219

Central bank discount rate:

19.25% (9 July 2017)

15.25% (3 November 2016)

country comparison to the world : 77

Commercial bank prime lending rate:

19.5% (31 December 2017 est.)

13.6% (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 2020

Stock of narrow money:

\$43.56 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$34.51 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 5757

Stock of broad money:

\$196.6 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$146.6 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 4242

Stock of domestic credit:

\$194.1 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$178.7 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 4848

Market value of publicly traded shares:

\$27.35 billion (30 December 2016 est.)

\$25.07 billion (31 December 2015 est.)

\$26.33 billion (31 December 2014 est.)

country comparison to the world : 6060

Current account balance:

-\$15.38 billion (2017 est.)

-\$19.83 billion (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 191191

Exports:

\$23.53 billion (2017 est.)

\$20.02 billion (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 6969

Exports - commodities:

crude oil and petroleum products, fruits and vegetables, cotton, textiles, metal products, chemicals, processed food

Exports - partners:

UAE 10.9%, Italy 10%, US 7.4%, UK 5.7%, Turkey 4.4%, Germany 4.3%, India 4.3% (2017)

Imports:

\$53.02 billion (2017 est.)

\$56.71 billion (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 4848

Imports - commodities:

machinery and equipment, foodstuffs, chemicals, wood products, fuels

Imports - partners:

China 7.9%, UAE 5.2%, Germany 4.8%, Saudi Arabia 4.6%, US 4.4%, Russia 4.3% (2017)

Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:

\$37.2 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$23.2 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 4646

Debt - external:

\$76.31 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$62.38 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 5656

Stock of direct foreign investment - at home:

\$103.6 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$97.14 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 4646

Stock of direct foreign investment - abroad:

\$7.547 billion (31 December 2017 est.)
\$7.257 billion (31 December 2016 est.)
country comparison to the world : 6767

Exchange rates:

Egyptian pounds (EGP) per US dollar -
18.05 (2017 est.)
8.8 (2016 est.)
10.07 (2015 est.)
7.71 (2014 est.)
7.08 (2013 est.)

4.6 Energy

Electricity access:

population without electricity : 300,000300,000
electrification - total population : 99.6%99.6%
electrification - urban areas : 100%100%
electrification - rural areas : 99.3% (2013)99.3% (2013)

Electricity - production:

171.9 billion kWh (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world : 2424

Electricity - consumption:

150.4 billion kWh (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world : 2525

Electricity - exports:

1.158 billion kWh (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world : 5757

Electricity - imports:

43 million kWh (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 106106

Electricity - installed generating capacity:

38.88 million kW (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 2727

Electricity - from fossil fuels:

90.5% of total installed capacity (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 5858

Electricity - from nuclear fuels:

0% of total installed capacity (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 8383

Electricity - from hydroelectric plants:

7.3% of total installed capacity (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 125125

Electricity - from other renewable sources:

2.2% of total installed capacity (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 115115

Crude oil - production:

494,300 bbl/day (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 3030

Crude oil - exports:

197,700 bbl/day (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world : 3131

Crude oil - imports:

60,940 bbl/day (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world : 5151

Crude oil - proved reserves:

4.4 billion bbl (1 January 2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 2727

Refined petroleum products - production:

471,800 bbl/day (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world : 3434

Refined petroleum products - consumption:

802,000 bbl/day (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 2828

Refined petroleum products - exports:

39,220 bbl/day (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world : 5959

Refined petroleum products - imports:

206,100 bbl/day (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world : 3232

Natural gas - production:

3.61 billion cu m (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 5656

Natural gas - consumption:

47.94 billion cu m (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 1818

Natural gas - exports:

720 million cu m (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world : 4040

Natural gas - imports:

2.832 billion cu m (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world : 4646

Natural gas - proved reserves:

2.186 trillion cu m (1 January 2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 1616

Carbon dioxide emissions from consumption of energy:

207 million Mt (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world : 2828

4.7 Communications

Telephones - fixed lines:

total subscriptions : 6,604,8496,604,849

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants : 7 (2017 est.)7 (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 2424

Telephones - mobile cellular:

total subscriptions : 102,958,194102,958,194

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants : 106 (2017 est.)106 (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 1616

Telephone system:

general assessment : Telecom Egypt remains largely state owned; principal centers at Alexandria, Cairo, Al Mansurah, Ismailia, Suez, and Tanta are connected by coaxial cable and microwave radio relay
Telecom Egypt remains largely state owned; principal centers at Alexandria, Cairo, Al Mansurah, Ismailia, Suez, and Tanta are connected by coaxial cable and microwave radio relay

domestic : largest fixed-line system in Africa and the Arab region; multiple mobile-cellular networks with a 100-percent penetration of the market
largest fixed-line

system in Africa and the Arab region; multiple mobile-cellular networks with a 100-percent penetration of the market

international : country code - 20; landing point for Aletar, the SEA-ME-WE-3 and SEA-ME-WE-4 submarine cable networks, Link Around the Globe (FLAG) Falcon and FLAG FEA; satellite earth stations - 4 (2 Intelsat - Atlantic Ocean and Indian Ocean, 1 Arabsat, and 1 Inmarsat); tropospheric scatter to Sudan; microwave radio relay to Israel; a participant in Medarabtel (2016)country code - 20; landing point for Aletar, the SEA-ME-WE-3 and SEA-ME-WE-4 submarine cable networks, Link Around the Globe (FLAG) Falcon and FLAG FEA; satellite earth stations - 4 (2 Intelsat - Atlantic Ocean and Indian Ocean, 1 Arabsat, and 1 Inmarsat); tropospheric scatter to Sudan; microwave radio relay to Israel; a participant in Medarabtel (2016)

Broadcast media:

mix of state-run and private broadcast media; state-run TV operates 2 national and 6 regional terrestrial networks, as well as a few satellite channels; dozens of private satellite channels and a large number of Arabic satellite channels are available for free; some limited satellite services are also available via subscription; state-run radio operates about 30 stations belonging to 8 networks (2018)

Internet country code:

.eg

Internet users:

total : 37,122,53737,122,537

percent of population : 39.2% (July 2016 est.)39.2% (July 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 2020

Broadband - fixed line subscriptions:

total : 5,223,3115,223,311

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants : 5 (2017 est.)5 (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 2828

Communications - note:

one of the largest and most famous libraries in the ancient world was the Great Library of Alexandria in Egypt (founded about 295 B.C., it may have survived in some form into the 5th century A.D.); seeking to resurrect the great center of learning and communication, the Egyptian Government in 2002 inaugurated the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, an Egyptian National Library on the site of the original Great Library, which commemorates the original archive and also serves as a center of cultural and scientific excellence

4.8 Transportation

National air transport system:

number of registered air carriers : 1414

inventory of registered aircraft operated by air carriers : 101101

annual passenger traffic on registered air carriers : 10,159,46410,159,464

annual freight traffic on registered air carriers : 397,531,535 mt-km (2015)397,531,535
mt-km (2015)

Civil aircraft registration country code prefix:

SU (2016)

Airports:

83 (2013)

country comparison to the world : 6666

Airports - with paved runways:

total : 7272

over 3,047 m : 1515

2,438 to 3,047 m : 3636

1,524 to 2,437 m : 1515

under 914 m : 6 (2017)6 (2017)

Airports - with unpaved runways:

total : 1111

2,438 to 3,047 m : 11

1,524 to 2,437 m : 33

914 to 1,523 m : 44

under 914 m : 3 (2013)3 (2013)

Heliports:

7 (2013)

Pipelines:

condensate 486 km; condensate/gas 74 km; gas 7,986 km; liquid petroleum gas 957 km; oil 5,225 km; oil/gas/water 37 km; refined products 895 km; water 65 km (2013)

Railways:

total : 5,085 km5,085 km

standard gauge : 5,085 km 1.435-m gauge (62 km electrified) (2014)5,085 km 1.435-m gauge (62 km electrified) (2014)

country comparison to the world : 3838

Roadways:

total : 137,430 km137,430 km

paved : 126,742 km (includes 838 km of expressways)126,742 km (includes 838 km of expressways)

unpaved : 10,688 km (2010)10,688 km (2010)

country comparison to the world : 3838

Waterways:

3,500 km (includes the Nile River, Lake Nasser, Alexandria-Cairo Waterway, and numerous smaller canals in Nile Delta; the Suez Canal (193.5 km including approaches) is navigable by oceangoing vessels drawing up to 17.68 m) (2011)

country comparison to the world : 2929

Merchant marine:

total : 399399

by type : bulk carrier 14, container ship 8, general cargo 33, oil tanker 36, other 308 (2017)bulk carrier 14, container ship 8, general cargo 33, oil tanker 36, other 308 (2017)

country comparison to the world : 4646

Ports and terminals:

major seaport(s) : Mediterranean Sea - Alexandria, Damietta, El Dekheila, Port Said; Gulf of Suez - SuezMediterranean Sea - Alexandria, Damietta, El Dekheila, Port Said; Gulf of Suez - Suez

oil terminal(s) : Ain Sukhna terminal, Sidi Kerir terminalAin Sukhna terminal, Sidi Kerir terminal

container port(s) (TEUs) : Alexandria (1,633,600), Port Said (East) (3,035,900) (2016)Alexandria (1,633,600), Port Said (East) (3,035,900) (2016)

LNG terminal(s) (export) : Damietta, Idku (Abu Qir Bay)Damietta, Idku (Abu Qir Bay)

4.9 Military and Security

Military expenditures:

2-3% of GDP according to President ELSISI (March 2017)

1.67% of GDP (2016)

1.72% of GDP (2015)

1.69% of GDP (2014)

1.61% of GDP (2013)

1.65% of GDP (2012)

country comparison to the world : 6363

Military branches:

Army, Navy, Air Force, Air Defense Forces (2018)

Military service age and obligation:

18-30 years of age for male conscript military service; service obligation - 18-36 months, followed by a 9-year reserve obligation; voluntary enlistment possible from age 15 (2017)

4.10 Terrorism

Terrorist groups - home based:

Harakat Sawa'd Misr (HASM) :

aim(s): overthrow the Egyptian Government

area(s) of operation: Cairo, Nile Delta, Western Desert

Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS)-Sinai :

aim(s): spread the ISIS caliphate by eliminating the Egyptian Government, destroying Israel, and establishing an Islamic emirate in the Sinai

area(s) of operation: operational throughout Egypt, primarily in North Sinai

note(s): formerly known as Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis; core ISIS refers to Egypt as its Wilayat Sinai

Liwa al-Thawra :

aim(s): overthrow the Egyptian Government

area(s) of operation Nile Delta (April 2018)

Terrorist groups - foreign based:

al-Qa'ida (AQ) :

aim(s): overthrow the Egyptian Government and, ultimately, establish a pan-Islamic caliphate under a strict Salafi Muslim interpretation of sharia

area(s) of operation: maintains a longtime operational presence and established networks

Army of Islam (AOI) :

aim(s): disrupt the Egyptian Government's efforts to provide security and, ultimately, establish an Islamic caliphate

area(s) of operation: operational mainly in Cairo and the Sinai Peninsula

note(s): associated with ISIS Sinai Province (formerly known as Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis); targets Israeli Government interests, sometimes in collaboration with the Mujahidin Shura Council in the Environs of Jerusalem (April 2018)

4.11 Transnational Issues

Disputes - international:

Sudan claims but Egypt de facto administers security and economic development of Halaib region north of the 22nd parallel boundary; Egypt no longer shows its administration of the Bir Tawil trapezoid in Sudan on its maps; Gazan breaches in the security wall with Egypt in January 2008 highlight difficulties in monitoring the Sinai border; Saudi Arabia claims Egyptian-administered islands of Tiran and Sanafir

Refugees and internally displaced persons:

refugees (country of origin) : 70,027 (West Bank and Gaza Strip) (2016); 6,611 (Iraq) (refugees and asylum seekers); 6,561 (Somalia) (refugees and asylum seekers) (2017); 131,504 (Syria) (refugees and asylum seekers); 20,001 (Sudan) (refugees and asylum seekers); 11,769 (Ethiopia) (refugees and asylum seekers); 11,041 (Eritrea) (refugees and asylum seekers); 6,978 (South Sudan) (refugees and asylum seekers) (2018) 70,027 (West Bank and Gaza Strip) (2016); 6,611 (Iraq) (refugees and asylum seekers); 6,561 (Somalia) (refugees and asylum seekers) (2017); 131,504 (Syria) (refugees and asylum seekers); 20,001 (Sudan) (refugees and asylum seekers); 11,769 (Ethiopia) (refugees and asylum seekers); 11,041 (Eritrea) (refugees and asylum seekers); 6,978 (South Sudan) (refugees and asylum seekers) (2018)

IDPs : 82,000 (2017) 82,000 (2017)

stateless persons : 19 (2016) 19 (2016)

Trafficking in persons:

current situation : Egypt is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to sex trafficking and forced labor; Egyptian children, including the large population of street children are vulnerable to forced labor in domestic service, begging and agriculture or may be victims of sex trafficking or child sex tourism, which occurs in Cairo, Alexandria, and Luxor; some Egyptian women and girls are sold into “temporary” or “summer” marriages with Gulf men, through the complicity of their parents or marriage brokers, and are exploited for prostitution or forced labor; Egyptian men are subject to forced labor in neighboring countries, while adults from South and Southeast Asia and East Africa – and increasingly Syrian refugees – are forced to work in domestic service, construction, cleaning, and begging in Egypt; women and girls, including migrants and refugees, from Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, and the Middle East are sex trafficked in Egypt; the Egyptian military cracked down on criminal group’s smuggling, abducting, trafficking, and extorting African migrants in the Sinai Peninsula, but the practice has reemerged along Egypt’s western border with Libya

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tier rating : Tier 2 Watch List – Egypt does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so; the government gathered data nationwide on trafficking cases to better allocate and prioritize anti-trafficking efforts, but overall it did not demonstrate increased progress; prosecutions increased in 2014, but no offenders were convicted for the second consecutive year; fewer trafficking victims were identified in 2014, which represents a significant and ongoing decrease from the previous two reporting periods; the government relied on NGOs and international organizations to identify and refer victims to protective services, and focused on Egyptian victims and refused to provide some services to foreign victims, at times including shelter (2015)

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Illicit drugs:

transit point for cannabis, heroin, and opium moving to Europe, Israel, and North Africa; transit stop for Nigerian drug couriers; concern as money laundering site due to lax enforcement of financial regulations

5. Equatorial Guinea

5.1 Introduction

Background:

Equatorial Guinea gained independence in 1968 after 190 years of Spanish rule; it is one of the smallest countries in Africa consisting of a mainland territory and five inhabited islands. The capital of Malabo is located on the island of Bioko, approximately 25 km from the Cameroonian coastline in the Gulf of Guinea. Between 1968 and 1979, autocratic President Francisco MACIAS NGUEMA virtually destroyed all of the country's political, economic, and social institutions before being deposed by his nephew Teodoro OBIANG NGUEMA MBASOGO in a coup. President OBIANG has ruled since October 1979 and was reelected in 2016. Although nominally a constitutional democracy since 1991, presidential and legislative elections since 1996 have generally been labeled as flawed. The president exerts almost total control over the political system and has placed legal and bureaucratic barriers that prevent political opposition. Equatorial Guinea has experienced rapid economic growth due to the discovery of large offshore oil reserves, and in the last decade has become Sub-Saharan Africa's third largest oil exporter. Despite the country's economic windfall from oil production, resulting in a massive increase in government revenue in recent years, the drop in global oil prices has placed significant strain on the state budget. Equatorial Guinea continues to seek to diversify its economy and to increase foreign investment despite limited improvements in the population's living standards. Equatorial Guinea is the host of major regional and international conferences and continues to seek a greater role in regional affairs.

5.2 Geography

Location:

Central Africa, bordering the Bight of Biafra, between Cameroon and Gabon

Geographic coordinates:

2 00 N, 10 00 E

Map references:

Africa

Area:

total : 28,051 sq km28,051 sq km

land : 28,051 sq km28,051 sq km

water : 0 sq km0 sq km

country comparison to the world : 146146

Area - comparative:

slightly smaller than Maryland

Land boundaries:

total : 528 km528 km

border countries (2) : Cameroon 183 km, Gabon 345 kmCameroon 183 km, Gabon 345 km

Coastline:

296 km

Maritime claims:

territorial sea : 12 nm12 nm

exclusive economic zone : 200 nm200 nm

Climate:

tropical; always hot, humid

Terrain:

coastal plains rise to interior hills; islands are volcanic

Elevation:

mean elevation : 577 m577 m

elevation extremes : lowest point: Atlantic Ocean 0 mlowest point: Atlantic Ocean 0 m

highest point: Pico Basile 3,008 m

Natural resources:

petroleum, natural gas, timber, gold, bauxite, diamonds, tantalum, sand and gravel, clay

Land use:

agricultural land : 10.1%10.1%

arable land 4.3%; permanent crops 2.1%; permanent pasture 3.7%

forest : 57.5%57.5%

other : 32.4% (2011 est.)32.4% (2011 est.)

Irrigated land:

NA

Population - distribution:

only two large cities over 30,000 people (Bata on the mainland, and the capital Malabo on the island of Bioko); small communities are scattered throughout the mainland and the five inhabited islands

Natural hazards:

violent windstorms; flash floods

volcanism : Santa Isabel (3,007 m), which last erupted in 1923, is the country's only historically active volcano; Santa Isabel, along with two dormant volcanoes, form Bioko Island in the Gulf of GuineaSanta Isabel (3,007 m), which last erupted in 1923, is the country's only historically active volcano; Santa Isabel, along with two dormant volcanoes, form Bioko Island in the Gulf of Guinea

Environment - current issues:

deforestation (forests are threatened by agricultural expansion, fires, and grazing); water pollution (tap water is non-potable); wildlife preservation

Environment - international agreements:

party to : Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Marine Dumping, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, WetlandsBiodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Marine Dumping, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Wetlands

signed, but not ratified : none of the selected agreementsnone of the selected agreements

Geography - note:

insular and continental regions widely separated; despite its name, no part of the Equator passes through Equatorial Guinea; the mainland part of the country is located just north of the Equator

5.3 People and Society

Population:

778,358 (July 2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 164164

Nationality:

noun : Equatorial Guinean(s) or Equatoguinean(s)Equatorial Guinean(s) or Equatoguinean(s)

adjective : Equatorial Guinean or EquatoguineanEquatorial Guinean or Equatoguinean

Ethnic groups:

Fang 85.7%, Bubi 6.5%, Mdowe 3.6%, Annobon 1.6%, Bujeba 1.1%, other 1.4% (1994 census)

Languages:

Spanish (official) 67.6%, other (includes French (official), Fang, Bubi) 32.4% (1994 census)

Religions:

nominally Christian and predominantly Roman Catholic, pagan practices

Demographic profile:

Equatorial Guinea is one of the smallest and least populated countries in continental Africa and is the only independent African country where Spanish is an official language. Despite a boom in oil production in the 1990s, authoritarianism, corruption, and resource mismanagement have concentrated the benefits among a small elite. These practices have perpetuated income inequality and

unbalanced development, such as low public spending on education and health care. Unemployment remains problematic because the oil-dominated economy employs a small labor force dependent on skilled foreign workers. The agricultural sector, Equatorial Guinea's main employer, continues to deteriorate because of a lack of investment and the migration of rural workers to urban areas. About three-quarters of the population lives below the poverty line.

Equatorial Guinea's large and growing youth population – about 60% are under the age of 25 – is particularly affected because job creation in the non-oil sectors is limited, and young people often do not have the skills needed in the labor market. Equatorial Guinean children frequently enter school late, have poor attendance, and have high dropout rates. Thousands of Equatorial Guineans fled across the border to Gabon in the 1970s to escape the dictatorship of MACIAS NGUEMA; smaller numbers have followed in the decades since. Continued inequitable economic growth and high youth unemployment increases the likelihood of ethnic and regional violence.

Age structure:

0-14 years : 39.81% (male 157,388/female 152,469)39.81% (male 157,388/female 152,469)

15-24 years : 19.72% (male 78,145/female 75,348)19.72% (male 78,145/female 75,348)

25-54 years : 32.15% (male 125,108/female 125,096)32.15% (male 125,108/female 125,096)

55-64 years : 4.37% (male 14,676/female 19,349)4.37% (male 14,676/female 19,349)

65 years and over : 3.95% (male 12,808/female 17,971) (2017 est.)3.95% (male 12,808/female 17,971) (2017 est.)

Dependency ratios:

total dependency ratio : 67.567.5

youth dependency ratio : 62.762.7

elderly dependency ratio : 4.84.8

potential support ratio : 20.6 (2015 est.)20.6 (2015 est.)

Median age:

total : 19.8 years19.8 years

male : 19.3 years19.3 years

female : 20.3 years (2017 est.)20.3 years (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 194194

Population growth rate:

2.44% (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 2323

Birth rate:

32.2 births/1,000 population (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 3232

Death rate:

7.8 deaths/1,000 population (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 9797

Net migration rate:

0 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 8181

Population distribution:

only two large cities over 30,000 people (Bata on the mainland, and the capital Malabo on the island of Bioko); small communities are scattered throughout the mainland and the five inhabited islands

Urbanization:

urban population : 72.1% of total population (2018)72.1% of total population (2018)

rate of urbanization : 4.28% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)4.28% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

Major urban areas - population:

MALABO (capital) 297,000 (2018)

Sex ratio:

at birth : 1.03 male(s)/female1.03 male(s)/female

0-14 years : 1.03 male(s)/female1.03 male(s)/female

15-24 years : 1.04 male(s)/female1.04 male(s)/female

25-54 years : 1 male(s)/female1 male(s)/female

55-64 years : 0.76 male(s)/female0.76 male(s)/female

65 years and over : 0.72 male(s)/female0.72 male(s)/female

total population : 0.99 male(s)/female (2017 est.)0.99 male(s)/female (2017 est.)

Maternal mortality ratio:

342 deaths/100,000 live births (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world : 3737

Infant mortality rate:

total : 65.2 deaths/1,000 live births65.2 deaths/1,000 live births
male : 66.3 deaths/1,000 live births66.3 deaths/1,000 live births
female : 64.1 deaths/1,000 live births (2017 est.)64.1 deaths/1,000 live births (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 1414

Life expectancy at birth:

total population : 64.6 years64.6 years
male : 63.4 years63.4 years
female : 65.8 years (2017 est.)65.8 years (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 183183

Total fertility rate:

4.39 children born/woman (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 2525

Contraceptive prevalence rate:

12.6% (2011)

Health expenditures:

3.8% of GDP (2014)
country comparison to the world : 166166

Hospital bed density:

2.1 beds/1,000 population (2010)

Drinking water source:

improved :

urban: 72.5% of population
rural: 31.5% of population
total: 47.9% of population
unimproved :
urban: 27.5% of population
rural: 68.5% of population
total: 52.1% of population (2015 est.)

Sanitation facility access:

improved :
urban: 79.9% of population
rural: 71% of population
total: 74.5% of population
unimproved :
urban: 20.1% of population
rural: 29% of population
total: 25.5% of population (2015 est.)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:

6.5% (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 1111

HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:

53,000 (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 6363

HIV/AIDS - deaths:

1,900 (2017 est.)

Major infectious diseases:

degree of risk : very highvery high
food or waterborne diseases : bacterial and protozoal diarrhea, hepatitis A, and typhoid feverbacterial and protozoal diarrhea, hepatitis A, and typhoid fever
vectorborne disease : malaria and dengue fevermalaria and dengue fever
animal contact disease : rabies (2016)rabies (2016)

Obesity - adult prevalence rate:

8% (2016)

country comparison to the world : 156156

Children under the age of 5 years underweight:

5.6% (2010)

country comparison to the world : 8787

Literacy:

definition : age 15 and over can read and writeage 15 and over can read and write

total population : 95.3%95.3%

male : 97.4%97.4%

female : 93% (2015 est.)93% (2015 est.)

5.4 Government

Country name:

conventional long form : Republic of Equatorial GuineaRepublic of Equatorial Guinea

conventional short form : Equatorial GuineaEquatorial Guinea

local long form : Republica de Guinea Ecuatorial/Republique de Guinee EquatorialeRepublica de Guinea Ecuatorial/Republique de Guinee Equatoriale

local short form : Guinea Ecuatorial/Guinee EquatorialeGuinea Ecuatorial/Guinee Equatoriale

former : Spanish GuineaSpanish Guinea

etymology : the country is named for the Guinea region of West Africa that lies along the Gulf of Guinea and stretches north to the Sahel; the "equatorial" refers to the fact that the country lies just north of the Equatorthe country is named for the Guinea region of West Africa that lies along the Gulf of Guinea and stretches north to the Sahel; the "equatorial" refers to the fact that the country lies just north of the Equator

Government type:

presidential republic

Capital:

name : Malabo; note - a new capital of Oyala is being built on the mainland near Djibloho; Malabo is on the island of BiokoMalabo; note - a new capital of Oyala is being built on the mainland near Djibloho; Malabo is on the island of Bioko

geographic coordinates : 3 45 N, 8 47 E3 45 N, 8 47 E

time difference : UTC+1 (6 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)UTC+1 (6 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)

Administrative divisions:

7 provinces (provincias, singular - provincia); Annobon, Bioko Norte, Bioko Sur, Centro Sur, Kie-Ntem, Litoral, Wele-Nzas

Independence:

12 October 1968 (from Spain)

National holiday:

Independence Day, 12 October (1968)

Constitution:

history : previous 1968, 1973, 1982; approved by referendum 17 November 1991previous 1968, 1973, 1982; approved by referendum 17 November 1991

amendments : proposed by the president of the republic or supported by three-fourths of the membership in either house of the National Assembly; passage requires three-fourths majority vote by both houses of the Assembly and approval in a referendum if requested by the president; amended several times, last in 2012 (2017)proposed by the president of the republic or supported by three-fourths of the membership in either house of the National Assembly; passage requires three-fourths majority vote by both houses of the Assembly and approval in a referendum if requested by the president; amended several times, last in 2012 (2017)

Legal system:

mixed system of civil and customary law

International law organization participation:

accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction; accepts ICtJ jurisdiction

Citizenship:

citizenship by birth : nono

citizenship by descent only : at least one parent must be a citizen of Equatorial Guinea
at least one parent must be a citizen of Equatorial Guinea

dual citizenship recognized : no

residency requirement for naturalization : 10 years

Suffrage:

18 years of age; universal

Executive branch:

chief of state : President Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Teodoro OBIANG Nguema Mbasogo (since 3 August 1979 when he seized power in a military coup); Vice President Teodoro OBIANG Nguema Mangué (since 2012)
President Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Teodoro OBIANG Nguema Mbasogo (since 3 August 1979 when he seized power in a military coup); Vice President Teodoro OBIANG Nguema Mangué (since 2012)

head of government : Prime Minister Francisco Pascual Eyegue OBAMA Asue (since 23 June 2016); First Deputy Prime Minister Clemente Engonga NGUEMA Onguene (since 23 June 2016); Second Deputy Prime Minister Andres Jorge Mbomio Nsem ABUA (since 23 June 2016); Third Deputy Prime Minister Alfonso Nsue MOKUY (since 23 June 2016)
Prime Minister Francisco Pascual Eyegue OBAMA Asue (since 23 June 2016); First Deputy Prime Minister Clemente Engonga NGUEMA Onguene (since 23 June 2016); Second Deputy Prime Minister Andres Jorge Mbomio Nsem ABUA (since 23 June 2016); Third Deputy Prime Minister Alfonso Nsue MOKUY (since 23 June 2016)

cabinet : Council of Ministers appointed by the president
Council of Ministers appointed by the president

elections/appointments : president directly elected by simple majority popular vote for a 7-year term (eligible for a second term); election last held on 24 April 2016 (next to be held in 2023); prime minister and deputy prime ministers appointed by the president
president directly elected by simple majority popular vote for a 7-year term (eligible for a second term); election last held on 24 April 2016 (next to be held in 2023); prime minister and deputy prime ministers appointed by the president

election results : Teodoro OBIANG Nguema Mbasogo reelected president; percent of vote - Teodoro OBIANG Nguema Mbasogo (PDGE) 93.5%, other 6.5%
Teodoro OBIANG Nguema Mbasogo reelected president; percent of vote - Teodoro OBIANG Nguema Mbasogo (PDGE) 93.5%, other 6.5%

Legislative branch:

description : bicameral National Assembly or Asamblea Nacional consists of:
bicameral National Assembly or Asamblea Nacional consists of:

Senate or Senado (70 seats; 55 members directly elected in multi-seat constituencies by closed party-list proportional representation vote and 15 appointed by the president)

Chamber of Deputies or Camara de los Diputados (100 seats; members directly elected in multi-seat constituencies by closed party-list proportional representation vote to serve 5-year terms)

elections :

Senate - last held on 12 November 2017 (next to be held in 2022)

Chamber of Deputies - last held on 12 November 2017 (next to be held in 2022)

election results :

Senate - percent of vote by party - NA; seats by party - PDGE 55

Chamber of Deputies - percent of vote by party - PDGE 98%, CI 0.8%, other 1.2%; seats by party - PDGE 99, CI 1

Judicial branch:

highest court(s) : Supreme Court of Justice (consists of the chief justice - who is also chief of state - and 9 judges and organized into civil, criminal, commercial, labor, administrative, and customary sections); Constitutional Court (consists of the court president and 4 members) Supreme Court of Justice (consists of the chief justice - who is also chief of state - and 9 judges and organized into civil, criminal, commercial, labor, administrative, and customary sections); Constitutional Court (consists of the court president and 4 members)

judge selection and term of office : Supreme Court judges appointed by the president for 5-year terms; Constitutional Court members appointed by the president, 2 of which are nominated by the Chamber of Deputies Supreme Court judges appointed by the president for 5-year terms; Constitutional Court members appointed by the president, 2 of which are nominated by the Chamber of Deputies

subordinate courts : Court of Guarantees; military courts; Courts of Appeal; first instance tribunals; district and county tribunals Court of Guarantees; military courts; Courts of Appeal; first instance tribunals; district and county tribunals

Political parties and leaders:

Convergence Party for Social Democracy or CPDS [Andres ESONO ONDO]

Democratic Party for Equatorial Guinea or PDGE [Teodoro OBIANG Nguema Mbasogo]

Electoral Coalition or EC

Front of Democratic Opposiiton or FOD (coalition includes CPDS, FDR, UP)

Popular Action of Equatorial Guinea or APGE [Carmelo MBA BACALE]

Popular Union or UP [Daniel MARTINEZ AYECABA]

not officially registered parties : Democratic Republican Force or FDR [Guillermo NGUEMA ELA] Democratic Republican Force or FDR [Guillermo NGUEMA ELA]

Citizens for Innovation or CI [Gabriel Nse Obiang OBONO]

Party for Progress of Equatorial Guinea or PPGE [Severo MOTO]

Union for the Center Right or UDC [Avelino MOCACHE MEAENGA]

International organization participation:

ACP, AfDB, AU, BDEAC, CEMAC, CPLP (associate), FAO, FZ, G-77, IBRD, ICAO, ICRM, IDA, IFAD, IFC, IFRC, ILO, IMF, IMO, Interpol, IOC, IPU, ITSO, ITU, MIGA, NAM, OAS (observer), OIF, OPCW, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNWTO, UPU, WHO, WIPO, WTO (observer)

Diplomatic representation in the US:

chief of mission : Ambassador Miguel Ntutumu EVUNA ANDEME (since 23 February 2015)
Ambassador Miguel Ntutumu EVUNA ANDEME (since 23 February 2015)

chancery : 2020 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 20009
2020 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 20009

telephone : [1] (202) 518-5700 [1] (202) 518-5700

FAX : [1] (202) 518-5252 [1] (202) 518-5252

consulate(s) general : Houston
Houston

Diplomatic representation from the US:

chief of mission : Ambassador Julie FURUTA-TOY (since January 2016)
Ambassador Julie FURUTA-TOY (since January 2016)

embassy : Carretera Malabo II, Malabo, Guinea Ecuatorial
Carretera Malabo II, Malabo, Guinea Ecuatorial

mailing address : US Embassy Malabo, US Department of State, Washington, DC 20521-2520
US Embassy Malabo, US Department of State, Washington, DC 20521-2520

telephone : [240] 333 09 57 41 [240] 333 09 57 41

Flag description:

three equal horizontal bands of green (top), white, and red, with a blue isosceles triangle based on the hoist side and the coat of arms centered in the white band; the coat of arms has six yellow six-pointed stars (representing the mainland and five offshore islands) above a gray shield bearing a silk-cotton tree and below which is a scroll with the motto UNIDAD, PAZ, JUSTICIA (Unity, Peace, Justice); green symbolizes the jungle and natural resources, blue represents the sea that connects the mainland to the islands, white stands for peace, and red recalls the fight for independence

National symbol(s):

silk cotton tree; national colors: green, white, red, blue

National anthem:

name : "Caminemos pisando la senda" (Let Us Tread the Path)"Caminemos pisando la senda" (Let Us Tread the Path)

lyrics/music : Atanasio Ndongo MIYONO/Atanasio Ndongo MIYONO or Ramiro Sanchez LOPEZ (disputed)Atanasio Ndongo MIYONO/Atanasio Ndongo MIYONO or Ramiro Sanchez LOPEZ (disputed)

note : adopted 1968adopted 1968

5.5 Economy

Economy - overview:

Exploitation of oil and gas deposits, beginning in the 1990s, has driven economic growth in Equatorial Guinea; a recent rebasing of GDP resulted in an upward revision of the size of the economy by approximately 30%. Forestry and farming are minor components of GDP. Although preindependence Equatorial Guinea counted on cocoa production for hard currency earnings, the neglect of the rural economy since independence has diminished the potential for agriculture-led growth. Subsistence farming is the dominant form of livelihood. Declining revenue from hydrocarbon production, high levels of infrastructure expenditures, lack of economic diversification, and corruption have pushed the economy into decline in recent years and limited improvements in the general population's living conditions. Equatorial Guinea's real GDP growth has been weak in recent years, averaging -0.5% per year from 2010 to 2014, because of a declining hydrocarbon sector. Inflation remained very low in 2016, down from an average of 4% in 2014.

As a middle income country, Equatorial Guinea is now ineligible for most low-income World Bank and the IMF funding. The government has been widely criticized for its lack of transparency and misuse of oil revenues and has attempted to address this issue by working toward compliance with the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. US foreign assistance to Equatorial Guinea is limited in part because of US restrictions pursuant to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

Equatorial Guinea hosted two economic diversification symposia in 2014 that focused on attracting investment in five sectors: agriculture and animal ranching, fishing, mining and petrochemicals, tourism, and financial services. Undeveloped mineral resources include gold, zinc, diamonds, columbite-tantalite, and other base metals. In 2017 Equatorial Guinea signed a preliminary agreement with Ghana to sell liquefied natural gas (LNG); as oil production wanes, the government believes LNG could provide a boost to revenues, but it will require large investments and long lead times to develop.

GDP (purchasing power parity):

\$30.35 billion (2017 est.)

\$33.61 billion (2016 est.)

\$36.98 billion (2015 est.)

note : data are in 2017 dollars

country comparison to the world : 132132

GDP (official exchange rate):

\$10.73 billion (2017 est.)

GDP - real growth rate:

-4.4% (2017 est.)

-9.7% (2016 est.)

-9.1% (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 216216

GDP - per capita (PPP):

\$36,000 (2017 est.)

\$40,900 (2016 est.)

\$46,300 (2015 est.)

note : data are in 2017 dollars

country comparison to the world : 5555

Gross national saving:

6.5% of GDP (2017 est.)

-1.5% of GDP (2016 est.)

4% of GDP (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 167167

GDP - composition, by end use:

household consumption : 47.9%

government consumption : 22.8%

investment in fixed capital : 24.6%

investment in inventories : 0.2%

exports of goods and services : 58.5%

imports of goods and services : -54.1% (2017 est.)

GDP - composition, by sector of origin:

agriculture : 2.5%2.5%
industry : 56.5%56.5%
services : 41% (2017 est.)41% (2017 est.)

Agriculture - products:

coffee, cocoa, rice, yams, cassava (manioc, tapioca), bananas, palm oil nuts;
livestock; timber

Industries:

petroleum, natural gas, sawmilling

Industrial production growth rate:

-5.6% (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 200200

Labor force:

195,200 (2007 est.)
country comparison to the world : 176176

Unemployment rate:

8.6% (2014 est.)
22.3% (2009 est.)
country comparison to the world : 120120

Population below poverty line:

44% (2011 est.)

Household income or consumption by percentage share:

lowest 10% : NA%NA%
highest 10% : NA%NA%

Budget:

revenues : \$3.186 billion\$3.186 billion

expenditures : \$3.431 billion (2017 est.)\$3.431 billion (2017 est.)

Taxes and other revenues:

31.6% of GDP (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 7272

Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-):

-2.4% of GDP (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 105105

Public debt:

42.7% of GDP (2017 est.)

47.9% of GDP (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 123123

Fiscal year:

calendar year

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

0.7% (2017 est.)

1.4% (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 3636

Central bank discount rate:

8.5% (31 December 2010)

4.25% (31 December 2009)

country comparison to the world : 3737

Commercial bank prime lending rate:

14% (31 December 2017 est.)

14% (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 5656

Stock of narrow money:

\$1.516 billion (31 December 2017 est.)
\$1.467 billion (31 December 2016 est.)
country comparison to the world : 141141

Stock of broad money:

\$1.959 billion (31 December 2017 est.)
\$1.864 billion (31 December 2016 est.)
country comparison to the world : 158158

Stock of domestic credit:

\$2.416 billion (31 December 2017 est.)
\$2.254 billion (31 December 2016 est.)
country comparison to the world : 145145

Current account balance:

-\$55 million (2017 est.)
-\$1.201 billion (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world : 7575

Exports:

\$5.412 billion (2017 est.)
\$5.042 billion (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world : 106106

Exports - commodities:

petroleum products, timber

Exports - partners:

China 28%, India 11.8%, South Korea 10.3%, Portugal 8.7%, US 6.9%, Spain 4.9%
(2017)

Imports:

\$2.555 billion (2017 est.)
\$2.862 billion (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world : 151151

Imports - commodities:

petroleum sector equipment, other equipment, construction materials, vehicles

Imports - partners:

Spain 20.5%, China 19.4%, US 13%, Cote d'Ivoire 6.2%, Netherlands 4.7% (2017)

Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:

\$140.9 million (31 December 2017 est.)

\$62.31 million (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 165165

Debt - external:

\$1.181 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$1.074 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 164164

Exchange rates:

Cooperation Financiere en Afrique Centrale francs (XAF) per US dollar -

605.3 (2017 est.)

593.01 (2016 est.)

593.01 (2015 est.)

591.45 (2014 est.)

494.42 (2013 est.)

5.6 Energy

Electricity access:

population without electricity : 300,000300,000

electrification - total population : 66%66%

electrification - urban areas : 93%93%

electrification - rural areas : 48% (2013)48% (2013)

Electricity - production:

425 million kWh (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 171171

Electricity - consumption:

395.3 million kWh (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 173173

Electricity - exports:

0 kWh (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 131131

Electricity - imports:

0 kWh (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 144144

Electricity - installed generating capacity:

334,000 kW (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 152152

Electricity - from fossil fuels:

55.1% of total installed capacity (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 142142

Electricity - from nuclear fuels:

0% of total installed capacity (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 8585

Electricity - from hydroelectric plants:

44.9% of total installed capacity (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 4848

Electricity - from other renewable sources:

0% of total installed capacity (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 179179

Crude oil - production:

227,000 bbl/day (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 3636

Crude oil - exports:

278,000 bbl/day (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world : 2626

Crude oil - imports:

0 bbl/day (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world : 119119

Crude oil - proved reserves:

1.1 billion bbl (1 January 2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 4343

Refined petroleum products - production:

0 bbl/day (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world : 137137

Refined petroleum products - consumption:

5,200 bbl/day (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 175175

Refined petroleum products - exports:

0 bbl/day (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world : 150150

Refined petroleum products - imports:

5,197 bbl/day (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world : 165165

Natural gas - production:

6.2 billion cu m (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 4747

Natural gas - consumption:

1.19 billion cu m (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 8686

Natural gas - exports:

5.01 billion cu m (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 3232

Natural gas - imports:

0 cu m (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world : 120120

Natural gas - proved reserves:

36.81 billion cu m (1 January 2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 6868

Carbon dioxide emissions from consumption of energy:

3.7 million Mt (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world : 136136

5.7 Communications

Telephones - fixed lines:

total subscriptions : 10,98910,989

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants : 1 (July 2016 est.)1 (July 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 193193

Telephones - mobile cellular:

total subscriptions : 575,650575,650

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants : 74 (July 2016 est.)74 (July 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 167167

Telephone system:

general assessment : digital fixed-line network in most major urban areas and decent mobile cellular coverage
digital fixed-line network in most major urban areas and decent mobile cellular coverage

domestic : fixed-line density is about 1 per 100 persons; mobile-cellular subscribership has been increasing and in 2016 stood at about 70 percent of the population
fixed-line density is about 1 per 100 persons; mobile-cellular subscribership has been increasing and in 2016 stood at about 70 percent of the population

international : country code - 240; international communications from Bata and Malabo to African and European countries; satellite earth station - 1 Intelsat (Indian Ocean) (2016)
country code - 240; international communications from Bata and Malabo to African and European countries; satellite earth station - 1 Intelsat (Indian Ocean) (2016)

Broadcast media:

state maintains control of broadcast media with domestic broadcast media limited to 1 state-owned TV station, 1 private TV station owned by the president's eldest son, 1 state-owned radio station, and 1 private radio station owned by the president's eldest son; satellite TV service is available; transmissions of multiple international broadcasters are accessible (2013)

Internet country code:

.gq

Internet users:

total : 180,597180,597

percent of population : 23.8% (July 2016 est.)23.8% (July 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 173173

Broadband - fixed line subscriptions:

total : 3,3823,382

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants : less than 1 (2017 est.)less than 1 (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 181181

5.8 Transportation

National air transport system:

number of registered air carriers : 66

inventory of registered aircraft operated by air carriers : 1515

annual passenger traffic on registered air carriers : 400,759400,759

annual freight traffic on registered air carriers : 461,650 mt-km (2015)461,650 mt-km (2015)

Civil aircraft registration country code prefix:

3C (2016)

Airports:

7 (2013)

country comparison to the world : 166166

Airports - with paved runways:

total : 66

over 3,047 m : 11

2,438 to 3,047 m : 22

1,524 to 2,437 m : 11

under 914 m : 2 (2017)2 (2017)

Airports - with unpaved runways:

total : 11

2,438 to 3,047 m : 1 (2013)1 (2013)

Pipelines:

condensate 42 km; condensate/gas 5 km; gas 79 km; oil 71 km (2013)

Roadways:

total : 2,880 km (2000)2,880 km (2000)

country comparison to the world : 168168

Merchant marine:

total : 4040

by type : container ship 1, general cargo 7, oil tanker 8, other 24 (2017)container ship 1, general cargo 7, oil tanker 8, other 24 (2017)

country comparison to the world : 122122

Ports and terminals:

major seaport(s) : Bata, Luba, MalaboBata, Luba, Malabo

LNG terminal(s) (export) : Bioko IslandBioko Island

5.9 Military and Security

Military expenditures:

0.18% of GDP (2016)

0.78% of GDP (2014)

country comparison to the world : 152152

Military branches:

Equatorial Guinea Armed Forces (FAGE): Equatorial Guinea National Guard (Guardia Nacional de Guinea Ecuatorial, GNGE (Army), Navy, Air Force (2013)

Military service age and obligation:

18 years of age for selective compulsory military service, although conscription is rare in practice; 2-year service obligation; women hold only administrative positions in the Navy (2013)

5.10 Transnational Issues

Disputes - international:

in 2002, ICJ ruled on an equidistance settlement of Cameroon-Equatorial Guinea-Nigeria maritime boundary in the Gulf of Guinea, but a dispute between Equatorial Guinea and Cameroon over an island at the mouth of the Ntem River and imprecisely defined maritime coordinates in the ICJ decision delayed final delimitation; UN urged Equatorial Guinea and Gabon to resolve the sovereignty dispute over Gabon-occupied Mbane and lesser islands and to create a maritime boundary in the hydrocarbon-rich Corisco Bay

Trafficking in persons:

current situation : Equatorial Guinea is a source country for children subjected to sex trafficking and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to forced labor; Equatorial Guinean girls may be encouraged by their parents to engage in the sex trade in urban centers to receive groceries, gifts, housing, and money; children are also trafficked from nearby countries for work as domestic servants, market laborers, ambulant vendors, and launderers; women are trafficked to Equatorial Guinea from Cameroon, Benin, other neighboring countries, and China for forced labor or prostitution Equatorial Guinea is a source country for children subjected to sex trafficking and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to forced labor; Equatorial Guinean girls may be encouraged by their parents to engage in the sex trade in urban centers to receive groceries, gifts, housing, and money; children are also trafficked from nearby countries for work as domestic servants, market laborers, ambulant vendors, and launderers; women are trafficked to Equatorial Guinea from Cameroon, Benin, other neighboring countries, and China for forced labor or prostitution

tier rating : Tier 3 – Equatorial Guinea does not fully comply with the minimum standards on the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to do so; in 2014, the government made no efforts to investigate or prosecute any suspected trafficking offenders or to identify or protect victims, despite its 2004 law prohibiting all forms of trafficking and mandating the provision of services to victims; undocumented migrants continued to be deported without being screened to assess whether any were trafficking victims; authorities did not undertake any trafficking awareness campaigns, implement any programs to address forced child labor, or make any other efforts to prevent trafficking (2015) Tier 3 – Equatorial Guinea does not fully comply with the minimum standards on the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to do so; in 2014, the government made no efforts to investigate or prosecute any suspected trafficking offenders or to identify or protect victims, despite its 2004 law prohibiting all forms of trafficking and mandating the provision of services to victims; undocumented migrants continued to be deported without being screened to assess whether any were trafficking victims; authorities did not undertake any trafficking awareness campaigns, implement any programs to address forced child labor, or make any other efforts to prevent trafficking (2015)

6. Ireland

6.1 Introduction

Background:

Celtic tribes arrived on the island between 600 and 150 B.C. Invasions by Norsemen that began in the late 8th century were finally ended when King Brian BORU defeated the Danes in 1014. Norman invasions began in the 12th century and set off more than seven centuries of Anglo-Irish struggle marked by fierce rebellions and harsh repressions. The Irish famine of the mid-19th century was responsible for a drop in the island's population by more than one quarter through starvation, disease, and emigration. For more than a century afterward, the population of the island continued to fall only to begin growing again in the 1960s. Over the last 50 years, Ireland's high birthrate has made it demographically one of the youngest populations in the EU.

The modern Irish state traces its origins to the failed 1916 Easter Monday Uprising that touched off several years of guerrilla warfare resulting in independence from the UK in 1921 for 26 southern counties; six northern (Ulster) counties remained part of the UK. Deep sectarian divides between the Catholic and Protestant populations and systemic discrimination in Northern Ireland erupted into years of violence known as the "Troubles" that began in the 1960s. The Government of Ireland was part of a process along with the UK and US Governments that helped broker the Good Friday Agreement in Northern Ireland in 1998. This initiated a new phase of cooperation between the Irish and British Governments. Ireland was neutral in World War II and continues its policy of military neutrality. Ireland joined the European Community in 1973 and the euro-zone currency union in 1999. The economic boom years of the Celtic Tiger (1995-2007) saw rapid economic growth, which came to an abrupt end in 2008 with the meltdown of the Irish banking system. Today the economy is recovering, fueled by large and growing foreign direct investment, especially from US multi-nationals.

6.2 Geography

Location:

Western Europe, occupying five-sixths of the island of Ireland in the North Atlantic Ocean, west of Great Britain

Geographic coordinates:

53 00 N, 8 00 W

Map references:

Europe

Area:

total : 70,273 sq km70,273 sq km

land : 68,883 sq km68,883 sq km

water : 1,390 sq km1,390 sq km

country comparison to the world : 121121

Area - comparative:

slightly larger than West Virginia

Land boundaries:

total : 443 km443 km

border countries (1) : UK 443 kmUK 443 km

Coastline:

1,448 km

Maritime claims:

territorial sea : 12 nm12 nm

exclusive fishing zone : 200 nm200 nm

Climate:

temperate maritime; modified by North Atlantic Current; mild winters, cool summers; consistently humid; overcast about half the time

Terrain:

mostly flat to rolling interior plain surrounded by rugged hills and low mountains; sea cliffs on west coast

Elevation:

mean elevation : 118 m118 m

elevation extremes : lowest point: Atlantic Ocean 0 m lowest point: Atlantic Ocean 0 m

highest point: Carrauntoohil 1,041 m

Natural resources:

natural gas, peat, copper, lead, zinc, silver, barite, gypsum, limestone, dolomite

Land use:

agricultural land : 66.1%66.1%

arable land 15.4%; permanent crops 0%; permanent pasture 50.7%

forest : 10.9%10.9%

other : 23% (2011 est.)23% (2011 est.)

Irrigated land:

0 sq km (2012)

Population - distribution:

population distribution is weighted to the eastern side of the island, with the largest concentration being in and around Dublin; populations in the west are small due to mountainous land, poorer soil, lack of good transport routes, and fewer job opportunities

Natural hazards:

rare extreme weather events

Environment - current issues:

water pollution, especially of lakes, from agricultural runoff; acid rain kills plants, destroys soil fertility, and contributes to deforestation

Environment - international agreements:

party to : Air Pollution, Air Pollution-Nitrogen Oxides, Air Pollution-Sulfur 94, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Environmental Modification, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Marine Dumping, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Tropical Timber 83, Tropical Timber 94, Wetlands, WhalingAir Pollution, Air Pollution-Nitrogen Oxides, Air Pollution-Sulfur 94, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Environmental Modification,

Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Marine Dumping, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Tropical Timber 83, Tropical Timber 94, Wetlands, Whaling

signed, but not ratified : Air Pollution-Persistent Organic Pollutants, Marine Life Conservation Air Pollution-Persistent Organic Pollutants, Marine Life Conservation

Geography - note:

strategic location on major air and sea routes between North America and northern Europe; over 40% of the population resides within 100 km of Dublin

6.3 People and Society

Population:

5,011,102 (July 2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 121121

Nationality:

noun : Irishman(men), Irishwoman(women), Irish (collective plural) Irishman(men), Irishwoman(women), Irish (collective plural)

adjective : Irish Irish

Ethnic groups:

Irish 82.2%, Irish travelers 0.7%, other white 9.5%, Asian 2.1%, black 1.4%, other 1.5%, unspecified 2.6% (2016 est.)

Languages:

English (official, the language generally used), Irish (Gaelic or Gaeilge) (official, spoken by approximately 39.8% of the population as of 2016; mainly spoken in areas along Ireland's western coast known as gaeltachtaí, which are officially recognized regions where Irish is the predominant language)

Religions:

Roman Catholic 78.3%, Church of Ireland 2.7%, other Christian 1.6%, Orthodox 1.3%, Muslim 1.3%, other 2.4%, none 9.8%, unspecified 2.6% (2016 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years : 21.46% (male 549,864/female 525,608)21.46% (male 549,864/female 525,608)
15-24 years : 11.84% (male 301,114/female 292,055)11.84% (male 301,114/female 292,055)
25-54 years : 43.2% (male 1,087,587/female 1,077,383)43.2% (male 1,087,587/female 1,077,383)
55-64 years : 10.42% (male 261,650/female 260,737)10.42% (male 261,650/female 260,737)
65 years and over : 13.07% (male 303,078/female 352,026) (2017 est.)13.07% (male 303,078/female 352,026) (2017 est.)

Dependency ratios:

total dependency ratio : 53.853.8
youth dependency ratio : 33.433.4
elderly dependency ratio : 20.320.3
potential support ratio : 4.9 (2015 est.)4.9 (2015 est.)

Median age:

total : 36.8 years36.8 years
male : 36.4 years36.4 years
female : 37.1 years (2017 est.)37.1 years (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 6868

Population growth rate:

1.15% (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 9999

Birth rate:

14.1 births/1,000 population (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 137137

Death rate:

6.6 deaths/1,000 population (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 142142

Net migration rate:

4 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 2727

Population distribution:

population distribution is weighted to the eastern side of the island, with the largest concentration being in and around Dublin; populations in the west are small due to mountainous land, poorer soil, lack of good transport routes, and fewer job opportunities

Urbanization:

urban population : 63.2% of total population (2018)63.2% of total population (2018)

rate of urbanization : 1.14% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)1.14% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

Major urban areas - population:

DUBLIN (capital) 1.201 million (2018)

Sex ratio:

at birth : 1.06 male(s)/female1.06 male(s)/female

0-14 years : 1.05 male(s)/female1.05 male(s)/female

15-24 years : 1.03 male(s)/female1.03 male(s)/female

25-54 years : 1.01 male(s)/female1.01 male(s)/female

55-64 years : 1 male(s)/female1 male(s)/female

65 years and over : 0.86 male(s)/female0.86 male(s)/female

total population : 1 male(s)/female (2017 est.)1 male(s)/female (2017 est.)

Mother's mean age at first birth:

30.7 years (2015 est.)

Maternal mortality ratio:

8 deaths/100,000 live births (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 156156

Infant mortality rate:

total : 3.6 deaths/1,000 live births3.6 deaths/1,000 live births

male : 4 deaths/1,000 live births4 deaths/1,000 live births

female : 3.3 deaths/1,000 live births (2017 est.)3.3 deaths/1,000 live births (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 198198

Life expectancy at birth:

total population : 80.9 years80.9 years
male : 78.6 years78.6 years
female : 83.4 years (2017 est.)83.4 years (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 3333

Total fertility rate:

1.97 children born/woman (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 125125

Health expenditures:

7.8% of GDP (2014)
country comparison to the world : 5757

Physicians density:

2.96 physicians/1,000 population (2016)

Hospital bed density:

2.8 beds/1,000 population (2013)

Drinking water source:

improved :
urban: 97.9% of population
rural: 97.8% of population
total: 97.9% of population
unimproved :
urban: 2.1% of population
rural: 2.2% of population
total: 2.1% of population (2015 est.)

Sanitation facility access:

improved :

urban: 89.1% of population

rural: 92.9% of population

total: 90.5% of population

unimproved :

urban: 10.9% of population

rural: 7.1% of population

total: 9.5% of population (2015 est.)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:

0.2% (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 8989

HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:

7,200 (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 105105

HIV/AIDS - deaths:

<100 (2017 est.)

Obesity - adult prevalence rate:

25.3% (2016)

country comparison to the world : 5151

Education expenditures:

4.9% of GDP (2014)

country comparison to the world : 3131

School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education):

total : 19 years19 years

male : 19 years19 years

female : 19 years (2014)19 years (2014)

Unemployment, youth ages 15-24:

total : 17.2%17.2%
male : 19.5%19.5%
female : 14.6% (2016 est.)14.6% (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world : 6161

6.4 Government

Country name:

conventional long form : nonenone
conventional short form : IrelandIreland
local long form : nonenone
local short form : EireEire

etymology : the modern Irish name "Eire" evolved from the Gaelic "Eriu," the name of the matron goddess of Ireland (goddess of the land); the names "Ireland" in English and "Eire" in Irish are direct translations of each otherthe modern Irish name "Eire" evolved from the Gaelic "Eriu," the name of the matron goddess of Ireland (goddess of the land); the names "Ireland" in English and "Eire" in Irish are direct translations of each other

Government type:

parliamentary republic

Capital:

name : DublinDublin
geographic coordinates : 53 19 N, 6 14 W53 19 N, 6 14 W
time difference : UTC 0 (5 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)UTC 0 (5 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)
daylight saving time : +1hr, begins last Sunday in March; ends last Sunday in October+1hr, begins last Sunday in March; ends last Sunday in October

Administrative divisions:

28 counties and 3 cities*; Carlow, Cavan, Clare, Cork, Cork*, Donegal, Dublin*, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal, Galway, Galway*, Kerry, Kildare, Kilkenny, Laois, Leitrim, Limerick, Longford, Louth, Mayo, Meath, Monaghan, Offaly, Roscommon, Sligo, South Dublin, Tipperary, Waterford, Westmeath, Wexford, Wicklow

Independence:

6 December 1921 (from the UK by the Anglo-Irish Treaty, which ended British rule); 6 December 1922 (Irish Free State established); 18 April 1949 (Republic of Ireland Act enabled)

National holiday:

Saint Patrick's Day, 17 March; note - marks the traditional death date of Saint Patrick, patron saint of Ireland, during the latter half of the fifth century A.D. (most commonly cited years are c. 461 and c. 493); although Saint Patrick's feast day was celebrated in Ireland as early as the ninth century, it only became an official public holiday in Ireland in 1903

Constitution:

history : previous 1922; latest drafted 14 June 1937, adopted by plebiscite 1 July 1937, effective 29 December 1937; previous 1922; latest drafted 14 June 1937, adopted by plebiscite 1 July 1937, effective 29 December 1937

amendments : proposed as bills by Parliament; passage requires majority vote by both the Senate and House of Representatives, majority vote in a referendum, and presidential signature; amended many times, last in 2018 (2018); proposed as bills by Parliament; passage requires majority vote by both the Senate and House of Representatives, majority vote in a referendum, and presidential signature; amended many times, last in 2018 (2018)

Legal system:

common law system based on the English model but substantially modified by customary law; judicial review of legislative acts by Supreme Court

International law organization participation:

accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations; accepts ICCt jurisdiction

Citizenship:

citizenship by birth : no, unless a parent of a child born in Ireland has been legally resident in Ireland for at least three of the four years prior to the birth of the child; no, unless a parent of a child born in Ireland has been legally resident in Ireland for at least three of the four years prior to the birth of the child

citizenship by descent : yes; yes

dual citizenship recognized : yes; yes

residency requirement for naturalization : 4 of the previous 8 years; 4 of the previous 8 years

Suffrage:

18 years of age; universal

Executive branch:

chief of state : President Michael D. HIGGINS (since 11 November 2011)President Michael D. HIGGINS (since 11 November 2011)

head of government : Taoiseach (Prime Minister) Leo VARADKAR (since 14 June 2017)Taoiseach (Prime Minister) Leo VARADKAR (since 14 June 2017)

cabinet : Cabinet nominated by the prime minister, appointed by the president, approved by the Dail Eireann (lower house of Parliament)Cabinet nominated by the prime minister, appointed by the president, approved by the Dail Eireann (lower house of Parliament)

elections/appointments : president directly elected by majority popular vote for a 7-year term (eligible for a second term); election last held on 29 October 2011 (next to be held no later than 10 November 2018); taoiseach (prime minister) nominated by the House of Representatives (Dail Eireann), appointed by the presidentpresident directly elected by majority popular vote for a 7-year term (eligible for a second term); election last held on 29 October 2011 (next to be held no later than 10 November 2018); taoiseach (prime minister) nominated by the House of Representatives (Dail Eireann), appointed by the president

election results : Michael D. HIGGINS elected president; percent of vote - Michael D. HIGGINS (Labor Party) 39.6%, Sean GALLAGHER (independent) 28.5%, Martin MCGUINNESS (Sinn Fein) 13.7%, Gay MITCHELL (Fine Gael) 6.4%, David NORRIS (independent) 6.2%, other 5.6%Michael D. HIGGINS elected president; percent of vote - Michael D. HIGGINS (Labor Party) 39.6%, Sean GALLAGHER (independent) 28.5%, Martin MCGUINNESS (Sinn Fein) 13.7%, Gay MITCHELL (Fine Gael) 6.4%, David NORRIS (independent) 6.2%, other 5.6%

Legislative branch:

description : bicameral Parliament or Oireachtas consists of:bicameral Parliament or Oireachtas consists of:

Senate or Seanad Eireann (60 seats; 43 members indirectly elected from 5 vocational panels of nominees by an electoral college consisting of members from the House of Representatives, outgoing Senate members, and city and county council members, 11 appointed by the prime minister, and 6 elected by 2 university constituencies - 3 each from the University of Dublin (Trinity College) and the National University of Ireland)

House of Representatives or Dail Eireann (158 seats; members directly elected in multi-seat constituencies by proportional representation vote; all Parliament members serve 5-year terms)

elections :

Senate - last held in April and May 2016 (next to be held no later than 2021)

House of Representatives - last held on 26 February 2016 (next to be held no later than 2021)

election results :

Senate - percent of vote by party - NA; seats by party - Fine Gael 19, Fianna Fail 14, Sinn Fein 7, Labor Party 5, Green Party 1, independent 14; composition - men 42, women 18, percent of women 30%

House of Representatives - percent of vote by party - Fine Gael 25.5%, Fianna Fail 24.4%, Sinn Fein 13.8%, Labor Party 6.6%, AAA-PBP 4%, Social Democrats 3%, Green Party 2.7%, Renua Ireland 2.2% independent 17.8%; seats by party - Fine Gael 50, Fianna Fail 44, Sinn Fein 23, Labor Party 7, AAA-PBP 6, Social Democrats 3, Green Party 2, independent 23; composition - men 123, women 35, percent of women 22.2%; note - total Parliament percent of women 24.3%

Judicial branch:

highest court(s) : Supreme Court of Ireland (consists of the chief justice, 9 judges, 2 ex-officio members - the presidents of the High Court and Court of Appeal - and organized in 3-, 5-, or 7-judge panels, depending on the importance or complexity of an issue of law) Supreme Court of Ireland (consists of the chief justice, 9 judges, 2 ex-officio members - the presidents of the High Court and Court of Appeal - and organized in 3-, 5-, or 7-judge panels, depending on the importance or complexity of an issue of law)

judge selection and term of office : judges nominated by the prime minister and Cabinet and appointed by the president; chief justice serves in the position for 7 years; judges can serve until age 70 judges nominated by the prime minister and Cabinet and appointed by the president; chief justice serves in the position for 7 years; judges can serve until age 70

subordinate courts : High Court, Court of Appeal; circuit and district courts; criminal courts High Court, Court of Appeal; circuit and district courts; criminal courts

Political parties and leaders:

Solidarity-People Before Profit or AAAS-PBP [collective leadership]

Fianna Fail [Micheal MARTIN]

Fine Gael [Leo VARADKAR]

Green Party [Eamon RYAN]

Labor (Labour) Party [Brendan HOWLIN]

Renua Ireland [John LEAHY]

Sinn Fein [Mary Lou MCDONALD]

Social Democrats [Catherine MURPHY, Roisin SHORTALL]

Socialist Party [collective leadership]

The Workers' Party [Michael DONNELLY]

International organization participation:

ADB (nonregional member), Australia Group, BIS, CD, CE, EAPC, EBRD, ECB, EIB, EMU, ESA, EU, FAO, FATF, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC (national committees), ICt, ICRM, IDA, IEA, IFAD, IFC, IFRCS, IGAD (partners), IHO, ILO, IMF, IMO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO, ITSO, ITU, ITUC (NGOs), MIGA, MINURSO, MONUSCO, NEA, NSG,

OAS (observer), OECD, OPCW, OSCE, Paris Club, PCA, PFP, UN, UNCTAD, UNDOF, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNIFIL, UNOCI, UNRWA, UNTSO, UPU, WCO, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO, ZC

Diplomatic representation in the US:

chief of mission : Ambassador Daniel Gerard MULHALL (since 8 September 2017)Ambassador Daniel Gerard MULHALL (since 8 September 2017)

chancery : 2234 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 200082234
Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008

telephone : [1] (202) 462-3939[1] (202) 462-3939

FAX : [1] (202) 232-5993[1] (202) 232-5993

consulate(s) general : Atlanta, Austin (TX), Boston, Chicago, New York, San FranciscoAtlanta, Austin (TX), Boston, Chicago, New York, San Francisco

Diplomatic representation from the US:

chief of mission : Ambassador (vacant) Charge d'Affaires L. Reece SMYTH (since 20 January 2017)Ambassador (vacant) Charge d'Affaires L. Reece SMYTH (since 20 January 2017)

embassy : 42 Elgin Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 442 Elgin Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4

mailing address : use embassy street addressuse embassy street address

telephone : [353] (1) 668-8777[353] (1) 668-8777

FAX : [353] (1) 668-9946[353] (1) 668-9946

Flag description:

three equal vertical bands of green (hoist side), white, and orange; officially the flag colors have no meaning, but a common interpretation is that the green represents the Irish nationalist (Gaelic) tradition of Ireland; orange represents the Orange tradition (minority supporters of William of Orange); white symbolizes peace (or a lasting truce) between the green and the orange

note : similar to the flag of Cote d'Ivoire, which is shorter and has the colors reversed - orange (hoist side), white, and green; also similar to the flag of Italy, which is shorter and has colors of green (hoist side), white, and redsimilar to the flag of Cote d'Ivoire, which is shorter and has the colors reversed - orange (hoist side), white, and green; also similar to the flag of Italy, which is shorter and has colors of green (hoist side), white, and red

National symbol(s):

harp, shamrock (trefoil); national colors: blue, green

National anthem:

name : "Amhran na bhFiann" (The Soldier's Song)"Amhran na bhFiann" (The Soldier's Song)

lyrics/music : Peadar KEARNEY [English], Liam O RINN [Irish]/Patrick HEENEY and Peadar KEARNEY
Peadar KEARNEY [English], Liam O RINN [Irish]/Patrick HEENEY and Peadar KEARNEY

note : adopted 1926; instead of "Amhran na bhFiann," the song "Ireland's Call" is often used at athletic events where citizens of Ireland and Northern Ireland compete as a unified team
adopted 1926; instead of "Amhran na bhFiann," the song "Ireland's Call" is often used at athletic events where citizens of Ireland and Northern Ireland compete as a unified team

6.5 Economy

Economy - overview:

Ireland is a small, modern, trade-dependent economy. It was among the initial group of 12 EU nations that began circulating the euro on 1 January 2002. GDP growth averaged 6% in 1995-2007, but economic activity dropped sharply during the world financial crisis and the subsequent collapse of its domestic property market and construction industry during 2008-11. Faced with sharply reduced revenues and a burgeoning budget deficit from efforts to stabilize its fragile banking sector, the Irish Government introduced the first in a series of draconian budgets in 2009. These measures were not sufficient to stabilize Ireland's public finances. In 2010, the budget deficit reached 32.4% of GDP - the world's largest deficit, as a percentage of GDP. In late 2010, the former COWEN government agreed to a \$92 billion loan package from the EU and IMF to help Dublin recapitalize Ireland's banking sector and avoid defaulting on its sovereign debt. In March 2011, the KENNY government intensified austerity measures to meet the deficit targets under Ireland's EU-IMF bailout program.

In late 2013, Ireland formally exited its EU-IMF bailout program, benefiting from its strict adherence to deficit-reduction targets and success in refinancing a large amount of banking-related debt. In 2014, the economy rapidly picked up. In late 2014, the government introduced a fiscally neutral budget, marking the end of the austerity program. Continued growth of tax receipts has allowed the government to lower some taxes and increase public spending while keeping to its deficit-reduction targets. In 2015, GDP growth exceeded 26%. The magnitude of the increase reflected one-off statistical revisions, multinational corporate restructurings in intellectual property, and the aircraft leasing sector, rather than real gains in the domestic economy, which was still growing. Growth moderated to around 4.1% in 2017, but the recovering economy assisted lowering the deficit to 0.6% of GDP.

In the wake of the collapse of the construction sector and the downturn in consumer spending and business investment during the 2008-11 economic crisis, the export sector, dominated by foreign multinationals, has become an even more important component of Ireland's economy. Ireland's low corporation tax of 12.5% and a talented pool of high-tech laborers have been some of the key factors in encouraging business investment. Loose tax residency requirements made Ireland a common destination for international firms seeking to pay less tax or, in the case of U.S. multinationals, defer taxation owed to the United States. In 2014, amid growing international pressure, the Irish government announced it would phase in more

stringent tax laws, effectively closing a commonly used loophole. The Irish economy continued to grow in 2017 and is forecast to do so through 2019, supported by a strong export sector, robust job growth, and low inflation, to the point that the Government must now address concerns about overheating and potential loss of competitiveness. The greatest risks to the economy are the UK's scheduled departure from the European Union ("Brexit") in March 2019, possible changes to international taxation policies that could affect Ireland's revenues, and global trade pressures.

GDP (purchasing power parity):

\$357.2 billion (2017 est.)

\$339.7 billion (2016 est.)

\$270.7 billion (2015 est.)

note : data are in 2017 dollarsdata are in 2017 dollars

country comparison to the world : 5252

GDP (official exchange rate):

\$334 billion (2017 est.)

GDP - real growth rate:

7.8% (2017 est.)

5.1% (2016 est.)

25.5% (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 99

GDP - per capita (PPP):

\$75,500 (2017 est.)

\$72,300 (2016 est.)

\$58,200 (2015 est.)

note : data are in 2017 dollarsdata are in 2017 dollars

country comparison to the world : 1010

Gross national saving:

36.7% of GDP (2017 est.)

35.7% of GDP (2016 est.)

32.1% of GDP (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 1313

GDP - composition, by end use:

household consumption : 34.6%34.6%
government consumption : 10.3%10.3%
investment in fixed capital : 33.1%33.1%
investment in inventories : 0.8%0.8%
exports of goods and services : 120.7%120.7%
imports of goods and services : -99.5% (2017 est.)-99.5% (2017 est.)

GDP - composition, by sector of origin:

agriculture : 1%1%
industry : 38.2%38.2%
services : 60.7% (2017 est.)60.7% (2017 est.)

Agriculture - products:

barley, potatoes, wheat; beef, dairy products

Industries:

pharmaceuticals, chemicals, computer hardware and software, food products, beverages and brewing; medical devices

Industrial production growth rate:

1.5% (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 150150

Labor force:

2.226 million (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 123123

Labor force - by occupation:

agriculture : 5%5%
industry : 11%11%
services : 84% (2015 est.)84% (2015 est.)

Unemployment rate:

6.4% (2017 est.)

7.9% (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 9292

Population below poverty line:

8.2% (2013 est.)

Household income or consumption by percentage share:

lowest 10% : 2.9%2.9%

highest 10% : 27.2% (2000)27.2% (2000)

Distribution of family income - Gini index:

31.3 (2013 est.)

35.9 (1987 est.)

country comparison to the world : 125125

Budget:

revenues : \$85.41 billion\$85.41 billion

expenditures : \$87.22 billion (2017 est.)\$87.22 billion (2017 est.)

Taxes and other revenues:

26.2% of GDP (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 111111

Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-):

-0.6% of GDP (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 5757

Public debt:

68.5% of GDP (2017 est.)

72.9% of GDP (2016 est.)

note : data cover general government debt and include debt instruments issued (or owned) by government entities other than the treasury; the data include treasury debt held by foreign entities; the data include debt issued by subnational entities, as well as intragovernmental debt; intragovernmental debt consists of treasury borrowings from surpluses in the social funds, such as for retirement, medical care, and unemployment; debt instruments for the social funds are not sold at public auctions
data cover general government debt and include debt instruments issued (or owned) by government entities other than the treasury; the data include treasury debt held by foreign entities; the data include debt issued by subnational entities, as well as intragovernmental debt; intragovernmental debt consists of treasury borrowings from surpluses in the social funds, such as for retirement, medical care, and unemployment; debt instruments for the social funds are not sold at public auctions

country comparison to the world : 5252

Fiscal year:

calendar year

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

0.3% (2017 est.)

-0.2% (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 1919

Central bank discount rate:

0.05% (31 December 2015)

0.15% (31 August 2014)

note : this is the European Central Bank's rate on the marginal lending facility, which offers overnight credit to banks in the euro areathis is the European Central Bank's rate on the marginal lending facility, which offers overnight credit to banks in the euro area

country comparison to the world : 143143

Commercial bank prime lending rate:

3.8% (31 December 2017 est.)

3.48% (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 164164

Stock of narrow money:

\$180 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$156.2 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

note : see entry for the European Union for money supply for the entire euro area; the European Central Bank (ECB) controls monetary policy for the 18 members of the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU); individual members of the EMU do not control the quantity of money circulating within their own borderssee entry for the European Union for money supply for the entire euro area; the European Central Bank (ECB) controls monetary policy for the 18 members of the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU); individual members of the EMU do not control the quantity of money circulating within their own borders

country comparison to the world : 2727

Stock of broad money:

\$233.9 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$204.9 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 3636

Stock of domestic credit:

\$305.3 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$287.1 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 3737

Market value of publicly traded shares:

\$128 billion (31 December 2015 est.)

\$143.5 billion (31 December 2014 est.)

\$170.1 billion (31 December 2013 est.)

country comparison to the world : 4040

Current account balance:

\$41.88 billion (2017 est.)

\$10.17 billion (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 1212

Exports:

\$225.1 billion (2017 est.)

\$206 billion (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 2424

Exports - commodities:

machinery and equipment, computers, chemicals, medical devices, pharmaceuticals;
foodstuffs, animal products

Exports - partners:

US 27.1%, UK 13.4%, Belgium 11%, Germany 8.1%, Switzerland 5.1%, Netherlands 4.9%, France 4.3% (2017)

Imports:

\$96.03 billion (2017 est.)

\$92.09 billion (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 3434

Imports - commodities:

data processing equipment, other machinery and equipment, chemicals, petroleum and petroleum products, textiles, clothing

Imports - partners:

UK 29%, US 18.9%, France 12.1%, Germany 9.6%, Netherlands 4.1% (2017)

Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:

\$3.591 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

\$2.203 billion (31 December 2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 100100

Debt - external:

\$2.47 trillion (31 March 2016 est.)

\$2.35 trillion (31 March 2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 99

Stock of direct foreign investment - at home:

\$1.477 trillion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$1.411 trillion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 77

Stock of direct foreign investment - abroad:

\$1.49 trillion (31 December 2017 est.)
\$1.404 trillion (31 December 2016 est.)
country comparison to the world : 99

Exchange rates:

euros (EUR) per US dollar -
0.89 (2017 est.)
0.9 (2016 est.)
0.92 (2015 est.)
0.89 (2014 est.)
0.76 (2013 est.)

6.6 Energy

Electricity access:

electrification - total population : 100% (2016)100% (2016)

Electricity - production:

25.2 billion kWh (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world : 7070

Electricity - consumption:

23.79 billion kWh (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world : 7070

Electricity - exports:

1.583 billion kWh (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world : 4949

Electricity - imports:

871 million kWh (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world : 7171

Electricity - installed generating capacity:

9.557 million kW (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 6363

Electricity - from fossil fuels:

68.1% of total installed capacity (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 106106

Electricity - from nuclear fuels:

0% of total installed capacity (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 8484

Electricity - from hydroelectric plants:

2.5% of total installed capacity (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 135135

Electricity - from other renewable sources:

29.7% of total installed capacity (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 1515

Crude oil - production:

0 bbl/day (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 127127

Crude oil - exports:

0 bbl/day (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 114114

Crude oil - imports:

65,390 bbl/day (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 4949

Crude oil - proved reserves:

0 bbl (1 January 2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 129129

Refined petroleum products - production:

64,310 bbl/day (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 7777

Refined petroleum products - consumption:

151,700 bbl/day (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 6969

Refined petroleum products - exports:

31,540 bbl/day (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 6363

Refined petroleum products - imports:

119,600 bbl/day (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 5353

Natural gas - production:

132 million cu m (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 8181

Natural gas - consumption:

4.354 billion cu m (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 6464

Natural gas - exports:

0 cu m (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world : 9595

Natural gas - imports:

4.234 billion cu m (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 3636

Natural gas - proved reserves:

9.911 billion cu m (1 January 2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 8484

Carbon dioxide emissions from consumption of energy:

34 million Mt (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world : 7474

6.7 Communications

Telephones - fixed lines:

total subscriptions : 1,842,0261,842,026

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants : 37 (2017 est.)37 (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 5959

Telephones - mobile cellular:

total subscriptions : 4,898,8724,898,872

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants : 98 (2017 est.)98 (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 121121

Telephone system:

general assessment : modern digital system using cable and microwave radio relay
modern digital system using cable and microwave radio relay

domestic : system privatized but dominated by former state monopoly operator; increasing levels of broadband access particularly in urban areas
system privatized but dominated by former state monopoly operator; increasing levels of broadband access particularly in urban areas

international : country code - 353; landing point for the Hibernia-Atlantic submarine cable with links to the US, Canada, and UK; satellite earth stations - 81 (2014)country

code - 353; landing point for the Hibernia-Atlantic submarine cable with links to the US, Canada, and UK; satellite earth stations - 81 (2014)

Broadcast media:

publicly owned broadcaster Radio Telefis Eireann (RTE) operates 2 TV stations; commercial TV stations are available; about 75% of households utilize multi-channel satellite and TV services that provide access to a wide range of stations; RTE operates 4 national radio stations and has launched digital audio broadcasts on several stations; a number of commercial broadcast stations operate at the national, regional, and local levels (2014)

Internet country code:

.ie

Internet users:

total : 4,069,4324,069,432

percent of population : 82.2% (July 2016 est.)82.2% (July 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 8888

Broadband - fixed line subscriptions:

total : 1,401,3561,401,356

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants : 28 (2017 est.)28 (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 6363

6.8 Transportation

National air transport system:

number of registered air carriers : 66

inventory of registered aircraft operated by air carriers : 431431

annual passenger traffic on registered air carriers : 113,144,501113,144,501

annual freight traffic on registered air carriers : 138.58 million mt-km (2015)138.58 million mt-km (2015)

Civil aircraft registration country code prefix:

EI (2016)

Airports:

40 (2013)

country comparison to the world : 105105

Airports - with paved runways:

total : 1616

over 3,047 m : 11

2,438 to 3,047 m : 11

1,524 to 2,437 m : 44

914 to 1,523 m : 55

under 914 m : 5 (2017)5 (2017)

Airports - with unpaved runways:

total : 2424

2,438 to 3,047 m : 11

914 to 1,523 m : 22

under 914 m : 21 (2013)21 (2013)

Pipelines:

gas 2,147 km (2013)

Railways:

total : 3,237 km3,237 km

broad gauge : 1,872 km 1.600-m gauge (49 km electrified)1,872 km 1.600-m gauge (49 km electrified)

narrow gauge : 1,365 km 0.914-m gauge (operated by the Irish Peat Board to transport peat to power stations and briquetting plants) (2014)1,365 km 0.914-m gauge (operated by the Irish Peat Board to transport peat to power stations and briquetting plants) (2014)

country comparison to the world : 5757

Roadways:

total : 96,036 km96,036 km

paved : 96,036 km (includes 1,224 km of expressways) (2014)96,036 km (includes 1,224 km of expressways) (2014)

country comparison to the world : 5151

Waterways:

956 km (pleasure craft only) (2010)

country comparison to the world : 6767

Merchant marine:

total : 8383

by type : bulk carrier 9, general cargo 28, oil tanker 1, other 45 (2017)bulk carrier 9, general cargo 28, oil tanker 1, other 45 (2017)

country comparison to the world : 9393

Ports and terminals:

major seaport(s) : Dublin, Shannon FoynesDublin, Shannon Foynes

river port(s) : Cork (Lee), Waterford (Suir)Cork (Lee), Waterford (Suir)

container port(s) (TEUs) : Dublin (529,563) (2016)Dublin (529,563) (2016)

cruise port(s) : Cork, DublinCork, Dublin

6.9 Military and Security

Military expenditures:

0.34% of GDP (2016)

0.35% of GDP (2015)

0.47% of GDP (2014)

0.5% of GDP (2013)

0.51% of GDP (2012)

country comparison to the world : 149149

Military branches:

Irish Defence Forces (Oglaigh na h-Eireannn), Permanent Defence Forces (PDF): Army, Naval Service, Air Corps; Reserve Defence Forces (RDF): Army, Naval Service Reserves (2014)

Military service age and obligation:

18-25 years of age for male and female voluntary military service recruits to the Permanent Defence Forces (PDF; 18-27 years of age for the Naval Service); 18-28 for cadetship (officer) applicants; 18-35 years of age for the Reserve Defence Forces (RDF); maximum obligation 12 years (PDF officers), 5 years (PDF enlisted), 3 years RDF (4 years for Naval Service Reserves); EU citizenship, refugee status, or 5-year residence in Ireland required (2014)

6.10 Terrorism

Terrorist groups - foreign based:

Continuity Irish Republican Army (CIRA) :

aim(s): to bring about a united Ireland

area(s) of operation: maintains an operational presence

New Irish Republican Army (NIRA) :

aim(s): to bring about a united Ireland

area(s) of operation: maintains an operational presence

note(s): formerly known as the Real Irish Republican Army (RIRA) (April 2018)

6.11 Transnational Issues

Disputes - international:

Ireland, Iceland, and the UK dispute Denmark's claim that the Faroe Islands' continental shelf extends beyond 200 nm

Refugees and internally displaced persons:

stateless persons : 99 (2017)99 (2017)

Illicit drugs:

transshipment point for and consumer of hashish from North Africa to the UK and Netherlands and of European-produced synthetic drugs; increasing consumption of South American cocaine; minor transshipment point for heroin and cocaine destined for Western Europe; despite recent legislation, narcotics-related money laundering - using bureaux de change, trusts, and shell companies involving the offshore financial community - remains a concern

7. Israel

7.1 Introduction

Background:

The State of Israel was declared in 1948, after Britain withdrew from its mandate of Palestine, the UN proposed partitioning the area into Arab and Jewish states, and Arab armies that rejected the UN plan were defeated. Israel was admitted as a member of the UN in 1949 and saw rapid population growth, primarily due to migration from Europe and the Middle East, over the following years. Israel fought wars against its Arab neighbors in 1967 and 1973, followed by peace treaties with Egypt in 1979 and Jordan in 1994. Israel and Palestinian officials signed a number of interim agreements in the 1990s that created an interim period of Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which Israel occupied in 1967. The most recent effort to negotiate final status issues took place in 2013-2014. Immigration to Israel continues, with 28,600 new immigrants, mostly Jewish, in 2016. The Israeli economy has undergone a dramatic transformation in the last 25 years, led by cutting-edge, high-tech sectors. Offshore gas discoveries in the Mediterranean, most notably in the Tamar and Leviathan gas fields, place Israel at the center of a potential regional natural gas market. However, longer-term structural issues such as low labor force participation among minority populations, low workforce productivity, high costs for housing and consumer staples, and a lack of competition, remain a concern for many Israelis and an important consideration for Israeli politicians. Prime Minister Benjamin NETANYAHU has led the Israeli Government since 2009; he formed the current center-right coalition following the 2015 elections.

7.2 Geography

Location:

Middle East, bordering the Mediterranean Sea, between Egypt and Lebanon

Geographic coordinates:

31 30 N, 34 45 E

Map references:

Middle East

Area:

total : 20,770 sq km20,770 sq km

land : 20,330 sq km20,330 sq km

water : 440 sq km440 sq km

country comparison to the world : 154154

Area - comparative:

slightly larger than New Jersey

Land boundaries:

total : 1,068 km1,068 km

border countries (6) : Egypt 208 km, Gaza Strip 59 km, Jordan 307 km, Lebanon 81 km, Syria 83 km, West Bank 330 kmEgypt 208 km, Gaza Strip 59 km, Jordan 307 km, Lebanon 81 km, Syria 83 km, West Bank 330 km

Coastline:

273 km

Maritime claims:

territorial sea : 12 nm12 nm

continental shelf : to depth of exploitationto depth of exploitation

Climate:

temperate; hot and dry in southern and eastern desert areas

Terrain:

Negev desert in the south; low coastal plain; central mountains; Jordan Rift Valley

Elevation:

mean elevation : 508 m508 m

elevation extremes : lowest point: Dead Sea -431 mlowest point: Dead Sea -431 m

highest point: Har Meron 1,208 m

Natural resources:

timber, potash, copper ore, natural gas, phosphate rock, magnesium bromide, clays, sand

Land use:

agricultural land : 23.8%23.8%

arable land 13.7%; permanent crops 3.8%; permanent pasture 6.3%

forest : 7.1%7.1%

other : 69.1% (2011 est.)69.1% (2011 est.)

Irrigated land:

2,250 sq km (2012)

Population - distribution:

population concentrated in and around Tel-Aviv, as well as around the Sea of Galilee; the south remains sparsely populated with the exception of the shore of the Gulf of Aqaba

Natural hazards:

sandstorms may occur during spring and summer; droughts; periodic earthquakes

Environment - current issues:

limited arable land and restricted natural freshwater resources; desertification; air pollution from industrial and vehicle emissions; groundwater pollution from industrial and domestic waste, chemical fertilizers, and pesticides

Environment - international agreements:

party to : Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Hazardous Wastes, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Wetlands, WhalingBiodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Hazardous Wastes, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Wetlands, Whaling

signed, but not ratified : Marine Life ConservationMarine Life Conservation

Geography - note:

Lake Tiberias (Sea of Galilee) is an important freshwater source; the Dead Sea is the second saltiest body of water in the world (after Lake Assal in Djibouti); in 2017, there were 422 settlements in the Israeli-occupied territories - 42 settlements in the Golan Heights, 380 sites in the occupied Palestinian territories to include 213 settlements and 132 outposts in the West Bank, and 35 settlements in East Jerusalem; there are no Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip, as all were evacuated in 2005 (2017)

7.3 People and Society

Population:

8,299,706 (July 2017 est.) (includes populations of the Golan Heights or Golan Sub-District and also East Jerusalem, which was annexed by Israel after 1967)

note : approximately 22,000 Israeli settlers live in the Golan Heights (2016); approximately 201,000 Israeli settlers live in East Jerusalem (2014) approximately 22,000 Israeli settlers live in the Golan Heights (2016); approximately 201,000 Israeli settlers live in East Jerusalem (2014)

country comparison to the world : 9797

Nationality:

noun : Israeli(s)Israeli(s)

adjective : IsraeliIsraeli

Ethnic groups:

Jewish 74.5% (of which Israel-born 76.9%, Europe/America/Oceania-born 15.9%, Africa-born 4.6%, Asia-born 2.6%), Arab 20.9%, other 4.6% (2017 est.)

Languages:

Hebrew (official), Arabic (used officially for Arab minority), English (most commonly used foreign language)

Religions:

Jewish 74.7%, Muslim 17.7%, Christian 2%, Druze 1.6%, other 4% (2016 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years : 27.51% (male 1,168,351/female 1,114,902)27.51% (male 1,168,351/female 1,114,902)

15-24 years : 15.53% (male 658,572/female 630,675)15.53% (male 658,572/female 630,675)

25-54 years : 37.17% (male 1,577,187/female 1,507,793)37.17% (male 1,577,187/female 1,507,793)

55-64 years : 8.46% (male 344,922/female 357,301)8.46% (male 344,922/female 357,301)

65 years and over : 11.33% (male 421,660/female 518,343) (2017 est.)11.33% (male 421,660/female 518,343) (2017 est.)

Dependency ratios:

total dependency ratio : 64.264.2

youth dependency ratio : 45.745.7

elderly dependency ratio : 18.418.4

potential support ratio : 5.4 (2015 est.)5.4 (2015 est.)

Median age:

total : 29.9 years29.9 years

male : 29.3 years29.3 years

female : 30.6 years (2017 est.)30.6 years (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 119119

Population growth rate:

1.51% (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 7676

Birth rate:

18.1 births/1,000 population (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 9696

Death rate:

5.2 deaths/1,000 population (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 187187

Net migration rate:

2.2 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 4343

Population distribution:

population concentrated in and around Tel-Aviv, as well as around the Sea of Galilee; the south remains sparsely populated with the exception of the shore of the Gulf of Aqaba

Urbanization:

urban population : 92.4% of total population (2018)92.4% of total population (2018)
rate of urbanization : 1.64% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)1.64% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

Major urban areas - population:

Tel Aviv-Yafo 4.011 million; Haifa 1.135 million; JERUSALEM (proclaimed capital) 907,000 (2018)

Sex ratio:

at birth : 1.05 male(s)/female1.05 male(s)/female
0-14 years : 1.05 male(s)/female1.05 male(s)/female
15-24 years : 1.05 male(s)/female1.05 male(s)/female
25-54 years : 1.05 male(s)/female1.05 male(s)/female
55-64 years : 0.96 male(s)/female0.96 male(s)/female
65 years and over : 0.81 male(s)/female0.81 male(s)/female
total population : 1.01 male(s)/female (2017 est.)1.01 male(s)/female (2017 est.)

Mother's mean age at first birth:

27.6 years (2015 est.)

Maternal mortality ratio:

5 deaths/100,000 live births (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world : 170170

Infant mortality rate:

total : 3.4 deaths/1,000 live births3.4 deaths/1,000 live births
male : 3.4 deaths/1,000 live births3.4 deaths/1,000 live births
female : 3.5 deaths/1,000 live births (2017 est.)3.5 deaths/1,000 live births (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 204204

Life expectancy at birth:

total population : 82.5 years82.5 years

male : 80.7 years80.7 years

female : 84.5 years (2017 est.)84.5 years (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 1212

Total fertility rate:

2.64 children born/woman (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 7171

Health expenditures:

7.8% of GDP (2014)

country comparison to the world : 5959

Physicians density:

3.58 physicians/1,000 population (2015)

Hospital bed density:

3.1 beds/1,000 population (2013)

Drinking water source:

improved :

urban: 100% of population

rural: 100% of population

total: 100% of population

unimproved :

urban: 0% of population

rural: 0% of population

total: 0% of population (2015 est.)

Sanitation facility access:

improved :

urban: 100% of population
rural: 100% of population
total: 100% of population
unimproved :
urban: 0% of population
rural: 0% of population
total: 0% of population (2015 est.)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:

NA

HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:

NA

HIV/AIDS - deaths:

NA

Obesity - adult prevalence rate:

26.1% (2016)
country comparison to the world : 4545

Education expenditures:

5.7% of GDP (2014)
country comparison to the world : 5757

Literacy:

definition : age 15 and over can read and writeage 15 and over can read and write
total population : 97.8%97.8%
male : 98.7%98.7%
female : 96.8% (2011 est.)96.8% (2011 est.)

School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education):

total : 16 years16 years
male : 16 years16 years

female : 16 years (2014)16 years (2014)

Unemployment, youth ages 15-24:

total : 7.3%7.3%

male : 6.7%6.7%

female : 7.8% (2017 est.)7.8% (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 132132

7.4 Government

Country name:

conventional long form : State of IsraelState of Israel

conventional short form : IsraellIsrael

local long form : Medinat Yisra'elMedinat Yisra'el

local short form : Yisra'elYisra'el

etymology : named after the ancient Kingdom of Israel; according to Biblical tradition, the Jewish patriarch Jacob received the name "Israel" ("He who struggles with God") after he wrestled an entire night with an angel of the Lord; Jacob's 12 sons became the ancestors of the Israelites, also known as the Twelve Tribes of Israel, who formed the Kingdom of Israelnamed after the ancient Kingdom of Israel; according to Biblical tradition, the Jewish patriarch Jacob received the name "Israel" ("He who struggles with God") after he wrestled an entire night with an angel of the Lord; Jacob's 12 sons became the ancestors of the Israelites, also known as the Twelve Tribes of Israel, who formed the Kingdom of Israel

Government type:

parliamentary democracy

Capital:

name : Jerusalem; note - the US recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital in December 2017 without taking a position on the specific boundaries of Israeli sovereigntyJerusalem; note - the US recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital in December 2017 without taking a position on the specific boundaries of Israeli sovereignty

geographic coordinates : 31 46 N, 35 14 E31 46 N, 35 14 E

time difference : UTC+2 (7 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)UTC+2 (7 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)

daylight saving time : +1hr, Friday before the last Sunday in March; ends the last Sunday in October+1hr, Friday before the last Sunday in March; ends the last Sunday in October

Administrative divisions:

6 districts (mehozot, singular - mehoz); Central, Haifa, Jerusalem, Northern, Southern, Tel Aviv

Independence:

14 May 1948 (from League of Nations mandate under British administration)

National holiday:

Independence Day, 14 May (1948); note - Israel declared independence on 14 May 1948, but the Jewish calendar is lunar and the holiday may occur in April or May

Constitution:

history : no formal constitution; some functions of a constitution are filled by the Declaration of Establishment (1948), the Basic Laws, and the Law of Return (as amended)no formal constitution; some functions of a constitution are filled by the Declaration of Establishment (1948), the Basic Laws, and the Law of Return (as amended)

amendments : proposed by Government of Israel ministers or by the Knesset; passage requires a majority vote of Knesset members and subject to Supreme Court judicial review; 11 of the 13 Basic Laws have been amended at least once, latest in 2018 (2018)proposed by Government of Israel ministers or by the Knesset; passage requires a majority vote of Knesset members and subject to Supreme Court judicial review; 11 of the 13 Basic Laws have been amended at least once, latest in 2018 (2018)

Legal system:

mixed legal system of English common law, British Mandate regulations, and Jewish, Christian, and Muslim religious laws

International law organization participation:

has not submitted an ICJ jurisdiction declaration; withdrew acceptance of International Criminal Court jurisdiction in 2002

Citizenship:

citizenship by birth : nono

citizenship by descent only : at least one parent must be a citizen of Israel at least one parent must be a citizen of Israel

dual citizenship recognized : yes, but naturalized citizens are not allowed to maintain dual citizenship yes, but naturalized citizens are not allowed to maintain dual citizenship

residency requirement for naturalization : 3 out of the 5 years preceding the application for naturalization 3 out of the 5 years preceding the application for naturalization

note : Israeli law (Law of Return, 5 July 1950) provides for the granting of citizenship to any Jew - defined as a person being born to a Jewish mother or having converted to Judaism while renouncing any other religion - who immigrates to and expresses a desire to settle in Israel on the basis of the Right of aliyah; the 1970 amendment of this act extended the right to family members including the spouse of a Jew, any child or grandchild, and the spouses of children and grandchildren Israeli law (Law of Return, 5 July 1950) provides for the granting of citizenship to any Jew - defined as a person being born to a Jewish mother or having converted to Judaism while renouncing any other religion - who immigrates to and expresses a desire to settle in Israel on the basis of the Right of aliyah; the 1970 amendment of this act extended the right to family members including the spouse of a Jew, any child or grandchild, and the spouses of children and grandchildren

Suffrage:

18 years of age; universal; 17 years of age for municipal elections

Executive branch:

chief of state : President Reuven RIVLIN (since 27 July 2014) President Reuven RIVLIN (since 27 July 2014)

head of government : Prime Minister Binyamin NETANYAHU (since 31 March 2009, most recently reformed on 15 May 2015) Prime Minister Binyamin NETANYAHU (since 31 March 2009, most recently reformed on 15 May 2015)

cabinet : Cabinet selected by prime minister and approved by the Knesset Cabinet selected by prime minister and approved by the Knesset

elections/appointments : president indirectly elected by the Knesset for a 7-year term (limited to 1 term); election last held on 10 June 2014 (next to be held in 2021 but can be called earlier); following legislative elections, the president, in consultation with party leaders, tasks a Knesset member (usually the member of the largest party) with forming a government president indirectly elected by the Knesset for a 7-year term (limited to 1 term); election last held on 10 June 2014 (next to be held in 2021 but can be called earlier); following legislative elections, the president, in consultation with party leaders, tasks a Knesset member (usually the member of the largest party) with forming a government

election results : Reuven RIVLIN elected president in second round; Knesset vote - Reuven RIVLIN (Likud) 63, Meir SHEETRIT (The Movement) 53, other/invalid 4 Reuven RIVLIN elected president in second round; Knesset vote - Reuven RIVLIN (Likud) 63, Meir SHEETRIT (The Movement) 53, other/invalid 4

Legislative branch:

description : unicameral Knesset (120 seats; members directly elected in a single nationwide constituency by proportional representation vote; members serve 4-year terms)
unicameral Knesset (120 seats; members directly elected in a single nationwide constituency by proportional representation vote; members serve 4-year terms)

elections : last held on 17 March 2015 (next to be held by 5 November 2019 but can be called earlier)
last held on 17 March 2015 (next to be held by 5 November 2019 but can be called earlier)

election results : percent of vote by party - Likud 23.4%, Zionist Union 18.7%, Joint List 10.5%, Yesh Atid 8.8%, Kulanu 7.5%, The Jewish Home 6.7%, Shas, 5.7%, Yisrael Beitenu 5.1%, UTJ 5%, Meretz 3.9%, Yachad 3%, other 1.7%; seats by party - Likud 30, Zionist Union 24, Joint List 13, Yesh Atid 11, Kulanu 10, The Jewish Home 8, Shas 7, Yisrael Beitenu 6, UTJ 6, Meretz 5; composition - men 91, women 29, percent of women 24.2%
percent of vote by party - Likud 23.4%, Zionist Union 18.7%, Joint List 10.5%, Yesh Atid 8.8%, Kulanu 7.5%, The Jewish Home 6.7%, Shas, 5.7%, Yisrael Beitenu 5.1%, UTJ 5%, Meretz 3.9%, Yachad 3%, other 1.7%; seats by party - Likud 30, Zionist Union 24, Joint List 13, Yesh Atid 11, Kulanu 10, The Jewish Home 8, Shas 7, Yisrael Beitenu 6, UTJ 6, Meretz 5; composition - men 91, women 29, percent of women 24.2%

Judicial branch:

highest court(s) : Supreme Court (consists of the chief justice and 14 judges)
Supreme Court (consists of the chief justice and 14 judges)

judge selection and term of office : judges selected by the Judicial Selection Committee consisting of 3 Supreme Court judges, 2 Cabinet members including the Minister of Justice as chairman, 2 Knesset members, and 2 representatives from the Israel Bar Association; judges can serve up to mandatory retirement at age 70
judges selected by the Judicial Selection Committee consisting of 3 Supreme Court judges, 2 Cabinet members including the Minister of Justice as chairman, 2 Knesset members, and 2 representatives from the Israel Bar Association; judges can serve up to mandatory retirement at age 70

subordinate courts : Court for Administrative Matters; district and magistrate courts; national and regional labor courts; special and religious courts
Court for Administrative Matters; district and magistrate courts; national and regional labor courts; special and religious courts

Political parties and leaders:

Balad [Jamal ZAHALKA]

Democratic Front for Peace and Equality or HADASH [Ayman ODEH]

Israeli Labor Party [Avi GABBAY]

Joint List [Ayman ODEH] (coalition includes Balad, HADASH, United Arab List, Ta'al))

Kulanu [Moshe KAHN]

Likud [Binyamin NETANYAHU]
 Meretz [Tamar ZANDBERG]
 SHAS [Arye DERI]
 Ta'al (Arab Movement for Renewal) [Ahmad TIBI]
 Tekumah/National Union (Ichud Leumi) [Uri ARIEL]
 The Jewish Home (Habayit Hayehudi) [Naftali BENNETT]
 The Movement (Hatnuah) [Tzipora "Tzipi" LIVNI]
 United Arab List [Masud GANAIM]
 United Torah Judaism or UTJ [Yaakov LITZMAN] (an alliance of three parties)
 Yachad [Eli YISHAI]
 Yesh Atid [Yair LAPID]
 Yisrael Beiteinu [Avigdor LIEBERMAN]
 Zionist Union or Zionist Camp [Avi GABBAY] (alliance includes Israeli Labor Party, The Movement)

International organization participation:

BIS, BSEC (observer), CE (observer), CERN, CICA, EBRD, FAO, IADB, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC (national committees), ICRM, IDA, IFAD, IFC, IFRCs, ILO, IMF, IMO, IMSO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO, ITSO, ITU, ITUC (NGOs), MIGA, OAS (observer), OECD, OPCW (signatory), OSCE (partner), Pacific Alliance (observer), Paris Club, PCA, SELEC (observer), UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

Diplomatic representation in the US:

chief of mission : Ambassador Ron DERMER (since 3 December 2013)
 Ambassador Ron DERMER (since 3 December 2013)

chancery : 3514 International Drive NW, Washington, DC 20008
 3514 International Drive NW, Washington, DC 20008

telephone : [1] (202) 364-5500 [1] (202) 364-5500

FAX : [1] (202) 364-5607 [1] (202) 364-5607

consulate(s) general : Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco
 Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco

Diplomatic representation from the US:

note : on 14 May 2018, the US Embassy relocated to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv, replacing the site of the Jerusalem Consulate General
 on 14 May 2018, the US Embassy relocated to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv, replacing the site of the Jerusalem Consulate General

chief of mission : Ambassador David M. FRIEDMAN (since 23 May 2017)Ambassador David M. FRIEDMAN (since 23 May 2017)

embassy : David Flusser St.14, Jerusalem, 9378322David Flusser St.14, Jerusalem, 9378322

telephone : [972] (2) 630-4000[972] (2) 630-4000

FAX : NANA

consular agent : HaifaHaifa

Flag description:

white with a blue hexagram (six-pointed linear star) known as the Magen David (Star of David or Shield of David) centered between two equal horizontal blue bands near the top and bottom edges of the flag; the basic design resembles a traditional Jewish prayer shawl (tallit), which is white with blue stripes; the hexagram as a Jewish symbol dates back to medieval times

note : the Israeli flag proclamation states that the flag colors are sky blue and white, but the exact shade of blue has never been set and can vary from a light to a dark blue
the Israeli flag proclamation states that the flag colors are sky blue and white, but the exact shade of blue has never been set and can vary from a light to a dark blue

National symbol(s):

Star of David (Magen David), menorah (seven-branched lampstand); national colors: blue, white

National anthem:

name : "Hatikvah" (The Hope)"Hatikvah" (The Hope)

lyrics/music : Naftali Herz IMBER/traditional, arranged by Samuel COHENNaftali Herz IMBER/traditional, arranged by Samuel COHEN

note : adopted 2004, unofficial since 1948; used as the anthem of the Zionist movement since 1897; the 1888 arrangement by Samuel COHEN is thought to be based on the Romanian folk song "Carul cu boi" (The Ox Driven Cart)
adopted 2004, unofficial since 1948; used as the anthem of the Zionist movement since 1897; the 1888 arrangement by Samuel COHEN is thought to be based on the Romanian folk song "Carul cu boi" (The Ox Driven Cart)

7.5 Economy

Economy - overview:

Israel has a technologically advanced free market economy. Cut diamonds, high-technology equipment, and pharmaceuticals are among its leading exports. Its major imports include crude oil, grains, raw materials, and military equipment. Israel

usually posts sizable trade deficits, which are offset by tourism and other service exports, as well as significant foreign investment inflows.

Between 2004 and 2013, growth averaged nearly 5% per year, led by exports. The global financial crisis of 2008-09 spurred a brief recession in Israel, but the country entered the crisis with solid fundamentals, following years of prudent fiscal policy and a resilient banking sector. Israel's economy also weathered the 2011 Arab Spring because strong trade ties outside the Middle East insulated the economy from spillover effects.

Slowing domestic and international demand and decreased investment resulting from Israel's uncertain security situation reduced GDP growth to an average of roughly 2.8% per year during the period 2014-17. Natural gas fields discovered off Israel's coast since 2009 have brightened Israel's energy security outlook. The Tamar and Leviathan fields were some of the world's largest offshore natural gas finds in the last decade. Political and regulatory issues have delayed the development of the massive Leviathan field, but production from Tamar provided a 0.8% boost to Israel's GDP in 2013 and a 0.3% boost in 2014. One of the most carbon intense OECD countries, Israel generates about 57% of its power from coal and only 2.6% from renewable sources.

Income inequality and high housing and commodity prices continue to be a concern for many Israelis. Israel's income inequality and poverty rates are among the highest of OECD countries, and there is a broad perception among the public that a small number of "tycoons" have a cartel-like grip over the major parts of the economy. Government officials have called for reforms to boost the housing supply and to increase competition in the banking sector to address these public grievances. Despite calls for reforms, the restricted housing supply continues to impact younger Israelis seeking to purchase homes. Tariffs and non-tariff barriers, coupled with guaranteed prices and customs tariffs for farmers kept food prices high in 2016. Private consumption is expected to drive growth through 2018, with consumers benefitting from low inflation and a strong currency.

In the long term, Israel faces structural issues including low labor participation rates for its fastest growing social segments - the ultraorthodox and Arab-Israeli communities. Also, Israel's progressive, globally competitive, knowledge-based technology sector employs only about 8% of the workforce, with the rest mostly employed in manufacturing and services - sectors which face downward wage pressures from global competition. Expenditures on educational institutions remain low compared to most other OECD countries with similar GDP per capita.

GDP (purchasing power parity):

\$316.5 billion (2017 est.)

\$304.4 billion (2016 est.)

\$296.6 billion (2015 est.)

note : data are in 2017 dollars

country comparison to the world : 5555

GDP (official exchange rate):

\$350.6 billion (2017 est.)

GDP - real growth rate:

3.3% (2017 est.)

4% (2016 est.)

2.6% (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 100100

GDP - per capita (PPP):

\$36,300 (2017 est.)

\$35,600 (2016 est.)

\$35,400 (2015 est.)

note : data are in 2017 dollarsdata are in 2017 dollars

country comparison to the world : 5454

Gross national saving:

23.7% of GDP (2017 est.)

24% of GDP (2016 est.)

24.7% of GDP (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 6767

GDP - composition, by end use:

household consumption : 55.4%55.4%

government consumption : 22%22%

investment in fixed capital : 20.5%20.5%

investment in inventories : 0.2%0.2%

exports of goods and services : 29.8%29.8%

imports of goods and services : -27.9% (2017 est.)-27.9% (2017 est.)

GDP - composition, by sector of origin:

agriculture : 2.3%2.3%

industry : 26.6%26.6%

services : 69.5% (2017 est.)69.5% (2017 est.)

Agriculture - products:

citrus, vegetables, cotton; beef, poultry, dairy products

Industries:

high-technology products (including aviation, communications, computer-aided design and manufactures, medical electronics, fiber optics), wood and paper products, potash and phosphates, food, beverages, and tobacco, caustic soda, cement, pharmaceuticals, construction, metal products, chemical products, plastics, cut diamonds, textiles, footwear

Industrial production growth rate:

4% (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 6868

Labor force:

4.021 million (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 9494

Labor force - by occupation:

agriculture : 1.1%1.1%

industry : 17.3%17.3%

services : 81.6% (2015 est.)81.6% (2015 est.)

Unemployment rate:

4.3% (2017 est.)

4.8% (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 5757

Population below poverty line:

22% (2014 est.)

note : Israel's poverty line is \$7.30 per person per dayIsrael's poverty line is \$7.30 per person per day

Household income or consumption by percentage share:

lowest 10% : 1.7%1.7%

highest 10% : 31.3% (2010)31.3% (2010)

Distribution of family income - Gini index:

42.8 (2013)

39.2 (2008)

country comparison to the world : 4848

Budget:

revenues : \$92.82 billion\$92.82 billion

expenditures : \$102.1 billion (2017 est.)\$102.1 billion (2017 est.)

Taxes and other revenues:

26.7% of GDP (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 109109

Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-):

-2.7% of GDP (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 110110

Public debt:

61% of GDP (2017 est.)

62.3% of GDP (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 7070

Fiscal year:

calendar year

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

0.2% (2017 est.)

-0.5% (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 1616

Central bank discount rate:

0.1% (15 December 2015)

0.25% (31 December 2014)

country comparison to the world : 140140

Commercial bank prime lending rate:

3.3% (31 December 2017 est.)

3.42% (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 168168

Stock of narrow money:

\$98.28 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$79.58 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 4040

Stock of broad money:

\$223.1 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$189 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 3737

Stock of domestic credit:

\$280.8 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$257.5 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 3939

Market value of publicly traded shares:

\$243.9 billion (31 December 2015 est.)

\$200.5 billion (31 December 2014 est.)

\$203.3 billion (31 December 2013 est.)

country comparison to the world : 3232

Current account balance:

\$10.39 billion (2017 est.)

\$11.17 billion (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 2222

Exports:

\$60.6 billion (2017 est.)

\$56.17 billion (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 4646

Exports - commodities:

machinery and equipment, software, cut diamonds, agricultural products, chemicals, textiles and apparel

Exports - partners:

US 28.8%, UK 8.2%, Hong Kong 7%, China 5.4%, Belgium 4.5% (2017)

Imports:

\$66.76 billion (2017 est.)

\$63.54 billion (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 4444

Imports - commodities:

raw materials, military equipment, investment goods, rough diamonds, fuels, grain, consumer goods

Imports - partners:

US 11.7%, China 9.5%, Switzerland 8%, Germany 6.8%, UK 6.2%, Belgium 5.9%, Netherlands 4.2%, Turkey 4.2%, Italy 4% (2017)

Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:

\$113 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$95.45 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 2424

Debt - external:

\$93.02 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$87.96 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 5151

Stock of direct foreign investment - at home:

\$119.4 billion (31 December 2017 est.)
\$107.3 billion (31 December 2016 est.)
country comparison to the world : 4343

Stock of direct foreign investment - abroad:

\$106.9 billion (31 December 2017 est.)
\$98.11 billion (31 December 2016 est.)
country comparison to the world : 3535

Exchange rates:

new Israeli shekels (ILS) per US dollar -
3.61 (2017 est.)
3.84 (2016 est.)
3.84 (2015 est.)
3.89 (2014 est.)
3.58 (2013 est.)

7.6 Energy

Electricity access:

electrification - total population : 100% (2016)100% (2016)

Electricity - production:

60.44 billion kWh (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world : 4949

Electricity - consumption:

52.78 billion kWh (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world : 4949

Electricity - exports:

5.2 billion kWh (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world : 3636

Electricity - imports:

0 kWh (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 161161

Electricity - installed generating capacity:

17.22 million kW (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 4747

Electricity - from fossil fuels:

95.5% of total installed capacity (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 5050

Electricity - from nuclear fuels:

0% of total installed capacity (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 112112

Electricity - from hydroelectric plants:

0% of total installed capacity (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 181181

Electricity - from other renewable sources:

4.9% of total installed capacity (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 9797

Crude oil - production:

390 bbl/day (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 9494

Crude oil - exports:

0 bbl/day (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 139139

Crude oil - imports:

215,600 bbl/day (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 2828

Crude oil - proved reserves:

12.73 million bbl (1 January 2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 9191

Refined petroleum products - production:

278,300 bbl/day (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 4444

Refined petroleum products - consumption:

199,900 bbl/day (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 5656

Refined petroleum products - exports:

115,700 bbl/day (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 4141

Refined petroleum products - imports:

98,020 bbl/day (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 5757

Natural gas - production:

8.5 billion cu m (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 4545

Natural gas - consumption:

8.66 billion cu m (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 5050

Natural gas - exports:

2.605 billion cu m (2011 est.)

country comparison to the world : 3636

Natural gas - imports:

160 million cu m (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 7171

Natural gas - proved reserves:

176 billion cu m (1 January 2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 4747

Carbon dioxide emissions from consumption of energy:

62.5 million Mt (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world : 5151

7.7 Communications

Telephones - fixed lines:

total subscriptions : 3.24 million3.24 million

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants : 39 (2017 est.)39 (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 4242

Telephones - mobile cellular:

total subscriptions : 10.54 million10.54 million

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants : 127 (2017 est.)127 (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 8282

Telephone system:

general assessment : most highly developed system in the Middle Eastmost highly developed system in the Middle East

domestic : good system of coaxial cable and microwave radio relay; all systems are digital; competition among both fixed-line and mobile cellular providers results in good coverage countrywide; Israeli cellular providers upgraded to 4G in 2014
good system of coaxial cable and microwave radio relay; all systems are digital; competition among both fixed-line and mobile cellular providers results in good coverage countrywide; Israeli cellular providers upgraded to 4G in 2014

international : country code - 972; submarine cables provide links to Europe, Cyprus, and parts of the Middle East; satellite earth stations - 3 Intelsat (2 Atlantic Ocean and 1 Indian Ocean) (2018)
country code - 972; submarine cables provide links to Europe, Cyprus, and parts of the Middle East; satellite earth stations - 3 Intelsat (2 Atlantic Ocean and 1 Indian Ocean) (2018)

Broadcast media:

state broadcasting network, operated by the Israel Broadcasting Authority (IBA), broadcasts on 2 channels, one in Hebrew and the other in Arabic; 5 commercial channels including a channel broadcasting in Russian, a channel broadcasting Knesset proceedings, and a music channel supervised by a public body; multi-channel satellite and cable TV packages provide access to foreign channels; IBA broadcasts on 8 radio networks with multiple repeaters and Israel Defense Forces Radio broadcasts over multiple stations; about 15 privately owned radio stations; overall more than 100 stations and repeater stations (2008)

Internet country code:

.il

Internet users:

total : 6,521,5396,521,539

percent of population : 79.8% (July 2016 est.)79.8% (July 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 6565

Broadband - fixed line subscriptions:

total : 2.342 million2.342 million

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants : 28 (2017 est.)28 (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 4949

7.8 Transportation

National air transport system:

number of registered air carriers : 66

inventory of registered aircraft operated by air carriers : 6060

annual passenger traffic on registered air carriers : 6,064,4786,064,478

annual freight traffic on registered air carriers : 758,633,996 mt-km (2015)758,633,996
mt-km (2015)

Civil aircraft registration country code prefix:

4X (2016)

Airports:

47 (2013)

country comparison to the world : 9494

Airports - with paved runways:

total : 2929

over 3,047 m : 22

2,438 to 3,047 m : 55

1,524 to 2,437 m : 66

914 to 1,523 m : 1111

under 914 m : 5 (2017)5 (2017)

Airports - with unpaved runways:

total : 1818

1,524 to 2,437 m : 11

914 to 1,523 m : 33

under 914 m : 14 (2013)14 (2013)

Heliports:

3 (2013)

Pipelines:

gas 763 km; oil 442 km; refined products 261 km (2013)

Railways:

total : 1,250 km1,250 km

standard gauge : 1,250 km 1.435-m gauge (2014)1,250 km 1.435-m gauge (2014)

country comparison to the world : 8484

Roadways:

total : 18,566 km18,566 km

paved : 18,566 km (includes 449 km of expressways) (2011)18,566 km (includes 449 km of expressways) (2011)

country comparison to the world : 115115

Merchant marine:

total : 4242

by type : container ship 5, general cargo 4, oil tanker 3, other 30 (2017)container ship 5, general cargo 4, oil tanker 3, other 30 (2017)

country comparison to the world : 119119

Ports and terminals:

major seaport(s) : Ashdod, Elat (Eilat), Hadera, HaifaAshdod, Elat (Eilat), Hadera, Haifa

container port(s) (TEUs) : Ashdod (1,443,000) (2016)Ashdod (1,443,000) (2016)

7.9 Military and Security

Military expenditures:

5.62% of GDP (2017)

5.64% of GDP (2016)

5.6% of GDP (2015)

5.86% of GDP (2014)

5.75% of GDP (2013)

country comparison to the world : 77

Military branches:

Israel Defense Forces (IDF), Israel Naval Force (IN), Israel Air Force (IAF) (2010)

Military service age and obligation:

18 years of age for compulsory (Jews, Druze) military service; 17 years of age for voluntary (Christians, Muslims, Circassians) military service; both sexes are obligated to military service; conscript service obligation - 32 months for enlisted

men and 24 months for enlisted women (varies based on military occupation), 48 months for officers; pilots commit to 9-year service; reserve obligation to age 41-51 (men), age 24 (women) (2015)

7.10 Terrorism

Terrorist groups - home based:

Kahane Chai (Kach) :

aim(s): expel Arabs from Israel's biblical lands and, ultimately, restore the biblical state of Israel

area(s) of operation: Israel and West Bank settlements

note(s): considered to be operationally inactive in recent years (April 2018)

Terrorist groups - foreign based:

Hizballah :

aim(s): destroy the state of Israel

area(s) of operation: has been operational across Israel in the past, especially in the north; has in the past launched numerous rockets and other airborne projectiles and devices into Israeli towns in many regions; has the capability to launch rockets and missiles (April 2018)

7.11 Transnational Issues

Disputes - international:

West Bank and Gaza Strip are Israeli-occupied with current status subject to the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement - permanent status to be determined through further negotiation; Israel continues construction of a "seam line" separation barrier along parts of the Green Line and within the West Bank; Israel withdrew its settlers and military from the Gaza Strip and from four settlements in the West Bank in August 2005; Golan Heights is Israeli-occupied Syria (Lebanon claims the Shab'a Farms area of Golan Heights); since 1948, about 350 peacekeepers from the UN Truce Supervision Organization headquartered in Jerusalem monitor ceasefires, supervise armistice agreements, prevent isolated incidents from escalating, and assist other UN personnel in the region

Refugees and internally displaced persons:

refugees (country of origin) : 27,812 (Eritrea) (2016); 13,262 (Ukraine) (2017) note - estimate represents asylum applicants since the beginning of the Ukraine crisis in 2014 to September 2017 27,812 (Eritrea) (2016); 13,262 (Ukraine) (2017) note - estimate

represents asylum applicants since the beginning of the Ukraine crisis in 2014 to September 2017

stateless persons : 42 (2017)42 (2017)

Illicit drugs:

increasingly concerned about ecstasy, cocaine, and heroin abuse; drugs arrive in country from Lebanon and, increasingly, from Jordan; money-laundering center

8. Kyrgyzstan

8.1 Introduction

Background:

A Central Asian country of incredible natural beauty and proud nomadic traditions, most of the territory of the present-day Kyrgyz Republic was formally annexed to the Russian Empire in 1876. The Kyrgyz staged a major revolt against the Tsarist Empire in 1916 in which almost one-sixth of the Kyrgyz population was killed. The Kyrgyz Republic became a Soviet republic in 1936 and achieved independence in 1991 when the USSR dissolved. Nationwide demonstrations in 2005 and 2010 resulted in the ouster of the country's first two presidents, Askar AKAEV and Kurmanbek BAKIEV. Interim President Rosa OTUNBAEVA led a transitional government and following a nation-wide election, President Almazbek ATAMBAEV was sworn in as president in 2011. In 2017, ATAMBAEV became the first Kyrgyz president to step down after serving one full six-year term as required in the country's constitution. Former prime minister and ruling Social-Democratic Party of Kyrgyzstan member Sooronbai JEENBEKOV replaced him after winning an October 2017 presidential election that was the most competitive in the country's history, although international and local election observers noted cases of vote buying and abuse of public resources. The president holds substantial powers as head of state even though the prime minister oversees the Kyrgyz Government and selects most cabinet members. The president represents the country internationally and can sign or veto laws, call for new elections, and nominate Supreme Court judges, cabinet members for posts related to security or defense, and numerous other high-level positions. Continuing concerns for the Kyrgyz Republic include the trajectory of democratization, endemic corruption, a history of tense, at times violent, interethnic relations, border security vulnerabilities, and potential terrorist threats.

8.2 Geography

Location:

Central Asia, west of China, south of Kazakhstan

Geographic coordinates:

41 00 N, 75 00 E

Map references:

Asia

Area:

total : 199,951 sq km199,951 sq km

land : 191,801 sq km191,801 sq km

water : 8,150 sq km8,150 sq km

country comparison to the world : 8888

Area - comparative:

slightly smaller than South Dakota

Land boundaries:

total : 4,573 km4,573 km

border countries (4) : China 1,063 km, Kazakhstan 1,212 km, Tajikistan 984 km, Uzbekistan 1,314 kmChina 1,063 km, Kazakhstan 1,212 km, Tajikistan 984 km, Uzbekistan 1,314 km

Coastline:

0 km (landlocked)

Maritime claims:

none (landlocked)

Climate:

dry continental to polar in high Tien Shan Mountains; subtropical in southwest (Fergana Valley); temperate in northern foothill zone

Terrain:

peaks of the Tien Shan mountain range and associated valleys and basins encompass the entire country

Elevation:

mean elevation : 2,988 m2,988 m

elevation extremes : lowest point: Kara-Daryya (Karadar'ya) 132 mlowest point: Kara-Daryya (Karadar'ya) 132 m

highest point: Jengish Chokusu (Pik Pobedy) 7,439 m

Natural resources:

abundant hydropower; gold, rare earth metals; locally exploitable coal, oil, and natural gas; other deposits of nepheline, mercury, bismuth, lead, and zinc

Land use:

agricultural land : 55.4%55.4%

arable land 6.7%; permanent crops 0.4%; permanent pasture 48.3%

forest : 5.1%5.1%

other : 39.5% (2011 est.)39.5% (2011 est.)

Irrigated land:

10,233 sq km (2012)

Population - distribution:

the vast majority of Kyrgyzstanis live in rural areas; densest population settlement is to the north in and around the capital, Bishkek, followed by Osh in the west; the least densely populated area is the east, southeast in the Tien Shan mountains

Natural hazards:

major flooding during snow melt; prone to earthquakes

Environment - current issues:

water pollution; many people get their water directly from contaminated streams and wells; as a result, water-borne diseases are prevalent; increasing soil salinity from faulty irrigation practices; air pollution due to rapid increase of traffic

Environment - international agreements:

party to : Air Pollution, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Hazardous Wastes, Ozone Layer Protection, WetlandsAir Pollution, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Hazardous Wastes, Ozone Layer Protection, Wetlands

signed, but not ratified : none of the selected agreementsnone of the selected agreements

Geography - note:

landlocked; entirely mountainous, dominated by the Tien Shan range; 94% of the country is 1,000 m above sea level with an average elevation of 2,750 m; many tall peaks, glaciers, and high-altitude lakes

8.3 People and Society

Population:

5,789,122 (July 2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 114114

Nationality:

noun : Kyrgyzstani(s)Kyrgyzstani(s)

adjective : KyrgyzstaniKyrgyzstani

Ethnic groups:

Kyrgyz 73.2%, Uzbek 14.6%, Russian 5.8%, Dungan 1.1%, other 5.3% (includes Uyghur, Tajik, Turk, Kazakh, Tatar, Ukrainian, Korean, German) (2017 est.)

Languages:

Kyrgyz (official) 71.4%, Uzbek 14.4%, Russian (official) 9%, other 5.2% (2009 est.)

Religions:

Muslim 75%, Russian Orthodox 20%, other 5%

Age structure:

0-14 years : 30.3% (male 899,545/female 854,745)30.3% (male 899,545/female 854,745)

15-24 years : 16.79% (male 493,924/female 478,217)16.79% (male 493,924/female 478,217)

25-54 years : 39.84% (male 1,130,422/female 1,175,729)39.84% (male 1,130,422/female 1,175,729)

55-64 years : 7.8% (male 196,856/female 254,694)7.8% (male 196,856/female 254,694)

65 years and over : 5.27% (male 116,584/female 188,406) (2017 est.)5.27% (male 116,584/female 188,406) (2017 est.)

Dependency ratios:

total dependency ratio : 54.754.7
youth dependency ratio : 48.148.1
elderly dependency ratio : 6.66.6
potential support ratio : 15.1 (2015 est.)15.1 (2015 est.)

Median age:

total : 26.5 years26.5 years
male : 25.4 years25.4 years
female : 27.6 years (2017 est.)27.6 years (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 147147

Population growth rate:

1.05% (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 107107

Birth rate:

22.1 births/1,000 population (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 7272

Death rate:

6.5 deaths/1,000 population (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 143143

Net migration rate:

-5.1 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 192192

Population distribution:

the vast majority of Kyrgyzstanis live in rural areas; densest population settlement is to the north in and around the capital, Bishkek, followed by Osh in the west; the least densely populated area is the east, southeast in the Tien Shan mountains

Urbanization:

urban population : 36.4% of total population (2018)36.4% of total population (2018)

rate of urbanization : 2.03% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)2.03% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

Major urban areas - population:

BISHKEK (capital) 996,000 (2018)

Sex ratio:

at birth : 1.06 male(s)/female1.06 male(s)/female

0-14 years : 1.05 male(s)/female1.05 male(s)/female

15-24 years : 1.03 male(s)/female1.03 male(s)/female

25-54 years : 0.96 male(s)/female0.96 male(s)/female

55-64 years : 0.77 male(s)/female0.77 male(s)/female

65 years and over : 0.62 male(s)/female0.62 male(s)/female

total population : 0.96 male(s)/female (2017 est.)0.96 male(s)/female (2017 est.)

Mother's mean age at first birth:

23.2 years (2014 est.)

Maternal mortality ratio:

76 deaths/100,000 live births (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 8282

Infant mortality rate:

total : 25.9 deaths/1,000 live births25.9 deaths/1,000 live births

male : 30 deaths/1,000 live births30 deaths/1,000 live births

female : 21.5 deaths/1,000 live births (2017 est.)21.5 deaths/1,000 live births (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 6868

Life expectancy at birth:

total population : 70.9 years70.9 years

male : 66.8 years66.8 years

female : 75.4 years (2017 est.)75.4 years (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 156156

Total fertility rate:

2.61 children born/woman (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 7676

Contraceptive prevalence rate:

42% (2014)

Health expenditures:

6.5% of GDP (2014)
country comparison to the world : 9191

Physicians density:

1.85 physicians/1,000 population (2014)

Hospital bed density:

4.5 beds/1,000 population (2013)

Drinking water source:

improved :
urban: 96.7% of population
rural: 86.2% of population
total: 90% of population
unimproved :
urban: 3.3% of population
rural: 13.8% of population
total: 10% of population (2015 est.)

Sanitation facility access:

improved :
urban: 89.1% of population
rural: 95.6% of population
total: 93.3% of population
unimproved :

urban: 10.9% of population
rural: 4.4% of population
total: 6.7% of population (2015 est.)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:

0.2% (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 9191

HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:

7,600 (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 100100

HIV/AIDS - deaths:

<500 (2017 est.)

Obesity - adult prevalence rate:

16.6% (2016)
country comparison to the world : 121121

Children under the age of 5 years underweight:

2.8% (2014)
country comparison to the world : 101101

Education expenditures:

6% of GDP (2015)
country comparison to the world : 2525

Literacy:

definition : age 15 and over can read and writeage 15 and over can read and write
total population : 99.5%99.5%
male : 99.6%99.6%
female : 99.4% (2015 est.)99.4% (2015 est.)

School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education):

total : 13 years13 years
male : 13 years13 years
female : 13 years (2014)13 years (2014)

Unemployment, youth ages 15-24:

total : 15.5%15.5%
male : 12.7%12.7%
female : 20.6% (2016 est.)20.6% (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world : 8888

8.4 Government

Country name:

conventional long form : Kyrgyz RepublicKyrgyz Republic
conventional short form : KyrgyzstanKyrgyzstan
local long form : Kyrgyz RespublikasyKyrgyz Respublikasy
local short form : KyrgyzstanKyrgyzstan
former : Kirghiz Soviet Socialist RepublicKirghiz Soviet Socialist Republic
etymology : a combination of the Turkic words "kyrg" (forty) and "-yz" (tribes) with the Persian suffix "-stan" (country) creating the meaning "Land of the Forty Tribes"; the name refers to the forty clans united by the legendary Kyrgyz hero, MANASA
combination of the Turkic words "kyrg" (forty) and "-yz" (tribes) with the Persian suffix "-stan" (country) creating the meaning "Land of the Forty Tribes"; the name refers to the forty clans united by the legendary Kyrgyz hero, MANAS

Government type:

parliamentary republic

Capital:

name : BishkekBishkek
geographic coordinates : 42 52 N, 74 36 E42 52 N, 74 36 E
time difference : UTC+6 (11 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)UTC+6 (11 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)

Administrative divisions:

7 provinces (oblasts, singular - oblast) and 2 cities* (shahrs, singular - shahr);
Batken Oblast, Bishkek Shahr*, Chuy Oblast (Bishkek), Jalal-Abad Oblast, Naryn
Oblast, Osh Oblast, Osh Shahr*, Talas Oblast, Ysyk-Kol Oblast (Karakol)

note : administrative divisions have the same names as their administrative
centers (exceptions have the administrative center name following in
parentheses) administrative divisions have the same names as their administrative
centers (exceptions have the administrative center name following in parentheses)

Independence:

31 August 1991 (from the Soviet Union)

National holiday:

Independence Day, 31 August (1991)

Constitution:

history : previous 1993; latest adopted by referendum 27 June 2010, effective 2
July 2010; note - constitutional amendments that bolstered some presidential
powers and transferred others from the president to the prime minister passed in a
referendum in December 2016, effective December 2017 previous 1993; latest adopted
by referendum 27 June 2010, effective 2 July 2010; note - constitutional amendments
that bolstered some presidential powers and transferred others from the president
to the prime minister passed in a referendum in December 2016, effective December
2017

amendments : proposed as a draft law by the majority of the Supreme Council
membership or by petition of 300,000 voters; passage requires at least two-thirds
majority vote of the Council membership in each of at least three readings of the
draft two months apart; the draft may be submitted to a referendum if approved
by two-thirds of the Council membership; adoption requires the signature of the
president; amended 2017 (2018) proposed as a draft law by the majority of the
Supreme Council membership or by petition of 300,000 voters; passage requires at
least two-thirds majority vote of the Council membership in each of at least three
readings of the draft two months apart; the draft may be submitted to a referendum if
approved by two-thirds of the Council membership; adoption requires the signature
of the president; amended 2017 (2018)

Legal system:

civil law system, which includes features of French civil law and Russian Federation
laws

International law organization participation:

has not submitted an ICJ jurisdiction declaration; non-party state to the ICCt

Citizenship:

citizenship by birth : nono

**citizenship by descent only : at least one parent must be a citizen of Kyrgyzstanat
least one parent must be a citizen of Kyrgyzstan**

**dual citizenship recognized : yes, but only if a mutual treaty on dual citizenship is in
forceyes, but only if a mutual treaty on dual citizenship is in force**

residency requirement for naturalization : 5 years5 years

Suffrage:

18 years of age; universal

Executive branch:

**chief of state : President Sooronbay JEENBEKOV (since 24 November 2017)President
Sooronbay JEENBEKOV (since 24 November 2017)**

**head of government : Prime Minister Mukhammedkalyy ABYLGAZIEV (since 20 April
2018); First Deputy Prime Minister Kubatbek BORONOV (since 20 April 2018); Deputy
Prime Minister Jengish RAZAKOV (since 20 April 2018); Deputy Prime Minister
Altynay OMURBEKOVA (since 20 April 2018); Deputy Prime Minister Zamirbek
ASKAROV (since 20 April 2018)Prime Minister Mukhammedkalyy ABYLGAZIEV
(since 20 April 2018); First Deputy Prime Minister Kubatbek BORONOV (since 20
April 2018); Deputy Prime Minister Jengish RAZAKOV (since 20 April 2018); Deputy
Prime Minister Altynay OMURBEKOVA (since 20 April 2018); Deputy Prime Minister
Zamirbek ASKAROV (since 20 April 2018)**

**cabinet : Cabinet of Ministers proposed by the prime minister, appointed by the
president upon approval by the Supreme Council; defense and security committee
chairs appointed by the presidentCabinet of Ministers proposed by the prime
minister, appointed by the president upon approval by the Supreme Council; defense
and security committee chairs appointed by the president**

**elections/appointments : president directly elected by absolute majority popular vote
in 2 rounds if needed for a single 6-year term; election last held on 15 October 2017
(next to be held in October 2023); prime minister nominated by the majority party or
majority coalition in the Supreme Council, appointed by the president upon approval
by the Supreme Councilpresident directly elected by absolute majority popular vote
in 2 rounds if needed for a single 6-year term; election last held on 15 October 2017
(next to be held in October 2023); prime minister nominated by the majority party or
majority coalition in the Supreme Council, appointed by the president upon approval
by the Supreme Council**

**election results : Sooronbay JEENBEKOV elected president in first round; percent
of vote - Sooronbay JEENBEKOV (SDPK) 54.2%, Omurbek BABANOV (Respublika)
33.5%, Adakhan MADUMAROV (Butun Kyrgyzstan) 6.6%, Temir SARIYEV (Akshumar)
2.5%, other 3.2%; note - Sapar ISAKOV elected prime minister; Supreme Council vote
- 97 to 5Sooronbay JEENBEKOV elected president in first round; percent of vote -
Sooronbay JEENBEKOV (SDPK) 54.2%, Omurbek BABANOV (Respublika) 33.5%,
Adakhan MADUMAROV (Butun Kyrgyzstan) 6.6%, Temir SARIYEV (Akshumar) 2.5%,**

other 3.2%; note - Sapar ISAKOV elected prime minister; Supreme Council vote - 97 to 5

Legislative branch:

description : unicameral Supreme Council or Jogorku Kenesh (120 seats; parties directly elected in a single nationwide constituency by closed party-list proportional representation vote; members selected from party lists to serve 5-year terms)unicameral Supreme Council or Jogorku Kenesh (120 seats; parties directly elected in a single nationwide constituency by closed party-list proportional representation vote; members selected from party lists to serve 5-year terms)

elections : last held on 4 October 2015 (next to be held in 2020)last held on 4 October 2015 (next to be held in 2020)

election results : percent of vote by party - SDPK 27.4%, Respublika-Ata-Jurt 20.1%, Kyrgyzstan Party 12.9%, Onuguu-Progress 9.3%, Bir Bol 8.5%, Ata-Meken 7.7%, other 14.1%; seats by party - SDPK 38, Respublika-Ata-Jurt 28, Kyrgyzstan Party 18, Onuguu-Progress 13, Bir Bol 12, Ata-Meken 11; composition - men 97, women 23, percent of women 19.2%percent of vote by party - SDPK 27.4%, Respublika-Ata-Jurt 20.1%, Kyrgyzstan Party 12.9%, Onuguu-Progress 9.3%, Bir Bol 8.5%, Ata-Meken 7.7%, other 14.1%; seats by party - SDPK 38, Respublika-Ata-Jurt 28, Kyrgyzstan Party 18, Onuguu-Progress 13, Bir Bol 12, Ata-Meken 11; composition - men 97, women 23, percent of women 19.2%

Judicial branch:

highest court(s) : Supreme Court (consists of 25 judges); Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court (consists of the chairperson, deputy chairperson, and 9 judges)Supreme Court (consists of 25 judges); Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court (consists of the chairperson, deputy chairperson, and 9 judges)

judge selection and term of office : Supreme Court and Constitutional Court judges appointed by the Supreme Council on the recommendation of the president; Supreme Court judges serve for 10 years, Constitutional Court judges serve for 15 years; mandatory retirement at age 70 for judges of both courtsSupreme Court and Constitutional Court judges appointed by the Supreme Council on the recommendation of the president; Supreme Court judges serve for 10 years, Constitutional Court judges serve for 15 years; mandatory retirement at age 70 for judges of both courts

subordinate courts : Higher Court of Arbitration; oblast (provincial) and city courtsHigher Court of Arbitration; oblast (provincial) and city courts

Political parties and leaders:

Ata-Jurt (Homeland) [Kamchybek TASHIEV]

Ata-Meken (Fatherland) [Omurbek TEKEBAEV]

Bir Bol (Stay United) [Altynbek SULAIMANOV]

Butun Kyrgyzstan (United Kyrgyzstan) [Adakhan MADUMAROV]

Kyrgyzstan Party [Almazbek BAATYRBEOV]

Onuguu-Progress [Bakyt TOROBAEV]

Respublika (Republic) [Ruslan KAZAKBAEV]

Respublika-Ata-Jurt (Republic-Homeland) [Ruslan KAZAKBAEV] (parliamentary faction)

Social-Democratic Party of Kyrgyzstan or SDPK [Almazbek ATAMBAEV]

International organization participation:

ADB, CICA, CIS, CSTO, EAEC, EAEU, EAPC, EBRD, ECO, EITI (compliant country), FAO, GCTU, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC (NGOs), ICRM, IDA, IDB, IFAD, IFC, IFRCS, ILO, IMF, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO (correspondent), ITSO, ITU, MIGA, NAM (observer), OIC, OPCW, OSCE, PCA, PFP, SCO, UN, UNAMID, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNISFA, UNMIL, UNMISS, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WFTU (NGOs), WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

Diplomatic representation in the US:

chief of mission : Ambassador Kadyr TOKTOGULOV (since 23 February 2015)Ambassador Kadyr TOKTOGULOV (since 23 February 2015)

chancery : 2360 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 200082360 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20008

telephone : [1] (202) 449-9822[1] (202) 449-9822

FAX : [1] (202) 449-8275[1] (202) 449-8275

honorary consulate(s) : Maple Valley, WAMaple Valley, WA

Diplomatic representation from the US:

chief of mission : Ambassador (vacant); Charge d'Affaires Alan MELTZER (since 4 August 2017)Ambassador (vacant); Charge d'Affaires Alan MELTZER (since 4 August 2017)

embassy : 171 Prospect Mira, Bishkek 720016171 Prospect Mira, Bishkek 720016

mailing address : use embassy street addressuse embassy street address

telephone : [996] (312) 597-000[996] (312) 597-000

FAX : [996] (312) 597-744[996] (312) 597-744

Flag description:

red field with a yellow sun in the center having 40 rays representing the 40 Kyrgyz tribes; on the obverse side the rays run counterclockwise, on the reverse, clockwise; in the center of the sun is a red ring crossed by two sets of three lines, a stylized representation of a "tunduk" - the crown of a traditional Kyrgyz yurt; red symbolizes bravery and valor, the sun evinces peace and wealth

National symbol(s):

white falcon; national colors: red, yellow

National anthem:

name : "Kyrgyz Respublikasynyn Mamlekettik Gimni" (National Anthem of the Kyrgyz Republic)"Kyrgyz Respublikasynyn Mamlekettik Gimni" (National Anthem of the Kyrgyz Republic)

lyrics/music : Djamil SADYKOV and Eshmambet KULUEV/Nasyr DAVLESOV and Kalyi MOLDOBASANOVDjamil SADYKOV and Eshmambet KULUEV/Nasyr DAVLESOV and Kalyi MOLDOBASANOV

note : adopted 1992adopted 1992

8.5 Economy

Economy - overview:

Kyrgyzstan is a landlocked, mountainous, lower middle income country with an economy dominated by minerals extraction, agriculture, and reliance on remittances from citizens working abroad. Cotton, wool, and meat are the main agricultural products, although only cotton is exported in any quantity. Other exports include gold, mercury, uranium, natural gas, and - in some years - electricity. The country has sought to attract foreign investment to expand its export base, including construction of hydroelectric dams, but a difficult investment climate and an ongoing legal battle with a Canadian firm over the joint ownership structure of the nation's largest gold mine deter potential investors. Remittances from Kyrgyz migrant workers, predominantly in Russia and Kazakhstan, are equivalent to more than one-quarter of Kyrgyzstan's GDP.

Following independence, Kyrgyzstan rapidly implemented market reforms, such as improving the regulatory system and instituting land reform. In 1998, Kyrgyzstan was the first Commonwealth of Independent States country to be accepted into the World Trade Organization. The government has privatized much of its ownership shares in public enterprises. Despite these reforms, the country suffered a severe drop in production in the early 1990s and has again faced slow growth in recent years as the global financial crisis and declining oil prices have dampened economies across Central Asia. The Kyrgyz government remains dependent on foreign donor support to finance its annual budget deficit of approximately 3 to 5% of GDP.

Kyrgyz leaders hope the country's August 2015 accession to the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) will bolster trade and investment, but slowing economies in Russia and China and low commodity prices continue to hamper economic growth. Large-scale trade and investment pledged by Kyrgyz leaders has been slow to develop. Many Kyrgyz entrepreneurs and politicians complain that non-tariff measures imposed by other EAEU member states are hurting certain sectors of the Kyrgyz economy, such as meat and dairy production, in which they have comparative advantage. Since acceding to the EAEU, the Kyrgyz Republic has

continued harmonizing its laws and regulations to meet EAEU standards, though many local entrepreneurs believe this process as disjointed and incomplete. Kyrgyzstan's economic development continues to be hampered by corruption, lack of administrative transparency, lack of diversity in domestic industries, and difficulty attracting foreign aid and investment.

GDP (purchasing power parity):

\$22.97 billion (2017 est.)

\$22.12 billion (2016 est.)

\$21.3 billion (2015 est.)

note : data are in 2017 dollarsdata are in 2017 dollars

country comparison to the world : 144144

GDP (official exchange rate):

\$7.163 billion (2017 est.)

GDP - real growth rate:

4.5% (2017 est.)

3.8% (2016 est.)

3.9% (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 6060

GDP - per capita (PPP):

\$3,700 (2017 est.)

\$3,600 (2016 est.)

\$3,500 (2015 est.)

note : data are in 2017 dollarsdata are in 2017 dollars

country comparison to the world : 185185

Gross national saving:

25.4% of GDP (2017 est.)

20.8% of GDP (2016 est.)

18.3% of GDP (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 5757

GDP - composition, by end use:

household consumption : 85.8%85.8%
government consumption : 18%18%
investment in fixed capital : 32.7%32.7%
investment in inventories : 2.9%2.9%
exports of goods and services : 37.2%37.2%
imports of goods and services : -76.5% (2017 est.)-76.5% (2017 est.)

GDP - composition, by sector of origin:

agriculture : 14.3%14.3%
industry : 32.5%32.5%
services : 53.2% (2017 est.)53.2% (2017 est.)

Agriculture - products:

cotton, potatoes, vegetables, grapes, fruits and berries; sheep, goats, cattle, wool

Industries:

small machinery, textiles, food processing, cement, shoes, lumber, refrigerators, furniture, electric motors, gold, rare earth metals

Industrial production growth rate:

17.3% (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 22

Labor force:

2.841 million (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 108108

Labor force - by occupation:

agriculture : 48%48%
industry : 12.5%12.5%
services : 39.5% (2005 est.)39.5% (2005 est.)

Unemployment rate:

7.4% (2017 est.)
7.5% (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 113113

Population below poverty line:

32.1% (2015 est.)

Household income or consumption by percentage share:

lowest 10% : 4.4%4.4%

highest 10% : 22.9% (2014 est.)22.9% (2014 est.)

Distribution of family income - Gini index:

33.4 (2007)

29 (2001)

country comparison to the world : 112112

Budget:

revenues : \$2.05 billion\$2.05 billion

expenditures : \$2.304 billion (2017 est.)\$2.304 billion (2017 est.)

Taxes and other revenues:

29% of GDP (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 8686

Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-):

-3.6% of GDP (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 137137

Public debt:

59.1% of GDP (2017 est.)

58.1% of GDP (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 7575

Fiscal year:

calendar year

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

3.2% (2017 est.)

0.4% (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 138138

Central bank discount rate:

5% (31 December 2016)

8% (31 December 2015)

country comparison to the world : 7979

Commercial bank prime lending rate:

20.1% (31 December 2017 est.)

22.23% (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 1616

Stock of narrow money:

\$1.82 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$1.411 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 135135

Stock of broad money:

\$2.176 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$1.667 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 155155

Stock of domestic credit:

\$1.944 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$1.444 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 152152

Market value of publicly traded shares:

\$165 million (31 December 2012 est.)

\$165 million (31 December 2011 est.)

\$79 million (31 December 2010 est.)
country comparison to the world : 119119

Current account balance:

-\$558 million (2017 est.)
-\$792 million (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world : 121121

Exports:

\$1.768 billion (2017 est.)
\$1.544 billion (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world : 145145

Exports - commodities:

gold, cotton, wool, garments, meat; mercury, uranium, electricity; machinery; shoes

Exports - partners:

Switzerland 59.1%, Uzbekistan 9.4%, Kazakhstan 5.1%, Russia 4.9%, UK 4% (2017)

Imports:

\$4.326 billion (2017 est.)
\$3.644 billion (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world : 132132

Imports - commodities:

oil and gas, machinery and equipment, chemicals, foodstuffs

Imports - partners:

China 32.6%, Russia 24.8%, Kazakhstan 16.4%, Turkey 4.8%, US 4.2% (2017)

Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:

\$2.411 billion (31 December 2017 est.)
\$1.97 billion (31 December 2016 est.)
country comparison to the world : 113113

Debt - external:

\$8.679 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$8.182 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 120120

Stock of direct foreign investment - at home:

\$5.86 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$5.21 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 105105

Stock of direct foreign investment - abroad:

\$675.5 million (31 December 2017 est.)

\$655.5 million (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 8989

Exchange rates:

soms (KGS) per US dollar -

68.35 (2017 est.)

69.91 (2016 est.)

69.91 (2015 est.)

64.46 (2014 est.)

53.65 (2013 est.)

8.6 Energy

Electricity access:

electrification - total population : 100% (2016)100% (2016)

Electricity - production:

12.8 billion kWh (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 9393

Electricity - consumption:

10.68 billion kWh (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 9292

Electricity - exports:

184 million kWh (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 7777

Electricity - imports:

729 million kWh (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 7575

Electricity - installed generating capacity:

3.89 million kW (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 9191

Electricity - from fossil fuels:

20.6% of total installed capacity (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 192192

Electricity - from nuclear fuels:

0% of total installed capacity (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 119119

Electricity - from hydroelectric plants:

79.4% of total installed capacity (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 1616

Electricity - from other renewable sources:

0% of total installed capacity (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 189189

Crude oil - production:

1,000 bbl/day (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 9090

Crude oil - exports:

19.65 bbl/day (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world : 8080

Crude oil - imports:

100 bbl/day (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world : 8282

Crude oil - proved reserves:

40 million bbl (1 January 2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 8383

Refined petroleum products - production:

1,776 bbl/day (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world : 104104

Refined petroleum products - consumption:

33,000 bbl/day (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 118118

Refined petroleum products - exports:

2,698 bbl/day (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world : 105105

Refined petroleum products - imports:

31,960 bbl/day (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world : 101101

Natural gas - production:

30 million cu m (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 8888

Natural gas - consumption:

180 million cu m (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 104104

Natural gas - exports:

0 cu m (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world : 127127

Natural gas - imports:

160 million cu m (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 7272

Natural gas - proved reserves:

5.663 billion cu m (1 January 2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 9595

Carbon dioxide emissions from consumption of energy:

9.4 million Mt (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world : 106106

8.7 Communications

Telephones - fixed lines:

total subscriptions : 362,288362,288

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants : 6 (2017 est.)6 (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 106106

Telephones - mobile cellular:

total subscriptions : 7,369,9277,369,927

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants : 127 (2017 est.)127 (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 103103

Telephone system:

general assessment : telecommunications infrastructure is being upgraded; loans from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development are being used to install a digital network, digital radio-relay stations, and fiber-optic links; a combination of grants and loans from the World Bank are being used to develop regional digital connectivity infrastructure under the Digital Central Asia and South Asia Project (2018)telecommunications infrastructure is being upgraded; loans from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development are being used to install a digital network, digital radio-relay stations, and fiber-optic links; a combination of grants and loans from the World Bank are being used to develop regional digital connectivity infrastructure under the Digital Central Asia and South Asia Project (2018)

domestic : fixed-line penetration remains low and concentrated in urban areas; 3 mobile-cellular service providers with growing coverage; mobile-cellular subscribership up to over 130 per 100 persons (2016)fixed-line penetration remains low and concentrated in urban areas; 3 mobile-cellular service providers with growing coverage; mobile-cellular subscribership up to over 130 per 100 persons (2016)

international : country code - 996; connections with other CIS countries by landline or microwave radio relay and with other countries by leased connections with Moscow international gateway switch and by satellite; satellite earth stations - 2 (1 Intersputnik, 1 Intelsat); connected internationally by the Trans-Asia-Europe (TAE) fiber-optic line (2016)country code - 996; connections with other CIS countries by landline or microwave radio relay and with other countries by leased connections with Moscow international gateway switch and by satellite; satellite earth stations - 2 (1 Intersputnik, 1 Intelsat); connected internationally by the Trans-Asia-Europe (TAE) fiber-optic line (2016)

Broadcast media:

state-funded public TV broadcaster KTRK has nationwide coverage; also operates Ala-Too 24 news channel which broadcasts 24/7; ELTR is a state-owned station with national reach; the switchover to digital TV in 2017 resulted in private TV station growth; approximately 20 stations primarily rebroadcast programs from Russian channels; 3 Russian TV stations also broadcast; 1 state-funded radio station and about 10 significant private radio stations (2018)

Internet country code:

.kg

Internet users:

total : 1,976,0061,976,006

percent of population : 34.5% (July 2016 est.)34.5% (July 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 115115

Broadband - fixed line subscriptions:

total : 258,013258,013

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants : 4 (2017 est.)4 (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 100100

8.8 Transportation

National air transport system:

number of registered air carriers : 33

inventory of registered aircraft operated by air carriers : 1010

annual passenger traffic on registered air carriers : 625,294625,294

annual freight traffic on registered air carriers : 69,290 mt-km (2015)69,290 mt-km (2015)

Civil aircraft registration country code prefix:

EX (2016)

Airports:

28 (2013)

country comparison to the world : 122122

Airports - with paved runways:

total : 1818

over 3,047 m : 11

2,438 to 3,047 m : 33

1,524 to 2,437 m : 1111

under 914 m : 3 (2017)3 (2017)

Airports - with unpaved runways:

total : 1010

1,524 to 2,437 m : 11

914 to 1,523 m : 11

under 914 m : 8 (2013)8 (2013)

Pipelines:

gas 3,566 km (2018); oil 16 km (2013)

Railways:

total : 424 km424 km

broad gauge : 424 km 1.520-m gauge (2018)424 km 1.520-m gauge (2018)

country comparison to the world : 116116

Roadways:

total : 34,000 km (2018)34,000 km (2018)

country comparison to the world : 9494

Waterways:

600 km (2010)

country comparison to the world : 7878

Ports and terminals:

lake port(s) : Balykchy (Ysyk-Kol or Rybach'ye)(Lake Ysyk-Kol)Balykchy (Ysyk-Kol or Rybach'ye)(Lake Ysyk-Kol)

8.9 Military and Security

Military expenditures:

3.15% of GDP (2016)

3.45% of GDP (2015)

3.38% of GDP (2014)

3.2% of GDP (2013)

3.21% of GDP (2012)

country comparison to the world : 2727

Military branches:

Land Forces, Air Defense Forces, National Guard, State Border Service, and State Committee on Defense Affairs (GKDO) (2017)

Military service age and obligation:

18-27 years of age for compulsory or voluntary male military service in the Armed Forces or Interior Ministry; 1-year service obligation, with optional fee-based 3-year service in the call-up mobilization reserve; women may volunteer at age 19; 16-17 years of age for military cadets, who cannot take part in military operations (2013)

8.10 Transnational Issues

Disputes - international:

Kyrgyzstan has yet to ratify the 2001 boundary delimitation with Kazakhstan; disputes in Isfara Valley delay completion of delimitation with Tajikistan; delimitation of 130 km of border with Uzbekistan is hampered by serious disputes over enclaves and other areas

Refugees and internally displaced persons:

stateless persons : 855 (2017); note - most stateless people were born in Kyrgyzstan, have lived there many years, or married Kyrgyz citizens; in 2009, Kyrgyzstan adopted a national action plan to speed up the exchange of old Soviet passports for Kyrgyz ones; between 2014 and 2016, Kyrgyzstan has resolved nearly 9,000 stateless cases; stateless people are unable to register marriages and births, to travel within the country or abroad, to own property, or to receive social benefits855 (2017); note - most stateless people were born in Kyrgyzstan, have lived there many years, or married Kyrgyz citizens; in 2009, Kyrgyzstan adopted a national action plan to speed up the exchange of old Soviet passports for Kyrgyz ones; between 2014 and 2016, Kyrgyzstan has resolved nearly 9,000 stateless cases; stateless people are unable to register marriages and births, to travel within the country or abroad, to own property, or to receive social benefits

Illicit drugs:

limited illicit cultivation of cannabis and opium poppy for CIS markets; limited government eradication of illicit crops; transit point for Southwest Asian narcotics bound for Russia and the rest of Europe; major consumer of opiates

9. Montserrat

9.1 Introduction

Background:

English and Irish colonists from St. Kitts first settled on Montserrat in 1632; the first African slaves arrived three decades later. The British and French fought for possession of the island for most of the 18th century, but it finally was confirmed as a British possession in 1783. The island's sugar plantation economy was converted to small farm landholdings in the mid-19th century. Much of this island was devastated and two-thirds of the population fled abroad because of the eruption of the Soufriere Hills Volcano that began on 18 July 1995. Montserrat has endured volcanic activity since, with the last eruption occurring in 2013.

9.2 Geography

Location:

Caribbean, island in the Caribbean Sea, southeast of Puerto Rico

Geographic coordinates:

16 45 N, 62 12 W

Map references:

Central America and the Caribbean

Area:

total : 102 sq km102 sq km

land : 102 sq km102 sq km

water : 0 sq km0 sq km

country comparison to the world : 226226

Area - comparative:

about 0.6 times the size of Washington, DC

Land boundaries:

0 km

Coastline:

40 km

Maritime claims:

territorial sea : 12 nm12 nm

exclusive fishing zone : 200 nm200 nm

Climate:

tropical; little daily or seasonal temperature variation

Terrain:

volcanic island, mostly mountainous, with small coastal lowland

Elevation:

mean elevation : NANA

elevation extremes : lowest point: Caribbean Sea 0 mlowest point: Caribbean Sea 0 m

highest point: Soufriere Hills volcano pre-eruption height was 915 m; current lava dome is subject to periodic build up and collapse; estimated dome height was 1050 m in 2015

Natural resources:

NEGL

Land use:

agricultural land : 30%30%

arable land 20%; permanent crops 0%; permanent pasture 10%

forest : 25%25%

other : 45% (2011 est.)45% (2011 est.)

Irrigated land:

0 sq km (2012)

Population - distribution:

only the northern half of the island is populated, the southern portion is uninhabitable due to volcanic activity

Natural hazards:

volcanic eruptions; severe hurricanes (June to November)

volcanism : Soufriere Hills volcano (915 m), has erupted continuously since 1995; a massive eruption in 1997 destroyed most of the capital, Plymouth, and resulted in approximately half of the island becoming uninhabitable; the island of Montserrat is part of the volcanic island arc of the Lesser Antilles that extends from Saba in the north to Grenada in the south
Soufriere Hills volcano (915 m), has erupted continuously since 1995; a massive eruption in 1997 destroyed most of the capital, Plymouth, and resulted in approximately half of the island becoming uninhabitable; the island of Montserrat is part of the volcanic island arc of the Lesser Antilles that extends from Saba in the north to Grenada in the south

Environment - current issues:

land erosion occurs on slopes that have been cleared for cultivation

Geography - note:

the island is entirely volcanic in origin and comprised of three major volcanic centers of differing ages

9.3 People and Society

Population:

5,292

note : an estimated 8,000 refugees left the island following the resumption of volcanic activity in July 1995; some have returned (July 2017 est.)
an estimated 8,000 refugees left the island following the resumption of volcanic activity in July 1995; some have returned (July 2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 228228

Nationality:

noun : Montserratian(s)Montserratian(s)

adjective : MontserratianMontserratian

Ethnic groups:

African/black 88.4%, mixed 3.7%, hispanic/Spanish 3%, caucasian/white 2.7%, East Indian/Indian 1.5%, other 0.7% (2011 est.)

Languages:

English

Religions:

Protestant 67.1% (includes Anglican 21.8%, Methodist 17%, Pentecostal 14.1%, Seventh Day Adventist 10.5%, and Church of God 3.7%), Roman Catholic 11.6%, Rastafarian 1.4%, other 6.5%, none 2.6%, unspecified 10.8% (2001 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years : 16.5% (male 449/female 424)16.5% (male 449/female 424)

15-24 years : 21.52% (male 599/female 540)21.52% (male 599/female 540)

25-54 years : 47.43% (male 1,201/female 1,309)47.43% (male 1,201/female 1,309)

55-64 years : 8.45% (male 194/female 253)8.45% (male 194/female 253)

65 years and over : 6.1% (male 199/female 124) (2017 est.)6.1% (male 199/female 124) (2017 est.)

Median age:

total : 33.2 years33.2 years

male : 32.6 years32.6 years

female : 33.7 years (2017 est.)33.7 years (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 9494

Population growth rate:

0.45% (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 158158

Birth rate:

10.8 births/1,000 population (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 183183

Death rate:

6.2 deaths/1,000 population (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 154154

Net migration rate:

0 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 9292

Population distribution:

only the northern half of the island is populated, the southern portion is uninhabitable due to volcanic activity

Urbanization:

urban population : 9.1% of total population (2018)9.1% of total population (2018)
rate of urbanization : 0.64% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)0.64% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

Sex ratio:

at birth : 1.07 male(s)/female1.07 male(s)/female
0-14 years : 1.07 male(s)/female1.07 male(s)/female
15-24 years : 1.08 male(s)/female1.08 male(s)/female
25-54 years : 0.92 male(s)/female0.92 male(s)/female
55-64 years : 0.83 male(s)/female0.83 male(s)/female
65 years and over : 1.6 male(s)/female1.6 male(s)/female
total population : 1 male(s)/female (2017 est.)1 male(s)/female (2017 est.)

Infant mortality rate:

total : 12.3 deaths/1,000 live births12.3 deaths/1,000 live births
male : 9.7 deaths/1,000 live births9.7 deaths/1,000 live births
female : 15.1 deaths/1,000 live births (2017 est.)15.1 deaths/1,000 live births (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 116116

Life expectancy at birth:

total population : 74.6 years74.6 years
male : 75.9 years75.9 years
female : 73.2 years (2017 est.)73.2 years (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 122122

Total fertility rate:

1.33 children born/woman (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 216216

Drinking water source:

improved :
urban: 99% of population
rural: 99% of population
total: 99% of population
unimproved :
urban: 1% of population
rural: 1% of population
total: 1% of population (2015 est.)

Sanitation facility access:

improved :
urban: 82.9% of population
rural: 82.9% of population
total: 82.9% of population
unimproved :
urban: 17.1% of population
rural: 17.1% of population
total: 17.1% of population (2007 est.)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:

NA

HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:

NA

HIV/AIDS - deaths:

NA

Education expenditures:

5.1% of GDP (2009)

9.4 Government

Country name:

conventional long form : nonenone

conventional short form : MontserratMontserrat

etymology : island named by explorer Christopher COLUMBUS in 1493 after the Benedictine abbey Santa Maria de Montserrat, near Barcelona, Spainisland named by explorer Christopher COLUMBUS in 1493 after the Benedictine abbey Santa Maria de Montserrat, near Barcelona, Spain

Dependency status:

overseas territory of the UK

Government type:

parliamentary democracy (Legislative Council); self-governing overseas territory of the UK

Capital:

name : Plymouth; note - Plymouth was abandoned in 1997 because of volcanic activity; interim government buildings have been built at Brades Estate, the de facto capital, in the Carr's Bay/Little Bay vicinity at the northwest end of MontserratPlymouth; note - Plymouth was abandoned in 1997 because of volcanic activity; interim government buildings have been built at Brades Estate, the de facto capital, in the Carr's Bay/Little Bay vicinity at the northwest end of Montserrat

geographic coordinates : 16 42 N, 62 13 W16 42 N, 62 13 W

time difference : UTC-4 (1 hour ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)UTC-4 (1 hour ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)

Administrative divisions:

3 parishes; Saint Anthony, Saint Georges, Saint Peter

Independence:

none (overseas territory of the UK)

National holiday:

birthday of Queen ELIZABETH II, second Saturday in June (1926)

Constitution:

history : previous 1960; latest effective 1 September 2010 (The Montserrat Constitution Order 2010)previous 1960; latest effective 1 September 2010 (The Montserrat Constitution Order 2010)

amendments : amended 2011 (2018)amended 2011 (2018)

Legal system:

English common law

Citizenship:

see United Kingdom

Suffrage:

18 years of age; universal

Executive branch:

chief of state : Queen ELIZABETH II (since 6 February 1952); represented by Governor Andrew PEARCE (since 1 February 2018)Queen ELIZABETH II (since 6 February 1952); represented by Governor Andrew PEARCE (since 1 February 2018)

head of government : Premier Donaldson ROMERO (since 12 September 2014); note - effective with The Constitution Order 2010, effective October 2010, the office of premier replaced the office of chief ministerPremier Donaldson ROMERO (since 12 September 2014); note - effective with The Constitution Order 2010, effective October 2010, the office of premier replaced the office of chief minister

cabinet : Executive Council consists of the governor, the premier, 3 other ministers, the attorney general, and the finance secretaryExecutive Council consists of the governor, the premier, 3 other ministers, the attorney general, and the finance secretary

elections/appointments : the monarchy is hereditary; governor appointed by the monarch; following legislative elections, the leader of the majority party usually becomes premierthe monarchy is hereditary; governor appointed by the monarch;

following legislative elections, the leader of the majority party usually becomes premier

Legislative branch:

description : unicameral Legislative Assembly (11 seats; 9 members directly elected in a single constituency by absolute majority vote in 2 rounds to serve 5-year terms and 2 ex-officio members - the attorney general and financial secretary)unicameral Legislative Assembly (11 seats; 9 members directly elected in a single constituency by absolute majority vote in 2 rounds to serve 5-year terms and 2 ex-officio members - the attorney general and financial secretary)

elections : last held on 11 September 2014 (next to be held by 2019)last held on 11 September 2014 (next to be held by 2019)

election results : percent of vote by party - PDM 50.0%, MCAP 35.4%, other 14.6%; seats by party - PDM 7, MCAP 2percent of vote by party - PDM 50.0%, MCAP 35.4%, other 14.6%; seats by party - PDM 7, MCAP 2

Judicial branch:

highest court(s) : the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (ECSC) is the superior court of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States; the ECSC - headquartered on St. Lucia - consists of the Court of Appeal - headed by the chief justice and 4 judges - and the High Court with 18 judges; the Court of Appeal is itinerant, travelling to member states on a schedule to hear appeals from the High Court and subordinate courts; High Court judges reside at the member states with 1 assigned to Montserrat; Montserrat is also a member of the Caribbean Court of Justice the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (ECSC) is the superior court of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States; the ECSC - headquartered on St. Lucia - consists of the Court of Appeal - headed by the chief justice and 4 judges - and the High Court with 18 judges; the Court of Appeal is itinerant, travelling to member states on a schedule to hear appeals from the High Court and subordinate courts; High Court judges reside at the member states with 1 assigned to Montserrat; Montserrat is also a member of the Caribbean Court of Justice

judge selection and term of office : chief justice of Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court appointed by the Her Majesty, Queen ELIZABETH II; other justices and judges appointed by the Judicial and Legal Services Commission, and independent body of judicial officials; Court of Appeal justices appointed for life with mandatory retirement at age 65; High Court judges appointed for life with mandatory retirement at age 62chief justice of Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court appointed by the Her Majesty, Queen ELIZABETH II; other justices and judges appointed by the Judicial and Legal Services Commission, and independent body of judicial officials; Court of Appeal justices appointed for life with mandatory retirement at age 65; High Court judges appointed for life with mandatory retirement at age 62

subordinate courts : magistrate's courtmagistrate's court

Political parties and leaders:

Movement for Change and Prosperity or MCAP [Easton Taylor FARRELL]

International organization participation:

Caricom, CDB, Interpol (subbureau), OECS, UPU

Diplomatic representation in the US:

none (overseas territory of the UK)

Diplomatic representation from the US:

none (overseas territory of the UK)

Flag description:

blue with the flag of the UK in the upper hoist-side quadrant and the Montserratian coat of arms centered in the outer half of the flag; the arms feature a woman in green dress, Erin, the female personification of Ireland, standing beside a yellow harp and embracing a large dark cross with her right arm; Erin and the harp are symbols of Ireland reflecting the territory's Irish ancestry; blue represents awareness, trustworthiness, determination, and righteousness

National anthem:

note : as a territory of the UK, "God Save the Queen" is official (see United Kingdom)as a territory of the UK, "God Save the Queen" is official (see United Kingdom)

9.5 Economy

Economy - overview:

Severe volcanic activity, which began in July 1995, has put a damper on this small, open economy. A catastrophic eruption in June 1997 closed the airport and seaports, causing further economic and social dislocation. Two-thirds of the 12,000 inhabitants fled the island. Some began to return in 1998 but lack of housing limited the number. The agriculture sector continued to be affected by the lack of suitable land for farming and the destruction of crops.

Prospects for the economy depend largely on developments in relation to the volcanic activity and on public sector construction activity. Half of the island remains uninhabitable. In January 2013, the EU announced the disbursement of a \$55.2 million aid package to Montserrat in order to boost the country's economic recovery, with a specific focus on public finance management, public sector reform, and prudent economic management. Montserrat is tied to the EU through the UK.

Although the UK is leaving the EU, Montserrat's aid will not be affected as Montserrat maintains a direct agreement with the EU regarding aid.

GDP (purchasing power parity):

\$167.4 million (2011 est.)

\$155.9 million (2010 est.)

\$162.7 million (2009 est.)

country comparison to the world : 224224

GDP (official exchange rate):

(2011 est.)

GDP - real growth rate:

7.4% (2011 est.)

-4.2% (2010 est.)

country comparison to the world : 1313

GDP - per capita (PPP):

\$34,000 (2011 est.)

\$31,100 (2010 est.)

\$32,300 (2009 est.)

country comparison to the world : 6060

GDP - composition, by end use:

household consumption : 89.3%89.3%

government consumption : 53.4%53.4%

investment in fixed capital : 22.2%22.2%

investment in inventories : -0.1%-0.1%

exports of goods and services : 25.7%25.7%

imports of goods and services : -90.5% (2017 est.)-90.5% (2017 est.)

GDP - composition, by sector of origin:

agriculture : 1.6%1.6%

industry : 21.8%21.8%

services : 76.6% (2017 est.)76.6% (2017 est.)

Agriculture - products:

cabbages, carrots, cucumbers, tomatoes, onions, peppers; livestock products

Industries:

tourism, rum, textiles, electronic appliances

Industrial production growth rate:

2% (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 140140

Labor force:

4,521 (2012)

country comparison to the world : 223223

Labor force - by occupation:

agriculture : 1.4%1.4%

industry : 12.7%12.7%

services : 85.9% (2017 est.)85.9% (2017 est.)

Unemployment rate:

5.6% (2017 est.)

6% (1998 est.)

country comparison to the world : 8181

Population below poverty line:

NA%

Household income or consumption by percentage share:

lowest 10% : NA%NA%

highest 10% : NA%NA%

Budget:

revenues : \$37.04 million\$37.04 million

expenditures : \$37.04 million (2017 est.)\$37.04 million (2017 est.)

Fiscal year:

1 April - 31 March

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

1.1% (2017 est.)

-0.2% (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 5858

Central bank discount rate:

10.99% (31 December 2010)

6.5% (31 December 2009)

country comparison to the world : 2020

Commercial bank prime lending rate:

7% (31 December 2017 est.)

7.26% (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 119119

Stock of narrow money:

\$23.33 million (31 December 2017 est.)

\$23.04 million (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 194194

Stock of broad money:

\$100.7 million (31 December 2017 est.)

\$91.6 million (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 196196

Stock of domestic credit:

\$1.481 million (31 December 2017 est.)
\$1.481 million (31 December 2016 est.)
country comparison to the world : 191191

Exports:

\$5.7 million (2017 est.)
\$5.2 million (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world : 218218

Exports - commodities:

electronic components, plastic bags, apparel; hot peppers, limes, live plants; cattle

Exports - partners:

US 29%, France 23%, Saint Kitts and Nevis 22.2% (2017)

Imports:

\$33.67 million (2017 est.)
\$31.02 million (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world : 218218

Imports - commodities:

machinery and transportation equipment, foodstuffs, manufactured goods, fuels, lubricants

Imports - partners:

US 72.8%, Trinidad and Tobago 6%, UK 4.1% (2017)

Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:

\$49.36 million (31 December 2016 est.)
\$51.47 million (31 December 2015 est.)
country comparison to the world : 173173

Debt - external:

\$8.9 million (1997)

country comparison to the world : 201201

Exchange rates:

East Caribbean dollars (XCD) per US dollar -

2.7 (2017 est.)

2.7 (2016 est.)

2.7 (2015 est.)

2.7 (2014 est.)

2.7 (2013 est.)

9.6 Energy

Electricity - production:

24 million kWh (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 213213

Electricity - consumption:

22.32 million kWh (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 211211

Electricity - exports:

0 kWh (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 165165

Electricity - imports:

0 kWh (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 170170

Electricity - installed generating capacity:

5,000 kW (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 214214

Electricity - from fossil fuels:

100% of total installed capacity (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 1111

Electricity - from nuclear fuels:

0% of total installed capacity (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 137137

Electricity - from hydroelectric plants:

0% of total installed capacity (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 187187

Electricity - from other renewable sources:

0% of total installed capacity (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 195195

Crude oil - production:

0 bbl/day (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 164164

Crude oil - exports:

0 bbl/day (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world : 157157

Crude oil - imports:

0 bbl/day (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world : 157157

Crude oil - proved reserves:

0 bbl (1 January 2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 163163

Refined petroleum products - production:

0 bbl/day (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world : 170170

Refined petroleum products - consumption:

570 bbl/day (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 209209

Refined petroleum products - exports:

0 bbl/day (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world : 177177

Refined petroleum products - imports:

416.4 bbl/day (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world : 207207

Natural gas - production:

0 cu m (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world : 216216

Natural gas - consumption:

0 cu m (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world : 168168

Natural gas - exports:

0 cu m (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world : 143143

Natural gas - imports:

0 cu m (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world : 152152

Natural gas - proved reserves:

0 cu m (1 January 2014 est.)

country comparison to the world : 167167

Carbon dioxide emissions from consumption of energy:

88,010 Mt (2012 est.)

country comparison to the world : 210210

9.7 Communications

Telephones - fixed lines:

total subscriptions : 3,0003,000

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants : 57 (July 2016 est.)57 (July 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 209209

Telephones - mobile cellular:

total subscriptions : 5,0005,000

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants : 95 (July 2016 est.)95 (July 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 214214

Telephone system:

general assessment : modern and fully digitalizedmodern and fully digitalized

domestic : combined fixed-line and mobile-cellular teledensity exceeds 150 per 100 personscombined fixed-line and mobile-cellular teledensity exceeds 150 per 100 persons

international : country code - 1-664; landing point for the East Caribbean Fiber System (ECFS) optic submarine cable with links to 13 other islands in the eastern Caribbean extending from the British Virgin Islands to Trinidad (2016)country code - 1-664; landing point for the East Caribbean Fiber System (ECFS) optic submarine cable with links to 13 other islands in the eastern Caribbean extending from the British Virgin Islands to Trinidad (2016)

Broadcast media:

Radio Montserrat, a public radio broadcaster, transmits on 1 station and has a repeater transmission to a second station; repeater transmissions from the GEM Radio Network of Trinidad and Tobago provide another 2 radio stations; cable and satellite TV available (2007)

Internet country code:

.ms

Internet users:

total : 2,8602,860

percent of population : 54.6% (July 2016 est.)54.6% (July 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 221221

9.8 Transportation

National air transport system:

number of registered air carriers : 11

inventory of registered aircraft operated by air carriers : 3 (2015)3 (2015)

Civil aircraft registration country code prefix:

VP-M (2016)

Airports:

1 (2013)

country comparison to the world : 226226

Airports - with paved runways:

total : 11

under 914 m : 1 (2017)1 (2017)

Roadways:

note : volcanic eruptions that began in 1995 destroyed most of the 227 km road system; a new road infrastructure has been built on the north end of the island (2017)volcanic eruptions that began in 1995 destroyed most of the 227 km road system; a new road infrastructure has been built on the north end of the island (2017)

Ports and terminals:

major seaport(s) : Little Bay, PlymouthLittle Bay, Plymouth

9.9 Military and Security

Military branches:

no regular military forces; Royal Montserrat Police Force (2011)

Military - note:

defense is the responsibility of the UK

9.10 Transnational Issues

Disputes - international:

none

Illicit drugs:

transshipment point for South American narcotics destined for the US and Europe

10. Oman

10.1 Introduction

Background:

The inhabitants of the area of Oman have long prospered from Indian Ocean trade. In the late 18th century, the nascent sultanate in Muscat signed the first in a series of friendship treaties with Britain. Over time, Oman's dependence on British political and military advisors increased, although the sultanate never became a British colony. In 1970, QABOOS bin Said Al-Said overthrew his father, and has since ruled as sultan, but he has not designated a successor. His extensive modernization program has opened the country to the outside world, while preserving the longstanding close ties with the UK and US. Oman's moderate, independent foreign policy has sought to maintain good relations with its neighbors and to avoid external entanglements.

Inspired by the popular uprisings that swept the Middle East and North Africa beginning in January 2011, some Omanis staged demonstrations, calling for more jobs and economic benefits and an end to corruption. In response to those protester demands, QABOOS in 2011 pledged to implement economic and political reforms, such as granting legislative and regulatory powers to the Majlis al-Shura and increasing unemployment benefits. Additionally, in August 2012, the Sultan announced a royal directive mandating the speedy implementation of a national job creation plan for thousands of public and private sector Omani jobs. This initiative took on new urgency in December 2017, when QABOOS instructed the government to create 25,000 new jobs in the public and private sectors for Omanis. As part of the government's efforts to decentralize authority and allow greater citizen participation in local governance, Oman successfully conducted its first municipal council elections in December 2012. Announced by the Sultan in 2011, the municipal councils have the power to advise the Royal Court on the needs of local districts across Oman's 11 governorates. The Sultan returned to Oman in March 2015 after eight months in Germany, where he received medical treatment.

10.2 Geography

Location:

Middle East, bordering the Arabian Sea, Gulf of Oman, and Persian Gulf, between Yemen and the UAE

Geographic coordinates:

21 00 N, 57 00 E

Map references:

Middle East

Area:

total : 309,500 sq km309,500 sq km

land : 309,500 sq km309,500 sq km

water : 0 sq km0 sq km

country comparison to the world : 7272

Area - comparative:

twice the size of Georgia; slightly smaller than Kansas

Land boundaries:

total : 1,561 km1,561 km

border countries (3) : Saudi Arabia 658 km, UAE 609 km, Yemen 294 kmSaudi Arabia 658 km, UAE 609 km, Yemen 294 km

Coastline:

2,092 km

Maritime claims:

territorial sea : 12 nm12 nm

contiguous zone : 24 nm24 nm

exclusive economic zone : 200 nm200 nm

Climate:

dry desert; hot, humid along coast; hot, dry interior; strong southwest summer monsoon (May to September) in far south

Terrain:

central desert plain, rugged mountains in north and south

Elevation:

mean elevation : 310 m310 m

elevation extremes : lowest point: Arabian Sea 0 mlowest point: Arabian Sea 0 m

highest point: Jabal Shams 3,004 m

Natural resources:

petroleum, copper, asbestos, some marble, limestone, chromium, gypsum, natural gas

Land use:

agricultural land : 4.7%4.7%

arable land 0.1%; permanent crops 0.1%; permanent pasture 4.5%

forest : 0%0%

other : 95.3% (2011 est.)95.3% (2011 est.)

Irrigated land:

590 sq km (2012)

Population - distribution:

the vast majority of the population is located in and around the Al Hagar Mountains in the north of the country; another smaller cluster is found around the city of Salalah in the far south; most of the country remains sparsely populated

Natural hazards:

summer winds often raise large sandstorms and dust storms in interior; periodic droughts

Environment - current issues:

limited natural freshwater resources; high levels of soil and water salinity in the coastal plains; beach pollution from oil spills; industrial effluents seeping into the water tables and aquifers; desertification due to high winds driving desert sand onto arable lands

Environment - international agreements:

party to : Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Marine Dumping, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, WhalingBiodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Marine Dumping, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Whaling

signed, but not ratified : none of the selected agreementsnone of the selected agreements

Geography - note:

consists of Oman proper and two northern exclaves, Musandam and Al Madhah; the former is a peninsula that occupies a strategic location adjacent to the Strait of Hormuz, a vital transit point for world crude oil

10.3 People and Society

Population:

4,613,241 (July 2017 est.)

note : immigrants make up approximately 45% of the total population
(2017)immigrants make up approximately 45% of the total population (2017)

country comparison to the world : 126126

Nationality:

noun : Omani(s)Omani(s)

adjective : OmaniOmani

Ethnic groups:

Arab, Baluchi, South Asian (Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Bangladeshi), African

Languages:

Arabic (official), English, Baluchi, Urdu, Indian dialects

Religions:

Muslim 85.9%, Christian 6.5%, Hindu 5.5%, Buddhist 0.8%, Jewish <0.1%, other 1%, unaffiliated 0.2% (2010 est.)

note : Omani citizens represent approximately 60% of the population and are overwhelming Muslim (Ibadhi and Sunni sects each constitute about 45% and Shia about 5%); Christians, Hindus, and Buddhists accounting for roughly 5% of Omani citizensOmani citizens represent approximately 60% of the population and are overwhelming Muslim (Ibadhi and Sunni sects each constitute about 45% and Shia about 5%); Christians, Hindus, and Buddhists accounting for roughly 5% of Omani citizens

Age structure:

0-14 years : 30.1% (male 528,554/female 502,272)30.1% (male 528,554/female 502,272)

15-24 years : 18.69% (male 335,764/female 304,207)18.69% (male 335,764/female 304,207)

25-54 years : 43.8% (male 864,858/female 635,006)43.8% (male 864,858/female 635,006)

55-64 years : 3.92% (male 71,477/female 62,793)3.92% (male 71,477/female 62,793)

65 years and over : 3.49% (male 58,561/female 60,894) (2017 est.)3.49% (male 58,561/female 60,894) (2017 est.)

Dependency ratios:

total dependency ratio : 32.432.4

youth dependency ratio : 29.429.4

elderly dependency ratio : 3.13.1

potential support ratio : 32.6 (2015 est.)32.6 (2015 est.)

Median age:

total : 25.6 years25.6 years

male : 26.6 years26.6 years

female : 24.2 years (2017 est.)24.2 years (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 153153

Population growth rate:

2.03% (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 4444

Birth rate:

24 births/1,000 population (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 5454

Death rate:

3.3 deaths/1,000 population (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 220220

Net migration rate:

-0.4 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 120120

Population distribution:

the vast majority of the population is located in and around the Al Hagar Mountains in the north of the country; another smaller cluster is found around the city of Salalah in the far south; most of the country remains sparsely populated

Urbanization:

urban population : 84.5% of total population (2018)84.5% of total population (2018)
rate of urbanization : 5.25% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)5.25% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

Major urban areas - population:

MUSCAT (capital) 1.447 million (2018)

Sex ratio:

at birth : 1.05 male(s)/female1.05 male(s)/female
0-14 years : 1.05 male(s)/female1.05 male(s)/female
15-24 years : 1.1 male(s)/female1.1 male(s)/female
25-54 years : 1.38 male(s)/female1.38 male(s)/female
55-64 years : 1.14 male(s)/female1.14 male(s)/female
65 years and over : 0.99 male(s)/female0.99 male(s)/female
total population : 1.19 male(s)/female (2017 est.)1.19 male(s)/female (2017 est.)

Maternal mortality ratio:

17 deaths/100,000 live births (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world : 133133

Infant mortality rate:

total : 12.8 deaths/1,000 live births12.8 deaths/1,000 live births
male : 13.1 deaths/1,000 live births13.1 deaths/1,000 live births

female : 12.5 deaths/1,000 live births (2017 est.)12.5 deaths/1,000 live births (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 110110

Life expectancy at birth:

total population : 75.7 years75.7 years

male : 73.7 years73.7 years

female : 77.7 years (2017 est.)77.7 years (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 9999

Total fertility rate:

2.82 children born/woman (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 6060

Contraceptive prevalence rate:

29.7% (2014)

Health expenditures:

3.6% of GDP (2014)

country comparison to the world : 172172

Physicians density:

1.92 physicians/1,000 population (2016)

Hospital bed density:

1.6 beds/1,000 population (2014)

Drinking water source:

improved :

urban: 95.5% of population

rural: 86.1% of population

total: 93.4% of population

unimproved :

urban: 4.5% of population

rural: 13.9% of population

total: 6.6% of population (2015 est.)

Sanitation facility access:

improved :

urban: 97.3% of population

rural: 94.7% of population

total: 96.7% of population

unimproved :

urban: 2.7% of population

rural: 5.3% of population

total: 3.3% of population (2015 est.)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:

NA

HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:

NA

HIV/AIDS - deaths:

NA

Obesity - adult prevalence rate:

27% (2016)

country comparison to the world : 3939

Children under the age of 5 years underweight:

9.7% (2014)

country comparison to the world : 7373

Education expenditures:

6.2% of GDP (2016)

country comparison to the world : 100100

Literacy:

definition : age 15 and over can read and writeage 15 and over can read and write

total population : 93%93%

male : 96.6%96.6%

female : 86% (2015 est.)86% (2015 est.)

School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education):

total : 14 years14 years

male : 13 years13 years

female : 15 years (2015)15 years (2015)

10.4 Government

Country name:

conventional long form : Sultanate of OmanSultanate of Oman

conventional short form : OmanOman

local long form : Saltanat UmanSaltanat Uman

local short form : UmanUman

former : Sultanate of Muscat and OmanSultanate of Muscat and Oman

etymology : the origin of the name is uncertain, but it apparently dates back at least 2,000 years since an "Omana" is mentioned by Pliny the Elder (1st century A.D.) and an "Omanon" by Ptolemy (2nd century A.D.)the origin of the name is uncertain, but it apparently dates back at least 2,000 years since an "Omana" is mentioned by Pliny the Elder (1st century A.D.) and an "Omanon" by Ptolemy (2nd century A.D.)

Government type:

absolute monarchy

Capital:

name : MuscatMuscat

geographic coordinates : 23 37 N, 58 35 E23 37 N, 58 35 E

time difference : UTC+4 (9 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)UTC+4 (9 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)

Administrative divisions:

11 governorates (muhafazat, singular - muhafaza); Ad Dakhiliyah, Al Buraymi, Al Wusta, Az Zahirah, Janub al Batinah (Al Batinah South), Janub ash Sharqiyah (Ash

Sharqiyah South), Masqat (Muscat), Musandam, Shamal al Batinah (Al Batinah North), Shamal ash Sharqiyah (Ash Sharqiyah North), Zufar (Dhofar)

Independence:

1650 (expulsion of the Portuguese)

National holiday:

National Day, 18 November; note - coincides with the birthday of Sultan QABOOS, 18 November (1940)

Constitution:

history : promulgated by royal decree 6 November 1996 (the Basic Law of the Sultanate of Oman serves as the constitution); amended by royal decree in 2011promulgated by royal decree 6 November 1996 (the Basic Law of the Sultanate of Oman serves as the constitution); amended by royal decree in 2011

amendments : promulgated by the sultan or proposed by the Council of Oman and drafted by a technical committee as stipulated by royal decree and then promulgated through royal decree; amended 2011 (2016)promulgated by the sultan or proposed by the Council of Oman and drafted by a technical committee as stipulated by royal decree and then promulgated through royal decree; amended 2011 (2016)

Legal system:

mixed legal system of Anglo-Saxon law and Islamic law

International law organization participation:

has not submitted an ICJ jurisdiction declaration; non-party state to the ICCt

Citizenship:

citizenship by birth : nono

citizenship by descent only : the father must be a citizen of Omanthe father must be a citizen of Oman

dual citizenship recognized : nono

residency requirement for naturalization : unknownunknown

Suffrage:

21 years of age; universal; note - members of the military and security forces by law cannot vote

Executive branch:

chief of state : Sultan and Prime Minister QABOOS bin Said Al-Said (sultan since 23 July 1970 and prime minister since 23 July 1972); note - the monarch is both chief of state and head of government
Sultan and Prime Minister QABOOS bin Said Al-Said (sultan since 23 July 1970 and prime minister since 23 July 1972); note - the monarch is both chief of state and head of government

head of government : Sultan and Prime Minister QABOOS bin Said Al-Said (sultan since 23 July 1970 and prime minister since 23 July 1972)
Sultan and Prime Minister QABOOS bin Said Al-Said (sultan since 23 July 1970 and prime minister since 23 July 1972)

cabinet : Cabinet appointed by the monarch
Cabinet appointed by the monarch

elections/appointments : members of the Ruling Family Council determine a successor from the sultan's extended family; if the Council cannot form a consensus within 3 days of the sultan's death or incapacitation, the Defense Council will relay a predetermined heir as chosen by the sultan
members of the Ruling Family Council determine a successor from the sultan's extended family; if the Council cannot form a consensus within 3 days of the sultan's death or incapacitation, the Defense Council will relay a predetermined heir as chosen by the sultan

Legislative branch:

description : bicameral Council of Oman or Majlis Oman consists of:
bicameral Council of Oman or Majlis Oman consists of:

Council of State or Majlis al-Dawla (85 seats including the chairman; members appointed by the sultan from among former government officials and prominent educators, businessmen, and citizens)

Consultative Council or Majlis al-Shura (85 seats; members directly elected in single- and 2-seat constituencies by simple majority popular vote to serve renewable 4-year terms); note - since political reforms in 2011, legislation from the Consultative Council is submitted to the Council of State for review by the Royal Court

elections : Council of State - last appointments on 7 November 2015 (next - NA)
Council of State - last appointments on 7 November 2015 (next - NA)

Consultative Assembly - last held on 25 October 2015 (next to be held in October 2019)

election results : percent of vote by party - NA; seats by party - NA; note - organized political parties in Oman are legally banned
percent of vote by party - NA; seats by party - NA; note - organized political parties in Oman are legally banned

Judicial branch:

highest court(s) : Supreme Court (consists of 5 judges)
Supreme Court (consists of 5 judges)

judge selection and term of office : judges nominated by the 9-member Supreme Judicial Council (chaired by the monarch) and appointed by the monarch; judges

appointed for life judges nominated by the 9-member Supreme Judicial Council (chaired by the monarch) and appointed by the monarch; judges appointed for life subordinate courts : Courts of Appeal; Administrative Court; Courts of First Instance; sharia courts; magistrates' courts; military courts Courts of Appeal; Administrative Court; Courts of First Instance; sharia courts; magistrates' courts; military courts

Political parties and leaders:

none; note - organized political parties are legally banned in Oman, and loyalties tend to form around tribal affiliations

International organization participation:

ABEDA, AFESD, AMF, CAEU, FAO, G-77, GCC, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC (NGOs), IDA, IDB, IFAD, IFC, IHO, ILO, IMF, IMO, IMSO, Interpol, IOC, IPU, ISO, ITSO, ITU, LAS, MIGA, NAM, OIC, OPCW, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WFTU (NGOs), WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

Diplomatic representation in the US:

chief of mission : Ambassador Hunaina bint Sultan bin Ahmad al-MUGHAIRI (since 2 December 2005) Ambassador Hunaina bint Sultan bin Ahmad al-MUGHAIRI (since 2 December 2005)

chancery : 2535 Belmont Road, NW, Washington, DC 20008 2535 Belmont Road, NW, Washington, DC 20008

telephone : [1] (202) 387-1980 [1] (202) 387-1980

FAX : [1] (202) 745-4933 [1] (202) 745-4933

Diplomatic representation from the US:

chief of mission : Ambassador Marc J. SIEVERS (since 15 December 2016) Ambassador Marc J. SIEVERS (since 15 December 2016)

embassy : Jamait Ad Duwal Al Arabiyya Street, Al Khuwair area, Muscat Jamait Ad Duwal Al Arabiyya Street, Al Khuwair area, Muscat

mailing address : P.O. Box 202, P.C. 115, Madinat Al Sultan Qaboos, Muscat P.O. Box 202, P.C. 115, Madinat Al Sultan Qaboos, Muscat

telephone : [968] 24-643-400 [968] 24-643-400

FAX : [968] 24-643-740 [968] 24-643-740

Flag description:

three horizontal bands of white (top), red, and green of equal width with a broad, vertical, red band on the hoist side; the national emblem (a khanjar dagger in its sheath superimposed on two crossed swords in scabbards) in white is centered near the top of the vertical band; white represents peace and prosperity, red recalls

battles against foreign invaders, and green symbolizes the Jebel al Akhdar (Green Mountains) and fertility

National symbol(s):

khanjar dagger superimposed on two crossed swords; national colors: red, white, green

National anthem:

name : "Nashid as-Salaam as-Sultani" (The Sultan's Anthem)"Nashid as-Salaam as-Sultani" (The Sultan's Anthem)

lyrics/music : Rashid bin Uzayyiz al KHUSAIDI/James Frederick MILLS, arranged by Bernard EBBINGHAUS
Rashid bin Uzayyiz al KHUSAIDI/James Frederick MILLS, arranged by Bernard EBBINGHAUS

note : adopted 1932; new lyrics written after QABOOS bin Said al Said gained power in 1970; first performed by the band of a British ship as a salute to the Sultan during a 1932 visit to Muscat; the bandmaster of the HMS Hawkins was asked to write a salutation to the Sultan on the occasion of his ship visit
adopted 1932; new lyrics written after QABOOS bin Said al Said gained power in 1970; first performed by the band of a British ship as a salute to the Sultan during a 1932 visit to Muscat; the bandmaster of the HMS Hawkins was asked to write a salutation to the Sultan on the occasion of his ship visit

10.5 Economy

Economy - overview:

Oman is heavily dependent on oil and gas resources, which can generate between 68% and 85% of government revenue, depending on fluctuations in commodity prices. In 2016, low global oil prices drove Oman's budget deficit to \$13.8 billion, or approximately 20% of GDP, but the budget deficit is estimated to have reduced to 12% of GDP in 2017 as Oman reduced government subsidies. As of January 2018, Oman has sufficient foreign assets to support its currency's fixed exchange rates. It is issuing debt to cover its deficit.

Oman is using enhanced oil recovery techniques to boost production, but it has simultaneously pursued a development plan that focuses on diversification, industrialization, and privatization, with the objective of reducing the oil sector's contribution to GDP. The key components of the government's diversification strategy are tourism, shipping and logistics, mining, manufacturing, and aquaculture.

Muscat also has notably focused on creating more Omani jobs to employ the rising number of nationals entering the workforce. However, high social welfare benefits - that had increased in the wake of the 2011 Arab Spring - have made it impossible for the government to balance its budget in light of current oil prices. In response, Omani officials imposed austerity measures on its gasoline and diesel subsidies in

2016. These spending cuts have had only a moderate effect on the government's budget, which is projected to again face a deficit of \$7.8 billion in 2018.

GDP (purchasing power parity):

\$186.6 billion (2017 est.)

\$183.3 billion (2016 est.)

\$175 billion (2015 est.)

note : data are in 2017 dollarsdata are in 2017 dollars

country comparison to the world : 7070

GDP (official exchange rate):

\$74.27 billion (2017 est.)

GDP - real growth rate:

-0.3% (2017 est.)

1.8% (2016 est.)

4.7% (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 203203

GDP - per capita (PPP):

\$45,200 (2017 est.)

\$45,700 (2016 est.)

\$46,300 (2015 est.)

note : data are in 2017 dollarsdata are in 2017 dollars

country comparison to the world : 3737

Gross national saving:

22.5% of GDP (2017 est.)

16.9% of GDP (2016 est.)

17.2% of GDP (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 7777

GDP - composition, by end use:

household consumption : 34.5%34.5%

government consumption : 24.6%24.6%

investment in fixed capital : 35.3%35.3%
investment in inventories : 2.1%2.1%
exports of goods and services : 51%51%
imports of goods and services : -47.4% (2017 est.)-47.4% (2017 est.)

GDP - composition, by sector of origin:

agriculture : 1.7%1.7%
industry : 45.2%45.2%
services : 53% (2017 est.)53% (2017 est.)

Agriculture - products:

dates, limes, bananas, alfalfa, vegetables; camels, cattle; fish

Industries:

crude oil production and refining, natural and liquefied natural gas production;
construction, cement, copper, steel, chemicals, optic fiber

Industrial production growth rate:

0.3% (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world : 183183

Labor force:

2.255 million
note : about 60% of the labor force is non-national (2016 est.)about 60% of the labor
force is non-national (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world : 120120

Labor force - by occupation:

agriculture : NA%NA%
industry : NA%NA%
services : NA%NA%

Unemployment rate:

NA%

Population below poverty line:

NA%

Household income or consumption by percentage share:

lowest 10% : NA%NA%

highest 10% : NA%NA%

Budget:

revenues : \$20.48 billion\$20.48 billion

expenditures : \$29.54 billion (2017 est.)\$29.54 billion (2017 est.)

Taxes and other revenues:

28.5% of GDP (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 9292

Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-):

-12.6% of GDP (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 215215

Public debt:

44.2% of GDP (2017 est.)

33.3% of GDP (2016 est.)

note : excludes indebtedness of state-owned enterprisesexcludes indebtedness of state-owned enterprises

country comparison to the world : 119119

Fiscal year:

calendar year

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

1.6% (2017 est.)

1.1% (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 8787

Central bank discount rate:

2% (31 December 2010)

0.05% (31 December 2009)

country comparison to the world : 118118

Commercial bank prime lending rate:

5.4% (31 December 2017 est.)

5.08% (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 137137

Stock of narrow money:

\$12.7 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$12.95 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 8181

Stock of broad money:

\$41.44 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$40.11 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 7575

Stock of domestic credit:

\$48.24 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$46.47 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 6868

Market value of publicly traded shares:

\$41.12 billion (31 December 2015 est.)

\$37.83 billion (31 December 2014 est.)

\$36.77 billion (31 December 2013 est.)

country comparison to the world : 5858

Current account balance:

-\$8.557 billion (2017 est.)
-\$12.32 billion (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world : 186186

Exports:

\$31.9 billion (2017 est.)
\$27.54 billion (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world : 6262

Exports - commodities:

petroleum, reexports, fish, metals, textiles

Exports - partners:

China 43.7%, UAE 11%, South Korea 7.9%, Saudi Arabia 4.2% (2017)

Imports:

\$22.71 billion (2017 est.)
\$21.29 billion (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world : 7171

Imports - commodities:

machinery and transport equipment, manufactured goods, food, livestock, lubricants

Imports - partners:

UAE 35.5%, US 27.8%, Brazil 4% (2017)

Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:

\$19.96 billion (31 December 2017 est.)
\$20.26 billion (31 December 2016 est.)
country comparison to the world : 6161

Debt - external:

\$39.17 billion (31 December 2017 est.)
\$27.05 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 7676

Stock of direct foreign investment - at home:

\$NA

Stock of direct foreign investment - abroad:

\$NA

Exchange rates:

Omani rials (OMR) per US dollar -

0.38 (2017 est.)

0.38 (2016 est.)

0.38 (2015 est.)

0.38 (2014 est.)

0.38 (2013 est.)

10.6 Energy

Electricity access:

population without electricity : 100,000100,000

electrification - total population : 98%98%

electrification - urban areas : 99%99%

electrification - rural areas : 93% (2013)93% (2013)

Electricity - production:

30.79 billion kWh (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 6464

Electricity - consumption:

27.62 billion kWh (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 6363

Electricity - exports:

0 kWh (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 171171

Electricity - imports:

0 kWh (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 175175

Electricity - installed generating capacity:

7.869 million kW (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 7070

Electricity - from fossil fuels:

100% of total installed capacity (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 1212

Electricity - from nuclear fuels:

0% of total installed capacity (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 146146

Electricity - from hydroelectric plants:

0% of total installed capacity (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 189189

Electricity - from other renewable sources:

0% of total installed capacity (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 197197

Crude oil - production:

1.007 million bbl/day (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 2020

Crude oil - exports:

745,800 bbl/day (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world : 1818

Crude oil - imports:

6,970 bbl/day (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world : 7676

Crude oil - proved reserves:

5.373 billion bbl (1 January 2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 2222

Refined petroleum products - production:

224,000 bbl/day (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world : 4949

Refined petroleum products - consumption:

176,000 bbl/day (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 6161

Refined petroleum products - exports:

33,240 bbl/day (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world : 6161

Refined petroleum products - imports:

713.9 bbl/day (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world : 203203

Natural gas - production:

29.93 billion cu m (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 2525

Natural gas - consumption:

21.92 billion cu m (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 3535

Natural gas - exports:

1.99 billion cu m (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 3838

Natural gas - imports:

10 billion cu m (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world : 2727

Natural gas - proved reserves:

651.3 billion cu m (1 January 2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 3030

Carbon dioxide emissions from consumption of energy:

69 million Mt (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world : 4949

10.7 Communications

Telephones - fixed lines:

total subscriptions : 497,716497,716

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants : 11 (2017 est.)11 (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 9595

Telephones - mobile cellular:

total subscriptions : 6,943,9106,943,910

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants : 151 (2017 est.)151 (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 107107

Telephone system:

general assessment : modern system consisting of open-wire, microwave, and radiotelephone communication stations; limited coaxial cable; domestic satellite system with 8 earth stationsmodern system consisting of open-wire, microwave,

and radiotelephone communication stations; limited coaxial cable; domestic satellite system with 8 earth stations

domestic : fixed-line and mobile-cellular subscribership both increasing with fixed-line phone service gradually being introduced to remote villages using wireless local loop systemsfixed-line and mobile-cellular subscribership both increasing with fixed-line phone service gradually being introduced to remote villages using wireless local loop systems

international : country code - 968; the Fiber-Optic Link Around the Globe (FLAG) and the SEA-ME-WE-3 submarine cable provide connectivity to Asia, the Middle East, and Europe; satellite earth stations - 2 Intelsat (Indian Ocean), 1 Arabsat (2016)country code - 968; the Fiber-Optic Link Around the Globe (FLAG) and the SEA-ME-WE-3 submarine cable provide connectivity to Asia, the Middle East, and Europe; satellite earth stations - 2 Intelsat (Indian Ocean), 1 Arabsat (2016)

Broadcast media:

1 state-run TV broadcaster; TV stations transmitting from Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Iran, and Yemen available via satellite TV; state-run radio operates multiple stations; first private radio station began operating in 2007 and several additional stations now operating (2018)

Internet country code:

.om

Internet users:

total : 2,342,4832,342,483

percent of population : 69.8% (July 2016 est.)69.8% (July 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world : 108108

Broadband - fixed line subscriptions:

total : 348,926348,926

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants : 8 (2017 est.)8 (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world : 9191

10.8 Transportation

National air transport system:

number of registered air carriers : 11

inventory of registered aircraft operated by air carriers : 4545

annual passenger traffic on registered air carriers : 6,365,7846,365,784

annual freight traffic on registered air carriers : 412,234,008 mt-km (2015)412,234,008
mt-km (2015)

Civil aircraft registration country code prefix:

A4O (2016)

Airports:

132 (2013)

country comparison to the world : 4444

Airports - with paved runways:

total : 1313

over 3,047 m : 77

2,438 to 3,047 m : 55

914 to 1,523 m : 1 (2017)1 (2017)

Airports - with unpaved runways:

total : 119119

over 3,047 m : 22

2,438 to 3,047 m : 77

1,524 to 2,437 m : 5151

914 to 1,523 m : 3333

under 914 m : 26 (2013)26 (2013)

Heliports:

3 (2013)

Pipelines:

condensate 106 km; gas 4,224 km; oil 3,558 km; oil/gas/water 33 km; refined products
264 km (2013)

Roadways:

total : 60,230 km60,230 km

paved : 29,685 km (includes 1,943 km of expressways)29,685 km (includes 1,943 km of expressways)

unpaved : 30,545 km (2012)30,545 km (2012)

country comparison to the world : 7070

Merchant marine:

total : 5151

by type : general cargo 9, other 42 (2017)general cargo 9, other 42 (2017)

country comparison to the world : 116116

Ports and terminals:

major seaport(s) : Mina' Qabus, Salalah, SuharMina' Qabus, Salalah, Suhar

container port(s) (TEUs) : Salalah (3,325,044) (2016)Salalah (3,325,044) (2016)

LNG terminal(s) (export) : QalhatQalhat

10.9 Military and Security

Military expenditures:

13.73% of GDP (2016)

14.38% of GDP (2015)

13.51% of GDP (2014)

14.81% of GDP (2013)

16.08% of GDP (2012)

country comparison to the world : 11

Military branches:

Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF): Royal Army of Oman, Royal Navy of Oman, Royal Air Force of Oman (al-Quwwat al-Jawwiya al-Sultanat Oman) (2013)

Military service age and obligation:

18-30 years of age for voluntary military service; no conscription (2012)

10.10 Transnational Issues

Disputes - international:

boundary agreement reportedly signed and ratified with UAE in 2003 for entire border, including Oman's Musandam Peninsula and Al Madhah exclave, but details of the alignment have not been made public

Refugees and internally displaced persons:

refugees (country of origin) : 5,000 (Yemen) (2017)5,000 (Yemen) (2017)