

2023 ([MMXXIII](#)) is the current year, and is a [common year starting on Sunday](#) of the [Gregorian calendar](#), the 2023rd year of the [Common Era](#) (CE) and *Anno Domini* (AD) designations, the 23rd year of the [3rd millennium](#) and the [21st century](#), and the 4th year of the [2020s](#) decade.

On May 5 this year, the [WHO](#) ceased calling the [COVID-19 pandemic](#) a [global health emergency](#), as infections continued to decrease. The [Russian invasion of Ukraine](#), which began in 2022, continued, and [an armed conflict](#) broke out in [Sudan](#), beginning in April. Catastrophic natural disasters included the [fifth-deadliest earthquake of the 21st century striking Turkey](#) and [Syria](#), leaving nearly 60,000 people dead, as well as [Cyclone Freddy](#), the longest-lasting recorded tropical cyclone in history, leading to over 1,400 deaths.

2023 additionally witnessed a [banking crisis](#) resulting in the collapse of numerous [American](#) regional banks as well as the [buyout](#) of [Credit Suisse](#) by [UBS](#) in [Switzerland](#). Among American banks, the two largest banks which collapsed were [Silicon Valley Bank](#) and [First Republic Bank](#), the third and second largest [banking collapses](#) in US history respectively.

In the realm of technology, 2023 has seen [the continued rise of generative AI models](#), with applications across various industries reaching new heights. These models, leveraging advancements in [machine learning](#) and [natural language processing](#), have become capable of creating realistic and coherent text, images, and music. [An AI arms race](#) between private companies has continued since the late 2010s, with [Microsoft](#)-backed [OpenAI](#) and [Google](#)-owner [Alphabet](#) today most dominant among firms.^[1]

Events

January

- [January 1](#) – [Croatia](#) adopts the [euro](#) and joins the [Schengen Area](#), becoming the 20th member state of the [Eurozone](#) and the 27th member of the Schengen Area. This is the first enlargement of the Eurozone since [Lithuania's](#) entry in [2015](#), and the first enlargement of the Schengen Area since [Liechtenstein's](#) entry in [2011](#).^{[2][3]}
- [January 3](#) – Starting from this date, many countries impose travel restrictions on travel from China due to the relaxation of [the country's zero-COVID policy](#).^[4]
- [January 5](#) – The [funeral](#) of [Pope Benedict XVI](#) is held at [Saint Peter's Square](#) within the [Vatican City](#).^[5]
- [January 8](#)
 - [COVID-19 pandemic](#): [China](#) reopens its borders to international visitors, marking the end of travel restrictions that began in March 2020.^{[6][7]}
 - Supporters of former [Brazilian president Jair Bolsonaro](#) [storm](#) the Brazilian [National Congress](#), the [Supreme Federal Court](#) and the [Presidential Palace of Planalto](#).^{[8][9]}
- [January 10–17](#) – A [deadly cold snap in Afghanistan](#) kills 166 people and nearly 80,000 livestock.^[10]
- [January 15](#) – [Yeti Airlines Flight 691](#) crashes during final approach into [Pokhara](#), [Nepal](#), killing all 72 people on board.^[11]
- [January 17](#) – [Nguyễn Xuân Phúc](#) resigns as [President of Vietnam](#) amid several recent scandals in [the government](#).^[12]
- [January 18](#) – [2023 Antigua and Barbuda general election](#): The [Labour Party](#) receives a third victory in a row, winning 9/17 seats in the parliament.^{[13][14]}
- [January 20](#) – The [Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago](#) [elects](#) former [senate](#) president, minister and lawyer [Christine Kangaloo](#) as [president of the country](#) in a 48–22 vote.^[15]
- [January 25](#) – [Chris Hipkins](#) succeeds [Jacinda Ardern](#) as [Prime Minister of New Zealand](#),^[16] six days after she announced [her resignation](#).^[17]

- [January 27](#) – Widespread unrest erupts in [Israel](#) following an [Israeli military raid](#) in [Jenin](#) which left nine Palestinians dead. Incendiary air balloons are launched into Israeli-populated areas following it. Israel responds with targeted airstrikes. Later the same day, seven Jewish civilians [are murdered](#) in a synagogue in [Neve Yaakov](#) in a terrorist attack.^{[18][19]}
- [January 27–28](#) – The second round of the [2023 Czech presidential election](#) is held, with [Petr Pavel](#) declared winner.^[20]
- [January 30](#) – A [Jamaat-ul-Ahrar suicide bombing](#) inside a mosque in [Peshawar](#), [Khyber Pakhtunkhwa](#), Pakistan, kills 84 people and injures over 220 others.^{[21][22][23]}

February

- [February 2](#) – The [European Central Bank](#) and [Bank of England](#) each raise their interest rates by 0.5 percentage points to combat inflation, one day after the [US Federal Reserve](#) raises its [federal funds rate](#) by 0.25 percentage points.^[24]
- [February 3](#)
 - The US announces it is tracking [alleged Chinese spy balloons](#) over the Americas, with one drifting from Yukon to [South Carolina](#) before being shot down the next day, and a second hovering over Colombia and Brazil. This event is followed by subsequent [detections and shootdowns of high-altitude objects](#) elsewhere.^{[25][26][27]}
 - A [Norfolk Southern](#) train carrying [hazardous materials](#) [derails](#) in [East Palestine, Ohio](#). Multiple train cars burned for more than two days, followed by emergency crews conducting a [controlled burn](#) of several additional cars, releasing [hydrogen chloride](#) and [phosgene](#) into the atmosphere.^{[28][29]}
- [February 5](#)
 - The [2023 Cypriot presidential election](#) is held, with [Nikos Christodoulides](#) elected [president](#).^{[30][31]}
 - [Cyclone Freddy](#) [forms](#) in the [Indian Ocean](#), going on to become the longest lasting, most powerful [tropical cyclone](#) in history and [causing](#) over 1400 deaths and countless injuries and property damage across the region.^[32]
- [February 6](#) – [2023 Turkey–Syria earthquake](#): A 7.8 M_{ww} earthquake [strikes](#) Gaziantep Province in [southeastern Turkey](#). A 7.5 M_{ww} aftershock occurs on the same day in nearby Kahramanmaraş Province. Widespread damage and at least 59,000 deaths are caused in [Turkey](#) and [Syria](#), with more than 121,000 injured.^{[33][34]}
- [February 13](#) – The [2023 Bangladeshi presidential election](#) scheduled for 19 February is held, with [Shahabuddin Chuppu](#) of the [Awami League](#), the only nominated candidate, elected unopposed.^{[35][36][37][38][39]}
- [February 20](#) – A magnitude 6.4 earthquake, an aftershock of the earlier February 6 earthquake, strikes southern [Turkey](#) and is also felt in [Syria](#), [Lebanon](#) and [Egypt](#).^[40]
- [February 21](#) – Vladimir Putin announces that Russia is suspending its participation in [New START](#), a nuclear arms reduction treaty with the US.^[41]
- [February 25](#) – [2023 Nigerian general election](#): [Bola Tinubu](#) is elected as Nigeria's [president](#), defeating former [vice president Atiku Abubakar](#) and [Peter Obi](#).^{[42][43]}
- [February 27](#) – The United Kingdom and the European Union reach an [agreement](#) surrounding modifications to the [Northern Ireland Protocol](#).^[44]
- [February 28](#) – A [train crash](#) in [Thessaly](#), [Greece](#), kills 57 people and injures dozens. The crash leads to nationwide [protests and strikes](#) against the condition of Greek railways and their mismanagement by the government.^{[45][46]}

March

- [March 2](#) – The [National Assembly of Vietnam](#) declares [Võ Văn Thưởng](#) as the country's new president after receiving 98.38% votes from the Vietnamese parliament.^[47]

- [March 4](#) – UN member states agree on a legal framework for the [High Seas Treaty](#), which aims to protect 30% of the world's [oceans](#) by 2030.^{[48][49]}
- [March 5](#) – The [2023 Estonian parliamentary election](#) is held, with two centre-right liberal parties gaining an absolute majority for the first time.^[50]
- [March 8](#) – [Allied Democratic Forces](#) jihadist insurgents use machetes to [kill](#) about 35 people in the village of Mukondi, [North Kivu](#), [Democratic Republic of the Congo](#).^[51]
- [March 8–21](#) – [2023 World Baseball Classic](#) is held and won by [Japan](#).^[52]
- [March 10](#)
 - [2023 People's Republic of China presidential election](#): The [National People's Congress](#) unanimously re-elects [Xi Jinping](#) as the [President of the People's Republic of China](#) to an unprecedented third term.^[53]
 - [Iran](#) and [Saudi Arabia](#) agree to resume diplomatic relations which were severed in 2016 at talks mediated by [China](#).^[54]
 - [Silicon Valley Bank](#), the 16th largest bank in the United States, [fails](#), creating then the [largest bank failure](#) since the [2008 financial crisis](#), affecting companies around the world.^{[55][56]}
- [March 14](#) – [OpenAI](#) launches [GPT-4](#), the next-generation large language model for artificial intelligence chatbot [ChatGPT](#). The new model can respond to images and has the ability to process up to 25,000 words.^[57]
- [March 17](#) – The [International Criminal Court](#) issues [an arrest warrant](#) for Russian president [Vladimir Putin](#), the first against a leader of a [permanent member](#) of the [United Nations Security Council](#).^{[58][59]}
- [March 18](#) – A [6.8 earthquake](#) strikes southern [Ecuador](#) killing 18 people, injuring nearly 500 and causing major damage.^[60]
- [March 19](#) – In a deal brokered by the [Swiss government](#), investment bank [UBS](#) [agrees to buy Credit Suisse](#) for [CHF](#) 3 billion (US\$3.2 billion) in an all-stock deal.^{[61][62][63]}
- [March 20](#) – The [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) (IPCC) releases the synthesis report of its [Sixth Assessment Report](#) on [climate change](#).^[64]
- [March 26](#) – [2023 Israeli judicial reform protests](#): Large-scale spontaneous protests erupt across Israel in the wake of Prime Minister [Benjamin Netanyahu](#) firing his defense minister who criticized the government's [judicial overhaul plan](#).^{[65][66][67]}

April

- [April 2](#)
 - The [2023 Bulgarian parliamentary election](#) results in a [GERB—SDS—PP—DB](#) coalition [government](#) headed by [Nikolai Denkov](#) as [prime minister](#), and ends [two years of political deadlock](#).^[68]
 - The [2023 Montenegrin presidential election](#) is held, with [Jakov Milatović](#) of the [Europe Now!](#) movement winning in the second round, becoming the first [president](#) not from the [DPS](#) party since the introduction of a multi-party system in 1990.^[69]
 - The [2023 Finnish parliamentary election](#) is held, with the centre-right [National Coalition](#) led by [Petteri Orpo](#) receiving the most votes.^[70]
 - The [2023 Andorran parliamentary election](#) is held, with the ruling [Democrats for Andorra](#) led by Prime Minister [Xavier Espot](#) winning the majority of the seats.^[71]
 - [2023 Saint Petersburg bombing](#): Russian pro-[government](#) war correspondent [Vladlen Tatarsky](#) is killed by a bombing at a café in [Saint Petersburg](#) owned by oligarch [Yevgeny Prigozhin](#). Sixteen others are injured.^{[72][importance?]}
- [April 4](#) – [Finland](#) becomes the 31st member of [NATO](#), doubling the alliance's border with Russia.^[73]

- [April 5](#) – [Clashes](#) between [Palestinians](#) and the [Israeli police](#) happen at [Al-Aqsa Mosque](#) in [Jerusalem](#).^[74]
- [April 10](#) – [Two document leaks](#) from the [Pentagon](#) detailing foreign military aid relating to the [Russian invasion of Ukraine](#) are leaked onto the Internet.^[75]
- [April 11](#) – [Myanmar civil war](#): In the village of [Pazigy](#), [at least 165 people are killed](#) by the [Myanmar Air Force](#) during the opening celebrations of a [People's Defence Force](#) administration office.^[76]
- [April 14](#) – [Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer](#) (JUICE) is launched by the [European Space Agency](#) (ESA) to search for life in the [Jovian system](#), with an expected arrival date of 2031.^[77]
- [April 15](#)
 - [Nuclear power in Germany](#) ends after the closure of the final power plants and nuclear being a power source for the country for over 50 years.^{[78][79]}
 - [Fighting](#) breaks out across [Sudan](#) between the [Sudanese Armed Forces](#) and the paramilitary [Rapid Support Forces](#). The RSF captures [Khartoum International Airport](#), and the [presidential palace](#) in [Khartoum](#).^[80]
- [April 19](#) – At least 90 people are killed and another 322 injured in a [crowd crush](#) during a [Ramadan](#) charity event in [Sanaa, Yemen](#).^{[81][82]}
- [April 20](#) – [SpaceX's Starship](#) rocket, the largest and most powerful rocket ever built, [is launched during a flight test from a base in Boca Chica, Texas](#). It explodes four minutes after launch.^[83]
- [April 25](#) – A [mass cult suicide](#) is uncovered in [Shakahola forest](#), [Kenya](#). 240 followers are found in shallow graves throughout the forest. Over 613 people remain missing.^[84]
- [April 30](#) – The [2023 Paraguayan general election](#) is held, with the [Colorado Party](#) candidate [Santiago Peña](#) being the [president-elect of Paraguay](#), winning in a [landslide](#).^[85]