

Bulgaria



Introduction

Background

The Bulgars, a Central Asian Turkic tribe, merged with the local Slavic inhabitants in the late 7th century to form the first Bulgarian state. In succeeding centuries, Bulgaria struggled with the Byzantine Empire to assert its place in the Balkans, but by the end of the 14th century the country was overrun by the Ottoman Turks. Northern Bulgaria attained autonomy in 1878 and all of Bulgaria became independent from the Ottoman Empire in 1908. Having fought on the losing side in both World Wars, Bulgaria fell within the Soviet sphere of influence and became a People's Republic in 1946. Communist domination ended in 1990, when Bulgaria held its first multiparty election since World War II and began the contentious process of moving toward political democracy and a market economy while combating inflation, unemployment, corruption, and crime. The country joined NATO in 2004 and the EU in 2007.

Geography

Location

Southeastern Europe, bordering the Black Sea, between Romania and Turkey

Geographic coordinates

43 00 N, 25 00 E

Map references

Europe

Area

total	110,879 sq km
land	108,489 sq km
water	2,390 sq km
country comparison to the world	106

Area - comparative

almost identical in size to Virginia; slightly larger than Tennessee

Land boundaries

total	1,806 km
border countries (5)	Greece 472 km, Macedonia 162 km, Romania 605 km, Serbia 344 km, Turkey 223 km

Coastline

354 km

Maritime claims

territorial sea	12 nm
contiguous zone	24 nm

exclusive economic zone	200 nm
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Climate

temperate; cold, damp winters; hot, dry summers

Terrain

mostly mountains with lowlands in north and southeast

Elevation

highest point: Musala 2,925 m

mean elevation	472 m
elevation extremes	lowest point: Black Sea 0 m

Natural resources

bauxite, copper, lead, zinc, coal, timber, arable land

Land use

arable land 29.9%; permanent crops 1.5%; permanent pasture 15.5%

agricultural land	46.9%
forest	36.7%
other	16.4% (2011 est.)

Irrigated land

1,020 sq km (2012)

Population - distribution

a fairly even distribution throughout most of the country, with urban areas attracting larger populations

Natural hazards

earthquakes; landslides

Environment - current issues

air pollution from industrial emissions; rivers polluted from raw sewage, heavy metals, detergents; deforestation; forest damage from air pollution and resulting acid

rain; soil contamination from heavy metals from metallurgical plants and industrial wastes

Environment - international agreements

party to	Air Pollution, Air Pollution-Nitrogen Oxides, Air Pollution-Persistent Organic Pollutants, Air Pollution-Sulfur 85, Air Pollution-Sulfur 94, Air Pollution-Volatile Organic Compounds, Antarctic-Environmental Protocol, Antarctic-Marine Living Resources, 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
but not ratified	none of the selected agreements

Geography - note

strategic location near Turkish Straits; controls key land routes from Europe to Middle East and Asia

People and Society

Population

7,101,510 (July 2017 est.)

country comparison to the world	103
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Nationality

noun	Bulgarian(s)
adjective	Bulgarian

Ethnic groups

Bulgarian 76.9%, Turkish 8%, Romani 4.4%, other 0.7% (including Russian, Armenian, and Vlach), other (unknown) 10% (2011 est.)

note	Romani populations are usually underestimated in official statistics and may represent 9–11% of Bulgaria's population
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Languages

Bulgarian (official) 76.8%, Turkish 8.2%, Romani 3.8%, other 0.7%, unspecified 10.5% (2011 est.)

Religions

Eastern Orthodox 59.4%, Muslim 7.8%, other (including Catholic, Protestant, Armenian Apostolic Orthodox, and Jewish) 1.7%, none 3.7%, unspecified 27.4% (2011 est.)

Age structure

0-14 years	14.58% (male 532,924/female 502,277)
15-24 years	9.58% (male 354,872/female 325,538)
25-54 years	43.21% (male 1,576,980/female 1,491,489)
55-64 years	13.35% (male 445,412/female 502,924)
65 years and over	19.28% (male 554,486/female 814,608) (2017 est.)
population pyramid	

Dependency ratios

total dependency ratio	51.7
youth dependency ratio	21.2
elderly dependency ratio	30.5
potential support ratio	3.3 (2015 est.)

Median age

total	42.7 years
male	40.9 years
female	44.7 years (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world	24

Population growth rate

-0.61% (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world	226
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Birth rate

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

country comparison to the world	212
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Death rate

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

country comparison to the world	3
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Net migration rate

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

country comparison to the world	114
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Population distribution

a fairly even distribution throughout most of the country, with urban areas attracting larger populations

Urbanization

urban population	74.6% of total population (2017)
rate of urbanization	-0.4% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

Major urban areas - population

SOFIA (capital) 1.226 million (2015)

Sex ratio

at birth	1.06 male(s)/female
0-14 years	1.06 male(s)/female
15-24 years	1.09 male(s)/female
25-54 years	1.06 male(s)/female
55-64 years	0.88 male(s)/female
65 years and over	0.69 male(s)/female
total population	0.95 male(s)/female (2016 est.)

s mean age at first birth

26.7 years (2014 est.)

Maternal mortality ratio

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

country comparison to the world	146
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Infant mortality rate

total	8.4 deaths/1,000 live births
male	9.5 deaths/1,000 live births
female	7.3 deaths/1,000 live births (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world	149

Life expectancy at birth

total population	74.7 years
male	71.4 years
female	78.2 years (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world	120

Total fertility rate

1.46 children born/woman (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world	202
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Contraceptive prevalence rate

69.2%

note	percent of women age 20-49 (2007)
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Health expenditures

8.4% of GDP (2014)

country comparison to the world	50
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Physicians density

4 physicians/1,000 population (2014)

Hospital bed density

6.4 beds/1,000 population (2011)

Drinking water source

total: 0.6% of population (2015 est.)

improved	
unimproved	

Sanitation facility access

total: 14% of population (2015 est.)

improved	
unimproved	

AIDS - adult prevalence rate

.1% (2016 est.)

AIDS

3,500 (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	109
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AIDS - deaths

200 (2016 est.)

Obesity - adult prevalence rate

25% (2016)

country comparison to the world	53
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Education expenditures

4.1% of GDP (2013)

country comparison to the world	108
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Literacy

definition	age 15 and over can read and write
total population	98.4%
male	98.7%
female	98.1% (2015 est.)

School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education)

total	15 years
male	15 years
female	15 years (2015)

youth ages 15-24

total	21.6%
male	21.2%
female	22.3% (2015 est.)

Government

Country name

conventional long form	Republic of Bulgaria
conventional short form	Bulgaria
local long form	Republika Bulgaria
local short form	Bulgaria
etymology	named after the Bulgar tribes who settled the lower Balkan region in the 7th century A.D.

Government type

parliamentary republic

Capital

name	Sofia
geographic coordinates	42 41 N, 23 19 E
time difference	UTC+2 (7 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)
daylight saving time	+1hr, begins last Sunday in March; ends last Sunday in October

Administrative divisions

28 provinces (oblasti, singular - oblast); Blagoevgrad, Burgas, Dobrich, Gabrovo, Haskovo, Kardzhali, Kyustendil, Lovech, Montana, Pazardzhik, Pernik, Pleven, Plovdiv, Razgrad, Ruse, Shumen, Silistra, Sliven, Smolyan, Sofia, Sofia-Grad (Sofia City), Stara Zagora, Targovishte, Varna, Veliko Tarnovo, Vidin, Vratsa, Yambol

Independence

3 March 1878 (as an autonomous principality within the Ottoman Empire); 22 September 1908 (complete independence from the Ottoman Empire)

National holiday

Liberation Day, 3 March (1878)

Constitution

history	several previous; latest drafted between late 1990 and early 1991, adopted 13 July 1991
amendments	proposed by the National Assembly or by the president of the republic; passage requires three-fourths majority vote of National Assembly members in three ballots; signed by the National Assembly chairperson; note - under special circumstances, a "Grand National Assembly" is elected with the authority to write a new constitution and amend certain articles of the constitution, including those affecting basic civil rights and national sovereignty; passage requires at least two-thirds majority vote in each of several readings; amended several times, last in 2015 (2016)

Legal system

civil law

International law organization participation

accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations; accepts ICCt jurisdiction

Citizenship

citizenship by birth	no
citizenship by descent only	at least one parent must be a citizen of Bulgaria
dual citizenship recognized	yes
residency requirement for naturalization	5 years

Suffrage

18 years of age; universal

Executive branch

chief of state	President Rumen RADEV (since 22 January 2017); Vice President Iliana YOTOVA (since 22 January 2017)
head of government	Prime Minister Boyko BORISSOV (since 4 May 2017); note - BORISSOV served 2 previous terms as prime minister (27 July 2009-13 March 2013 and 7 November 2014-27 January 2017)
cabinet	Council of Ministers nominated by the prime minister, elected by the National Assembly
appointments	president and vice president elected on the same ballot by absolute majority popular vote in 2 rounds if needed for a 5-year term (eligible for a second term); election last held on 6 and 13 November 2016 (next to be held in fall 2021); chairman of the Council of Ministers (prime minister) elected by the National Assembly; deputy prime ministers nominated by the prime minister, elected by the National Assembly
election results	Rumen RADEV elected president in second round; percent of vote - Rumen RADEV (independent, supported by Bulgarian Socialist Party) 59.4%, Tsetska TSACHEVA (GERB) 36.2%, neither 4.5%; Boyko BORISSOV (GERB) elected prime minister; National Assembly vote - 133 to 100

Legislative branch

description	unicameral National Assembly or Narodno Sabranie (240 seats; members directly elected in multi-seat constituencies by proportional
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	representation vote to serve 4-year terms)
elections	last held on 26 March 2017 (next to be held spring 2021)
election results	percent of vote by party/coalition - GERB 32.7%, BSP 27.2%, United Patriots 9.1%, DPS 9%, Volya 4.2%, other 17.8%; seats by party/coalition - GERB 95, BSP 80, United Patriots 27, DPS 26, Volya 12

Judicial branch

highest court(s)	Supreme Court of Cassation (consists of a chairman and approximately 72 judges organized into penal, civil, and commercial colleges); Supreme Administrative Court (organized in 2 colleges with various panels of 5 judges each); Constitutional Court (consists of 12 justices); note - Constitutional Court resides outside the judiciary
judge selection and term of office	Supreme Court of Cassation and Supreme Administrative judges elected by the Supreme Judicial Council or SJC (consists of 25 members with extensive legal experience) and appointed by the president; judges can serve until mandatory retirement at age 65; Constitutional Court justices elected by the National Assembly and appointed by the president and the SJC; justices appointed for 9-year terms with renewal of 4 justices every 3 years
subordinate courts	appeals courts; regional and district courts; administrative courts; courts martial

Political parties and leaders

Volya [Veselin MARESHKI]

Political pressure groups and leaders

Podkrepa Labor Confederation [Dimitar MANOLOV]

other	numerous regional, ethnic, and national interest groups with various agendas
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International organization participation

Australia Group, BIS, BSEC, CD, CE, CEI, CERN, EAPC, EBRD, ECB, EIB, EU, FAO, G- 9, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC (national committees), ICCT, ICRM, IDA, IFC, IFRCS, IHO (pending member), ILO, IMF, IMO, IMSO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO, ITU, ITUC (NGOs), MIGA, NATO, NSG, OAS (observer), OIF, OPCW, OSCE, PCA, SELEC, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNMIL, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WFTU (NGOs), WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO, ZC

Diplomatic representation in the US

chief of mission	Ambassador Tihomir Anguelov STOYTCHIEV (since 27 June 2016)
chancery	1621 22nd Street NW, Washington, DC 20008
telephone	[1] (202) 387-0174
FAX	[1] (202) 234-7973
consulate(s) general	Chicago, Los Angeles, New York

Diplomatic representation from the US

chief of mission	Ambassador Eric Seth RUBIN (since 24 February 2016)
embassy	16 Kozyak Street, Sofia 1408
mailing address	American Embassy Sofia, US Department of State, 5740 Sofia Place, Washington, DC 20521-5740
telephone	[359] (2) 937-5100
FAX	[359] (2) 937-5320

Flag description

three equal horizontal bands of white (top), green, and red; the pan-Slavic white-blue-red colors were modified by substituting a green band (representing freedom) for the blue

note	the national emblem, formerly on the hoist side of the white stripe, has been removed
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National symbol(s)

lion; national colors: white, green, red

National anthem

name	"Mila Rodino" (Dear Homeland)
music	Tsvetan Tsvetkov RADOSLAVOV
note	adopted 1964; composed in 1885 by a student en route to fight in the Serbo-Bulgarian War

Economy

Economy - overview

Despite a favorable investment regime, including low, flat corporate income taxes, significant challenges remain. Corruption in public administration, a weak judiciary, low productivity, and the presence of organized crime continue to hamper the country's investment climate and economic prospects.

GDP (purchasing power parity)

\$142.2 billion (2015 est.)

note	data are in 2017 dollars
country comparison to the world	77

GDP (official exchange rate)

\$55.95 billion (2016 est.)

GDP - real growth rate

3.6% (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world	86
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GDP - per capita (PPP)

\$19,900 (2015 est.)

note	data are in 2017 dollars
country comparison to the world	85

Gross national saving

21.1% of GDP (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world	70
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by end use

household consumption	61.7%
government consumption	15.6%
investment in fixed capital	19%
investment in inventories	0.5%
exports of goods and services	65.5%
imports of goods and services	-62.3% (2017 est.)

by sector of origin

agriculture	4.3%
industry	28%
services	67.7% (2017 est.)

Agriculture - products

vegetables, fruits, tobacco, wine, wheat, barley, sunflowers, sugar beets; livestock

Industries

electricity, gas, water; food, beverages, tobacco; machinery and equipment, automotive parts, base metals, chemical products, coke, refined petroleum, nuclear fuel; outsourcing centers

Industrial production growth rate

4.2% (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world	63
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Labor force

2.581 million

note	number of employed persons (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world	116

Labor force - by occupation

agriculture	6.8%
industry	26.6%
services	66.6% (2015 est.)

Unemployment rate

7.7% (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	92
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Population below poverty line

22% (2015 est.)

Household income or consumption by percentage share

lowest 10%	2.2%
highest 10%	28.4% (2015)

Distribution of family income - Gini index

35.4 (2014)

country comparison to the world	78
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Budget

revenues	\$19.53 billion
expenditures	\$20.31 billion (2017 est.)

Taxes and other revenues

34.9% of GDP (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world	56
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) or deficit (-)

-1.4% of GDP (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world	65
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Public debt

29.5% of GDP (2016 est.)

note	defined by the EU's Maastricht Treaty as consolidated general government gross debt at nominal value, outstanding at the end of the year in the following categories of government liabilities: currency and deposits, securities other than shares excluding financial derivatives, and loans; general government sector comprises the subsectors: central government, state government, local government, and social security funds
country comparison to the world	165

Fiscal year

calendar year

Inflation rate (consumer prices)

-1.3% (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	45
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Central bank discount rate

0.01% (31 December 2015)

note	Bulgarian National Bank (BNB) has had no independent monetary policy since the introduction of the Currency Board regime in 1997; this is BNB's base interest rate
country comparison to the world	150

Commercial bank prime lending rate

6.41% (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	129
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Stock of narrow money

\$22 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	65
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Stock of broad money

\$42.84 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	66
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Stock of domestic credit

\$27.56 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	82
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Market value of publicly traded shares

\$5.45 billion (31 December 2014 est.)

country comparison to the world	85
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Current account balance

\$2.201 billion (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	35
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Exports

\$24.96 billion (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	65
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Exports - commodities

clothing, footwear, iron and steel, machinery and equipment, fuels, agriculture, tobacco, IT components

Exports - partners

Germany 13.7%, Italy 9.3%, Romania 8.8%, Turkey 7.9%, Greece 7%, France 4.5% (2016)

Imports

\$27 billion (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	62
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Imports - commodities

machinery and equipment; metals and ores; chemicals and plastics; fuels, minerals, and raw materials

Imports - partners

Germany 13.1%, Russia 8.9%, Italy 7.9%, Romania 7%, Turkey 6.2%, Greece 4.8%, Poland 4.1% (2016)

Reserves of foreign exchange and gold

\$25.19 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	52
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Debt - external

\$37.99 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	72
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Stock of direct foreign investment - at home

\$45.26 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	59
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Stock of direct foreign investment - abroad

\$4.988 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	70
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Exchange rates

1.4742 (2013 est.)

Energy

Electricity access

electrification - total population	100% (2016)
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Electricity - production

46.15 billion kWh (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world	57
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Electricity - consumption

31.79 billion kWh (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world	60
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Electricity - exports

14.83 billion kWh (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world	14
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Electricity - imports

4.25 billion kWh (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world	45
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Electricity - installed generating capacity

10.91 million kW (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world	58
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Electricity - from fossil fuels

36.3% of total installed capacity (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	172
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Electricity - from nuclear fuels

17.3% of total installed capacity (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	11
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Electricity - from hydroelectric plants

30% of total installed capacity (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	72
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Electricity - from other renewable sources

16.4% of total installed capacity (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	42
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Crude oil - production

1,000 bbl/day (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	93
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Crude oil - exports

0 bbl/day (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world	101
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Crude oil - imports

122,800 bbl/day (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world	39
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Crude oil - proved reserves

15 million bbl (1 January 2017 es)

country comparison to the world	89
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Refined petroleum products - production

132,000 bbl/day (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world	63
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Refined petroleum products - consumption

89,000 bbl/day (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world	86
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Refined petroleum products - exports

83,450 bbl/day (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world	45
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Refined petroleum products - imports

44,600 bbl/day (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world	88
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Natural gas - production

94 million cu m (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	83
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Natural gas - consumption

3.209 billion cu m (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	76
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Natural gas - exports

0 cu m (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	76
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Natural gas - imports

3.093 billion cu m (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	44
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Natural gas - proved reserves

5.663 billion cu m (1 January 2017 es)

country comparison to the world	93
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Carbon dioxide emissions from consumption of energy

49.92 million Mt (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	60
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Communications

Telephones - fixed lines

total subscriptions	1,478,975
subscriptions per 100 inhabitants	21 (July 2016 est.)
country comparison to the world	64

Telephones - mobile cellular

total	8,978,202
subscriptions per 100 inhabitants	126 (July 2016 est.)
country comparison to the world	87

Telephone system

general assessment	inherited an extensive but antiquated telecommunications network from the
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	Soviet era; quality has improved with a modern digital trunk line now connecting switching centers in most of the regions; remaining areas are connected by digital microwave radio relay
domestic	the Bulgaria Telecommunications Company's fixed-line monopoly terminated in 2005 in an effort to upgrade fixed-line services; mobile-cellular teledensity, fostered by multiple service providers, is over 125 telephones per 100 persons
international	country code - 359; submarine cable provides connectivity to Ukraine and Russia; a combination submarine cable and land fiber-optic system provides connectivity to Italy, Albania, and Macedonia; satellite earth stations - 3 (1 Intersputnik in the Atlantic Ocean region, 2 Intelsat in the Atlantic and Indian Ocean regions) (2016)

Broadcast media

4 national terrestrial TV stations with 1 state-owned and 3 privately owned; a vast array of TV stations are available from cable and satellite TV providers; state-owned national radio broadcasts over 3 networks; large number of private radio stations broadcasting, especially in urban areas (2010)

Internet country code

.bg

Internet users

total	4,274,328
percent of population	59.8% (July 2016 est.)
country comparison to the world	75

Transportation

National air transport system

number of registered air carriers	8
inventory of registered aircraft operated by air carriers	44
annual passenger traffic on registered air carriers	1,118,689
annual freight traffic on registered air carriers	1,583,340 mt-km (2015)

Civil aircraft registration country code prefix

LZ (2016)

Airports

68 (2013)

country comparison to the world	73
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Airports - with paved runways

total	57
047 m	2
047 m	17
437 m	12
under 914 m	26 (2017)

Airports - with unpaved runways

total	11
523 m	2
under 914 m	9 (2013)

Heliports

1 (2013)

Pipelines

gas 2,765 km; oil 346 km; refined products 378 km (2017)

Railways

total	5,114 km
standard gauge	4,989 km 1.435-m gauge (2,880 km electrified)
narrow gauge	125 km 0.760-m gauge (2014)
country comparison to the world	36

Roadways

total	19,512 km
paved	19,235 km (includes 458 km of expressways)
unpaved	277 km
note	does not include Category IV local roads (2011)
country comparison to the world	111

Waterways

470 km (2009)

country comparison to the world	83
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Merchant marine

total	80
by type	bulk carrier 2, general cargo 18, oil tanker 8, other 52 (2017)
country comparison to the world	95

Ports and terminals

major seaport(s)	Burgas, Varna (Black Sea)
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Military and Security

Military expenditures

1.5% of GDP (2012)

country comparison to the world	66
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Military branches

Bulgarian Armed Forces: Land Forces (aka Army), Naval Forces, Bulgarian Air Forces (Voennovazdyshni Sily, VVS) (2017)

Military service age and obligation

18-27 years of age for voluntary military service; conscription ended in January 2008; service obligation 6-9 months (2012)

Transnational Issues

Disputes - international

none

Refugees and internally displaced persons

refugees (country of origin)	15,027 (Syria) (2016)
stateless persons	67 (2016)
note	47,819 estimated refugee and migrant arrivals (January 2015 - January 2018); Bulgaria is predominantly a transit country and hosts approximately 1,800 migrants and asylum seekers as of September 2017

Trafficking in persons

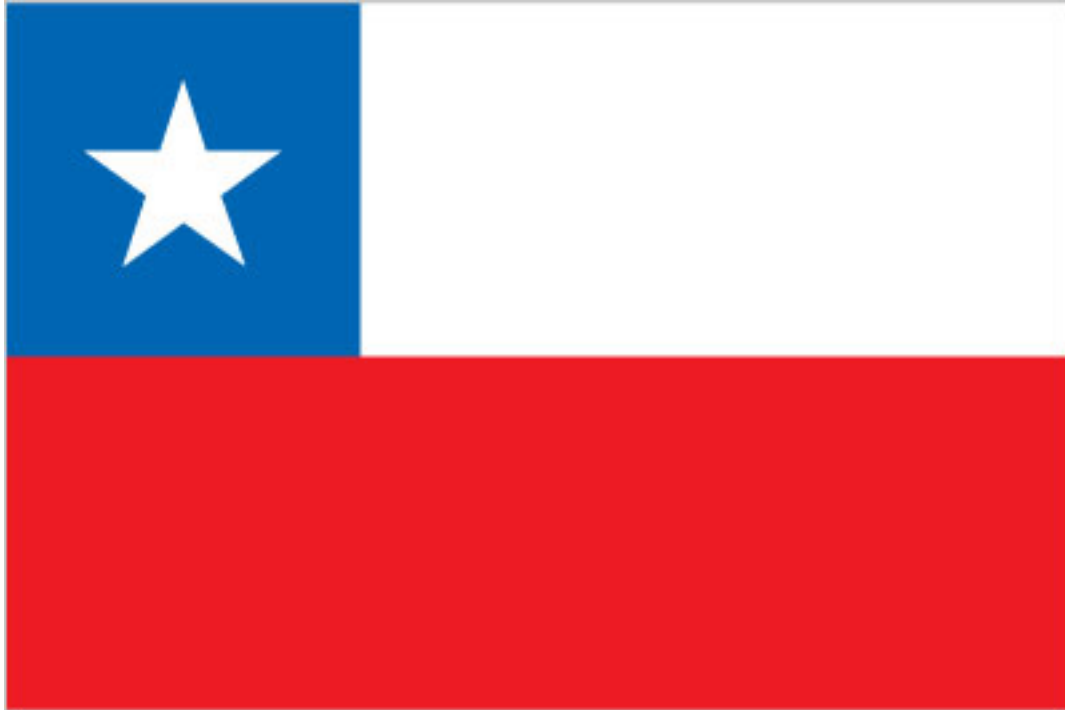
current situation	Bulgaria is a source and, to a lesser extent, a transit and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to sex trafficking and forced labor; Bulgaria is one of the main sources of
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	human trafficking in the EU; women and children are increasingly sex trafficked domestically, as well as in Europe, Russia, the Middle East, and the US; adults and children become forced laborers in agriculture, construction, and the service sector in Europe, Israel, and Zambia; Romanian girls are also subjected to sex trafficking in Bulgaria
tier rating	Tier 2 Watch List – Bulgaria does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so; in 2014, authorities prosecuted and convicted fewer traffickers and issued suspended sentences for the majority of those convicted; victim protection efforts declined and were minimal relative to the number of victims identified; funding for the state's two NGO-operated shelters was significantly cut, forcing them to close; specialized services for child and adult male victims were non-existent; the government took action to combat trafficking-related complicity among public officials and police officers (2015)

Illicit drugs

major European transshipment point for Southwest Asian heroin and, to a lesser degree, South American cocaine for the European market; limited producer of precursor chemicals; vulnerable to money laundering because of corruption, organized crime; some money laundering of drug-related proceeds through financial institutions

Chile



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.

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 km
land	743,812 sq km
water	12,290 sq km
note	includes Easter Island (Isla de Pascua) and Isla Sala y Gomez
country comparison to the world	39

Area - comparative

slightly smaller than twice the size of Montana

Area comparison map	
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Land boundaries

total	7,801 km
border countries (3)	Argentina 6,691 km, Bolivia 942 km, Peru 168 km

Coastline

6,435 km

Maritime claims

territorial sea	12 nm
contiguous zone	24 nm
exclusive economic zone	200 nm
continental shelf	200/350 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

highest point: Nevado Ojos del Salado 6,880 m

mean elevation	1,871 m
elevation extremes	lowest point: Pacific Ocean 0 m

Natural resources

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

Land use

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

agricultural land	21.1%
forest	21.9%
other	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, Lullailaco, Nevados de Chillan, Puyehue, San Pedro, and Villarrica
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Environment - current issues

widespread deforestation and mining threaten natural resources; air pollution from industrial and vehicle emissions; water pollution from raw sewage

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
but not ratified	none of the selected agreements

Geography - note

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); 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)

People and Society

Population

17,789,267 (July 2017 est.)

country comparison to the world	65
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Nationality

noun	Chilean(s)
adjective	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.)
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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 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)
15-24 years	15.04% (male 1,364,831/female 1,311,216)
25-54 years	43.08% (male 3,830,538/female 3,832,989)
55-64 years	10.96% (male 918,559/female 1,031,153)
65 years and over	10.81% (male 805,880/female 1,117,112) (2017 est.)
population pyramid	

Dependency ratios

total dependency ratio	45.5
youth dependency ratio	30.3
elderly dependency ratio	15.2
potential support ratio	6.6 (2015 est.)

Median age

total	34.4 years
male	33.2 years
female	35.6 years (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world	85

Population growth rate

0.77% (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world	135
---------------------------------	-----

Birth rate

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

country comparison to the world	143
---------------------------------	-----

Death rate

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

country comparison to the world	155
---------------------------------	-----

Net migration rate

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

country comparison to the world	66
---------------------------------	----

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	89.9% of total population (2017)
rate of urbanization	0.96% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

Major urban areas - population

SANTIAGO (capital) 6.507 million; Valparaíso 907,000; Concepción 816,000 (2015)

Sex ratio

at birth	1.04 male(s)/female
0-14 years	1.04 male(s)/female
15-24 years	1.04 male(s)/female
25-54 years	1 male(s)/female
55-64 years	0.89 male(s)/female
65 years and over	0.72 male(s)/female

total population	0.97 male(s)/female (2016 est.)
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Maternal mortality ratio

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

country comparison to the world	128
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Infant mortality rate

total	6.6 deaths/1,000 live births
male	7.1 deaths/1,000 live births
female	6.1 deaths/1,000 live births (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world	164

Life expectancy at birth

total population	78.9 years
male	75.9 years
female	82.1 years (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world	51

Total fertility rate

1.8 children born/woman (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world	152
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Health expenditures

7.8% of GDP (2014)

country comparison to the world	60
--	----

Physicians density

1.03 physicians/1,000 population (2009)

Hospital bed density

2.1 beds/1,000 population (2011)

Drinking water source

total: 1% of population (2015 est.)

improved	
unimproved	

Sanitation facility access

total: 0.9% of population (2015 est.)

improved	
unimproved	

AIDS - adult prevalence rate

0.5% (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	63
---------------------------------	----

AIDS

61,000 (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	53
---------------------------------	----

AIDS - deaths

NA

Obesity - adult prevalence rate

28% (2016)

country comparison to the world	32
---------------------------------	----

Children under the age of 5 years underweight

0.5% (2014)

country comparison to the world	137
---------------------------------	-----

Education expenditures

4.8% of GDP (2014)

country comparison to the world	90
---------------------------------	----

Literacy

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

School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education)

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

youth ages 15-24

total	15.4%
male	14.3%
female	17% (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world	73

Government

Country name

conventional long form	Republic of Chile
conventional short form	Chile
local long form	Republica de Chile
local short form	Chile
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"

Government type

presidential republic

Capital

name	Santiago; note - Valparaiso is the seat of the national legislature
geographic coordinates	33 27 S, 70 40 W
time difference	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

Administrative divisions

15 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, Maule, Region Metropolitana (Santiago), Tarapaca, Valparaiso

note	the US does not recognize claims to Antarctica
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Independence

18 September 1810 (from Spain)

National holiday

Independence Day, 18 September (1810)

Constitution

many previous; latest adopted 11 September 1980, effective 11 March 1981; amended many times, last in 2011; note - in late 2015, the Chilean Government initiated a process to reform its constitution (2016)

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 ICCT jurisdiction

Citizenship

citizenship by birth	yes
citizenship by descent	yes
dual citizenship recognized	yes
residency requirement for naturalization	5 years

Suffrage

18 years of age; universal

Executive branch

chief of state	President Michelle BACHELET Jeria (since 11 March 2014); note - the president is both chief of state and head of government
head of government	President Michelle BACHELET Jeria (since 11 March 2014)
cabinet	Cabinet appointed by the president
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 (second round) (next to be held November 2021)
election results	Sebastian PINERA Echenique elected president in second round; percent of vote in first round - Sebastian PINERA Echenique 36.64%; Alejandro GUILLIER 22.7%; Beatriz SANCHEZ 20.27%; Jose Antonio KAST 7.93%; Carolina GOIC 5.88%; Marco ENRIQUEZ-OMINAMI 5.71%; other 0.87%; percent of second round vote - Sebastian

	PINERA Echnique 54.6%, Alejandro GUILLIER 45.4%
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Legislative branch

description	bicameral National Congress or Congreso Nacional consists of the Senate or Senado (38 seats; to increase to 43 on 11 March 2018 and 50 in 2022); members directly elected in multi-seat constituencies by simple majority vote to serve 8-year terms with one-half of the membership renewed every 4 years) and the Chamber of Deputies or Camara de Diputados (120 seats; to increase to 155 on 11 March 2018; members directly elected in multi-seat constituencies by simple majority 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 (DC 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, Amplitude Party 1), independents 4; Chamber of Deputies - percent of vote by party - NA; seats by party - New Majority 68 (DC 21, PS 16, PPD 14, PC 6, PRSD 6, Citizen Left 1, independents 4), Coalition for Change 47 (UDI 29, RN 14, independents 3, EP 1), Liberal Party 1, independents 4
note	in January 2015, the Chilean Congress voted to end the binomial system that was put in place under Gen. Augusto PINOCHET; the Congress also voted to expand its size (155 seats in the

	chamber of Deputies and 50 seats in the Senate) and establish rules to ensure that there is equitable gender representation; the new electoral system will be put in place in the November 2017 elections
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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)
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
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

Political parties and leaders

Progressive Party or PRO [Patricia MORALES]

Political pressure groups and leaders

United Labor Central or CUT (includes trade unionists from the country's 5 largest labor confederations)

other	university student federations at all major universities
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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 Juan Gabriel VALDES Soublette (since 21 May 2014)
chancery	1732 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20036
telephone	[1] (202) 785-1746
FAX	[1] (202) 887-5579
consulate(s) general	Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, San Francisco

Diplomatic representation from the US

chief of mission	Ambassador Carol PEREZ (since 14 November 2016)
embassy	Avenida Andres Bello 2800, Las Condes, Santiago
mailing address	APO AA 34033
telephone	[56] (2) 2330-3000

FAX	[56] (2) 2330-3710, 2330-3160
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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
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National symbol(s)

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

National anthem

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

Economy

Economy - overview

In 2014, 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)

\$439 billion (2015 est.)

note	data are in 2017 dollars
country comparison to the world	45

GDP (official exchange rate)

\$263.2 billion (2016 est.)

GDP - real growth rate

2.3% (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world	178
--	-----

GDP - per capita (PPP)

\$24,400 (2015 est.)

note	data are in 2017 dollars
country comparison to the world	80

Gross national saving

21.3% of GDP (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world	88
--	----

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.)

by sector of origin

agriculture	4.4%
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industry	31.4%
services	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	154
--	-----

Labor force

8.881 million (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world	58
--	----

Labor force - by occupation

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

Unemployment rate

6.5% (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	100
--	-----

Population below poverty line

14.4% (2013)

Household income or consumption by percentage share

lowest 10%	1.7%
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highest 10%	41.5% (2013 est.)
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Distribution of family income - Gini index

57.1 (2000)

country comparison to the world	15
---------------------------------	----

Budget

revenues	\$56.73 billion
expenditures	\$64.89 billion (2017 est.)

Taxes and other revenues

21.6% of GDP (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world	139
---------------------------------	-----

) or deficit (-)

-3.1% of GDP (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world	115
---------------------------------	-----

Public debt

21.3% of GDP (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	177
---------------------------------	-----

Fiscal year

calendar year

Inflation rate (consumer prices)

3.8% (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	106
---------------------------------	-----

Central bank discount rate

3% (31 December 2014)

country comparison to the world	103
---------------------------------	-----

Commercial bank prime lending rate

5.59% (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	150
---------------------------------	-----

Stock of narrow money

\$44.01 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	54
---------------------------------	----

Stock of broad money

\$158.3 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	46
---------------------------------	----

Stock of domestic credit

\$211.6 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	45
---------------------------------	----

Market value of publicly traded shares

\$265.2 billion (31 December 2013 est.)

country comparison to the world	35
---------------------------------	----

Current account balance

-\$3.528 billion (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	177
---------------------------------	-----

Exports

\$60.6 billion (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	44
---------------------------------	----

Exports - commodities

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

Exports - partners

China 28.6%, US 14.1%, Japan 8.6%, South Korea 6.9%, Brazil 5% (2016)

Imports

\$55.34 billion (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	47
---------------------------------	----

Imports - commodities

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

Imports - partners

China 24.3%, US 14.7%, Brazil 9.3%, Argentina 4.4%, France 4.2% (2016)

Reserves of foreign exchange and gold

\$40.49 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	44
---------------------------------	----

Debt - external

\$158.1 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	40
---------------------------------	----

Stock of direct foreign investment - at home

\$199.8 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	29
---------------------------------	----

Stock of direct foreign investment - abroad

\$90.54 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	36
---------------------------------	----

Exchange rates

570.37 (2013 est.)

Energy

Electricity access

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

Electricity - production

71.66 billion kWh (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world	40
---------------------------------	----

Electricity - consumption

67.95 billion kWh (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world	40
---------------------------------	----

Electricity - exports

0 kWh (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	119
---------------------------------	-----

Electricity - imports

0 kWh (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	133
---------------------------------	-----

Electricity - installed generating capacity

21.64 million kW (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world	40
---------------------------------	----

Electricity - from fossil fuels

60.8% of total installed capacity (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world	127
---------------------------------	-----

Electricity - from nuclear fuels

0% of total installed capacity (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world	66
---------------------------------	----

Electricity - from hydroelectric plants

30% of total installed capacity (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world	71
---------------------------------	----

Electricity - from other renewable sources

16.1% of total installed capacity (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world	44
---------------------------------	----

Crude oil - production

4,423 bbl/day (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	82
---------------------------------	----

Crude oil - exports

0 bbl/day (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	105
---------------------------------	-----

Crude oil - imports

163,000 bbl/day (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	33
---------------------------------	----

Crude oil - proved reserves

150 million bbl (1 January 2017 es)

country comparison to the world	64
---------------------------------	----

Refined petroleum products - production

215,300 bbl/day (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	50
---------------------------------	----

Refined petroleum products - consumption

337,400 bbl/day (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	41
---------------------------------	----

Refined petroleum products - exports

4,500 bbl/day (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	96
---------------------------------	----

Refined petroleum products - imports

160,900 bbl/day (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	43
---------------------------------	----

Natural gas - production

1.008 billion cu m (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world	67
---------------------------------	----

Natural gas - consumption

5.23 billion cu m (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world	63
---------------------------------	----

Natural gas - exports

0 cu m (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world	83
---------------------------------	----

Natural gas - imports

3.727 billion cu m (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world	39
---------------------------------	----

Natural gas - proved reserves

97.97 billion cu m (1 January 2017 es)

country comparison to the world	54
---------------------------------	----

Carbon dioxide emissions from consumption of energy

76 million Mt (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world	47
---------------------------------	----

Communications

Telephones - fixed lines

total subscriptions	3,464,107
subscriptions per 100 inhabitants	20 (July 2016 est.)
country comparison to the world	44

Telephones - mobile cellular

total	22,974,289
subscriptions per 100 inhabitants	130 (July 2016 est.)
country comparison to the world	49

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
domestic	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)

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
percent of population	66.0% (July 2016 est.)
country comparison to the world	43

Transportation

National air transport system

number of registered air carriers	9
inventory of registered aircraft operated by air carriers	173
annual passenger traffic on registered air carriers	15,006,762
annual freight traffic on registered air carriers	1,392.236 million mt-km (2015)

Civil aircraft registration country code prefix

CC (2016)

Airports

481 (2013)

country comparison to the world	15
---------------------------------	----

Airports - with paved runways

total	90
047 m	5
047 m	7
437 m	23
523 m	31
under 914 m	24 (2017)

Airports - with unpaved runways

total	391
047 m	5
437 m	11
523 m	56
under 914 m	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 km
broad gauge	3,428 km 1.676-m gauge (1,691 km electrified)
narrow gauge	3,853.5 km 1.000-m gauge (2014)

country comparison to the world	30
---------------------------------	----

Roadways

total	77,764 km
paved	18,119 km (includes 2,387 km of expressways)
unpaved	59,645 km (2010)
country comparison to the world	62

Merchant marine

total	211
by type	bulk carrier 10, container ship 5, general cargo 54, oil tanker 12, other 130 (2017)

Ports and terminals

major seaport(s)	Coronel, Huasco, Lirquen, Puerto Ventanas, San Antonio, San Vicente, Valparaiso
LNG terminal(s) (import)	Mejillones, Quintero

Military and Security

Military expenditures

2.05% of GDP (2012)

country comparison to the world	38
---------------------------------	----

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)

Transnational Issues

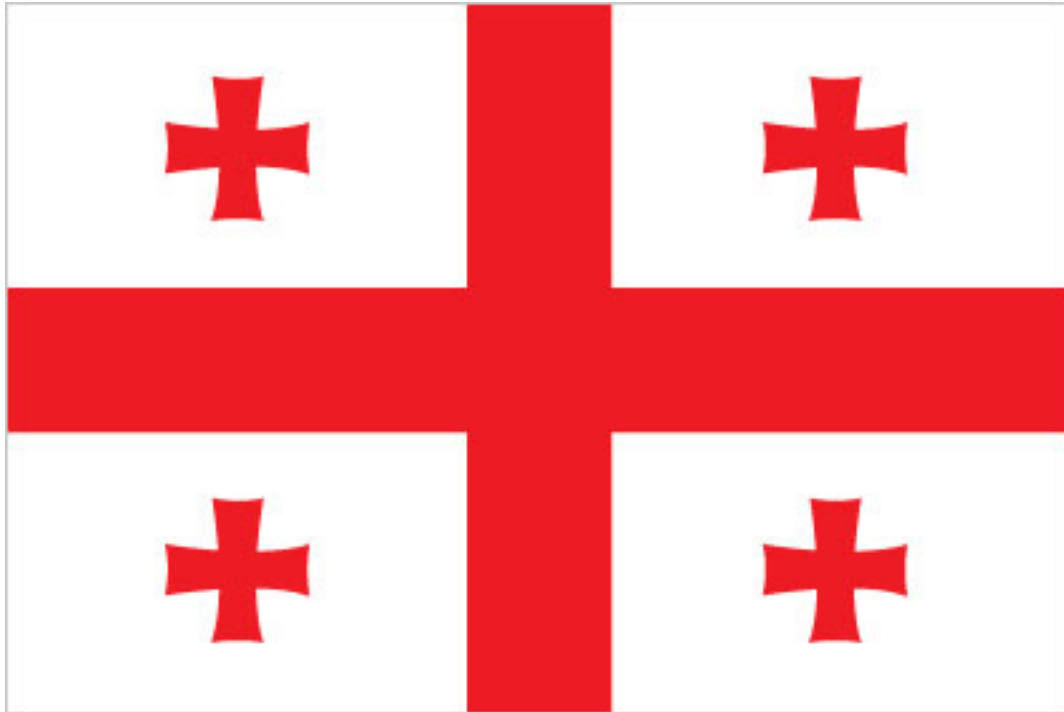
Disputes - international

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)

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

Georgia



Introduction

Background

Billionaire philanthropist Bidzina IVANISHVILI's unexpected entry into politics in October 2011 brought the divided opposition together under his Georgian Dream coalition, which won a majority of seats in the October 2012 parliamentary elections and removed UNM from power. Conceding defeat, SAKASHVILI named IVANISHVILI as prime minister and allowed Georgian Dream to create a new government. Giorgi MARGVELASHVILI was inaugurated as president on 17 November 2013, ending a tense year of power-sharing between SAKASHVILI and IVANISHVILI. IVANISHVILI voluntarily resigned from office after the presidential succession, and Georgia's legislature on 20 November 2013 confirmed Irakli GARIBASHVILI as his replacement. GARIBASHVILI was replaced by Giorgi KVIRIKASHVILI in December 2015. KVIRIKASHVILI remained Prime Minister following Georgian Dream's success in the October 2016 parliamentary elections, where the party won a constitutional majority. These changes in leadership represent unique examples of a former Soviet state that emerged to conduct democratic and peaceful government transitions of power. Popular and government support for

integration with the West is high in Georgia. Joining the EU and NATO are among the country's top foreign policy goals.

Geography

Location

Southwestern Asia, bordering the Black Sea, between Turkey and Russia, with a sliver of land north of the Caucasus extending into Europe; note - Georgia views itself as part of Europe; geopolitically, it can be classified as falling within Europe, the Middle East, or both

Geographic coordinates

42 00 N, 43 30 E

Map references

Asia

Area

total	69,700 sq km
land	69,700 sq km
water	0 sq km
note	approximately 12,560 sq km, or about 18% of Georgia's area, is Russian occupied; the seized area includes all of Abkhazia and the breakaway region of South Ossetia, which consists of the northern part of Shida Kartli, eastern slivers of the Imereti region and Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti, and part of western Mtskheta-Mtianeti
country comparison to the world	122

Area - comparative

slightly smaller than South Carolina; slightly larger than West Virginia

Area comparison map	
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Land boundaries

total	1,814 km
border countries (4)	Armenia 219 km, Azerbaijan 428 km, Russia 894 km, Turkey 273 km

Coastline

310 km

Maritime claims

territorial sea	12 nm
exclusive economic zone	200 nm

Climate

warm and pleasant; Mediterranean-like on Black Sea coast

Terrain

largely mountainous with Great Caucasus Mountains in the north and Lesser Caucasus Mountains in the south; Kolkhet'is Dablobi (Kolkhida Lowland) opens to the Black Sea in the west; Mtkvari River Basin in the east; fertile soils in river valley flood plains and foothills of Kolkhida Lowland

Elevation

highest point: Mt'a Shkhara 5,193 m

mean elevation	1,432 m
elevation extremes	lowest point: Black Sea 0 m

Natural resources

timber, hydropower, manganese deposits, iron ore, copper, minor coal and oil deposits; coastal climate and soils allow for important tea and citrus growth

Land use

arable land 5.8%; permanent crops 1.8%; permanent pasture 27.9%

agricultural land	35.5%
forest	39.4%

other	25.1% (2011 est.)
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Irrigated land

4,330 sq km (2012)

Population - distribution

settlement coincides closely to the central valley, with emphasis on the capital city of Tbilisi in the east; smaller urban agglomerations dot the Black Sea coast, with Bat'umi being the largest

Natural hazards

earthquakes

Environment - current issues

air pollution, particularly in Rust'avi; heavy pollution of Mtkvari River and the Black Sea; inadequate supplies of potable water; soil pollution from toxic chemicals

Environment - international agreements

party to	Air Pollution, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Wetlands
but not ratified	none of the selected agreements

Geography - note

strategically located east of the Black Sea; Georgia controls much of the Caucasus Mountains and the routes through them; Krubera Cave in the western part of the country is the deepest-known cave in the world; at -2,197 m it is the only known cave on earth deeper than 2,000 m

People and Society

Population

4,926,330 (July 2017 est.)

country comparison to the world	124
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Nationality

noun	Georgian(s)
adjective	Georgian

Ethnic groups

Georgian 86.8%, Azeri 6.3%, Armenian 4.5%, other 2.3% (includes Russian, Ossetian, Yazidi, Ukrainian, Kist, Greek) (2014 est.)

Languages

Georgian (official) 87.6%, Azeri 6.2%, Armenian 3.9%, Russian 1.2%, other 1%

note	Abkhaz is the official language in Abkhazia (2014 est.)
------	---

Religions

Orthodox (official) 83.4%, Muslim 10.7%, Armenian Apostolic 2.9%, other 1.2% (includes Catholic, Jehovah's Witness, Yazidi, Protestant, Jewish), none 0.5%, unspecified/no answer 1.2% (2014 est.)

Age structure

0-14 years	18.08% (male 466,426/female 424,295)
15-24 years	11.94% (male 310,970/female 277,434)
25-54 years	40.96% (male 983,144/female 1,034,794)
55-64 years	13.01% (male 286,539/female 354,247)
65 years and over	16.01% (male 309,353/female 479,128) (2017 est.)
population pyramid	

Dependency ratios

total dependency ratio	50
youth dependency ratio	28.1
elderly dependency ratio	21.9
potential support ratio	4.6 (2015 est.)

Median age

total	38.1 years
male	35.3 years
female	40.9 years (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world	61

Population growth rate

-0.02% (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world	198
---------------------------------	-----

Birth rate

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

country comparison to the world	162
---------------------------------	-----

Death rate

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

country comparison to the world	30
---------------------------------	----

Net migration rate

-1.6 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world	150
---------------------------------	-----

Population distribution

settlement coincides closely to the central valley, with emphasis on the capital city of Tbilisi in the east; smaller urban agglomerations dot the Black Sea coast, with Bat'umi being the largest

Urbanization

urban population	54% of total population (2017)
rate of urbanization	-0.09% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)
note	data include Abkhazia and South Ossetia

Major urban areas - population

TBILISI (capital) 1.147 million (2015)

Sex ratio

at birth	1.08 male(s)/female
0-14 years	1.11 male(s)/female
15-24 years	1.11 male(s)/female
25-54 years	0.95 male(s)/female
55-64 years	0.81 male(s)/female
65 years and over	0.64 male(s)/female
total population	0.92 male(s)/female (2016 est.)

s mean age at first birth

24.5 years

note	data do not cover Abkhazia and South Ossetia (2014 est.)
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Maternal mortality ratio

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

country comparison to the world	108
---------------------------------	-----

Infant mortality rate

total	15.2 deaths/1,000 live births
male	17.3 deaths/1,000 live births
female	12.9 deaths/1,000 live births (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world	100

Life expectancy at birth

total population	76.4 years
male	72.3 years
female	80.7 years (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world	86

Total fertility rate

1.76 children born/woman (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world	158
---------------------------------	-----

Contraceptive prevalence rate

53.4%

note	percent of women aged 15-44 (2010)
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Health expenditures

7.4% of GDP (2014)

country comparison to the world	69
---------------------------------	----

Physicians density

4.78 physicians/1,000 population (2014)

Hospital bed density

2.6 beds/1,000 population (2012)

Drinking water source

total: 0% of population (2015 est.)

improved	
unimproved	

Sanitation facility access

total: 13.7% of population (2015 est.)

improved	
unimproved	

AIDS - adult prevalence rate

0.5% (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	61
---------------------------------	----

AIDS

12,000 (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	89
---------------------------------	----

AIDS - deaths

500 (2016 est.)

Obesity - adult prevalence rate

21.7% (2016)

country comparison to the world	86
---------------------------------	----

Children under the age of 5 years underweight

1.1% (2009)

country comparison to the world	131
---------------------------------	-----

Education expenditures

2% of GDP (2012)

country comparison to the world	167
---------------------------------	-----

Literacy

definition	age 15 and over can read and write
total population	99.8%
male	99.8%
female	99.7% (2015 est.)

School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education)

total	15 years
male	15 years
female	16 years (2015)

youth ages 15-24

total	35.6%
male	28.6%
female	30.8% (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world	23

Government

Country name

conventional long form	none
conventional short form	Georgia
local long form	none
local short form	Sak'art'velo
former	Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic
etymology	the Western name may derive from the Persian designation "gurgan" meaning "Land of the Wolves"; the native name "Sak'art'velo" means "Land of the

	Kartvelians" and refers to the core central Georgian region of Kartli
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Government type

semi-presidential republic

Capital

name	Tbilisi
geographic coordinates	41 41 N, 44 50 E
time difference	UTC+4 (9 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)

Administrative divisions

9 regions (mkharebi, singular - mkhare), 1 city (kalaki), and 2 autonomous republics (avtomnoy respubliki, singular - avtom respublika)

regions	Guria, Imereti, Kakheti, Kvemo Kartli, Mtskheta Mtianeti, Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti, Samegrelo and Zemo Svaneti, Samtskhe-Javakheti, Shida Kartli; note - the breakaway region of South Ossetia consists of the northern part of Shida Kartli, eastern slivers of the Imereti region and Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti, and part of western Mtskheta-Mtianeti
city	Tbilisi
autonomous republics	Abkhazia or Ap'khazet'is Avtonomiuri Respublika (Sokhumi), Ajaria or Acharis Avtonomiuri Respublika (Bat'umi)
note 1	the administrative centers of the two autonomous republics are shown in parentheses
note 2	the United States recognizes the breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia to be part of Georgia

Independence

9 April 1991 (from the Soviet Union); notable earlier date: A.D. 1008 (Georgia unified under King BAGRAT III)

National holiday

Independence Day, 26 May (1918); note - 26 May 1918 was the date of independence from Soviet Russia, 9 April 1991 was the date of independence from the Soviet Union

Constitution

history	previous 1921, 1978 (based on 1977 Soviet Union constitution); latest approved 24 August 1995, effective 17 October 1995
amendments	proposed as a draft law supported by more than one-half of the Parliament membership or by petition of at least 200,000 voters; passage requires support by at least three-fourths of the Parliament membership in two successive sessions three months apart and the signature and promulgation by the president of Georgia; amended several times, last in 2017 (2018)

Legal system

civil law system

International law organization participation

accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction; accepts ICCt jurisdiction

Citizenship

citizenship by birth	no
citizenship by descent only	at least one parent must be a citizen of Georgia
dual citizenship recognized	no

residency requirement for naturalization	10 years
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Suffrage

18 years of age; universal

Executive branch

chief of state	President Giorgi MARGVELASHVILI (since 17 November 2013)
head of government	Prime Minister Giorgi KVIRIKASHVILI (since 30 December 2015); First Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry KUMSISHVILI
cabinet	Cabinet of Ministers
appointments	president directly elected by absolute majority popular vote in 2 rounds if needed for a 5-year term (eligible for a second term); election last held on 27 October 2013 (next to be held in October 2018); prime minister nominated by Parliament, appointed by the president
election results	Giorgi MARGVELASHVILI elected president in first round; percent of vote - Giorgi MARGVELASHVILI (independent), 62.1%, Davit BAKRADZE (UNM) 21.7%, Nino BURJANADZE 10.2%, other 6%

Legislative branch

description	unicameral Parliament or Sakartvelos Parlamenti (150 seats; 77 members directly elected in a single nationwide constituency by proportional representation vote and 73 directly elected in single-seat constituencies by simple majority vote; members serve 4-year terms)
elections	last held on 8 October and 30 October 2016 (next to be held in 2020)

election results	percent of vote by party - Georgian Dream 48.7%, UNM 27.1%, Alliance of Patriots 5%, other 19.2%; seats by party - Georgian Dream 115, UNM 27, Alliance of Patriots 6, IWSG 1, independent 1; note - European Georgia split from UNM in January 2017 taking 20 of 27 parliamentary members
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Judicial branch

highest court(s)	Supreme Court (organized into several specialized judicial chambers; number of judges determined by the president of Georgia); Constitutional Court (consists of 9 judges); note - the Abkhazian and Ajarian Autonomous republics each have a supreme court and a hierarchy of lower courts
judge selection and term of office	Supreme Court judges nominated by the president and appointed by the Parliament; judges serve not less than 10-year terms; Constitutional Court judges appointed by the president following candidate selection by the Justice Council of Georgia, a 12-member consultative body of high-level judges and presidential and parliamentary appointees; judges appointed for 10-year terms
subordinate courts	Courts of Appeal; regional (town) and district courts

Political parties and leaders

United National Movement or UNM [Nika MELIA]

Political pressure groups and leaders

other	separatists in the Russian-occupied regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia
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International organization participation

ADB, BSEC, CD, CE, CPLP (associate), EAPC, EBRD, FAO, G-11, GCTU, GUAM, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC (national committees), ICCt, ICRM, IDA, IFAD, IFC, IFRCS, ILO, IMF, IMO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO (correspondent), ITSO, ITU, ITUC (NGOs), MIGA, OAS (observer), OIF (observer), OPCW, OSCE, PFP, SELEC (observer), UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

Diplomatic representation in the US

chief of mission	Ambassador David BAKRADZE (since 18 January 2017)
chancery	1824 R Street NW, Washington, DC 20009
telephone	[1] (202) 387-2390
FAX	[1] (202) 387-0864
consulate(s) general	New York

Diplomatic representation from the US

chief of mission	Ambassador Ian C. KELLY (since 17 September 2015)
embassy	11 George Balanchine Street, T'bilisi 0131
mailing address	7060 T'bilisi Place, Washington, DC 20521-7060
telephone	[995] (32) 227-70-00
FAX	[995] (32) 253-23-10

Flag description

white rectangle with a central red cross extending to all four sides of the flag; each of the four quadrants displays a small red bolnir-katskhuri cross; sometimes referred to as the Five-Cross Flag; although adopted as the official Georgian flag in 2004, the five-cross design appears to date back to the 14th century

National symbol(s)

Saint George, lion; national colors: red, white

National anthem

name	"Tavisupleba" (Liberty)
music	Davit MAGRADSE/Zakaria PALIASHVILI (adapted by Joseb KETSCHAKMADSE)
note	adopted 2004; after the Rose Revolution, a new anthem with music based on the operas "Abesalom da Eteri" and "Daisi" was adopted

Economy

Economy - overview

The country is pinning its hopes for renewed growth on a continued effort to liberalize the economy by reducing regulation, taxes, and corruption in order to attract foreign investment, with a focus on hydropower, agriculture, tourism, and textiles production. Georgia has historically suffered from a chronic failure to collect tax revenues; however, since 2004 the government has simplified the tax code, increased tax enforcement, and cracked down on petty corruption, leading to higher revenues. Georgia plans to improve the domestic investment environment through a four-year economic plan targeting the tax system, educational standards, infrastructure, and governance. The government has received high marks from the World Bank for improvements in business transparency. Since 2012, the Georgian Dream-led government has continued the previous administration's low-regulation, low-tax, free market policies, while modestly increasing social spending, strengthening anti-trust policy, and amending the labor code to comply with International Labor Standards. In mid-2014, Georgia signed an association agreement with the EU, paving the way to free trade and visa-free travel. Georgia is also seeking to expand trade with China, concluding substantive negotiations on a trade agreement in October 2016.

GDP (purchasing power parity)

\$36.81 billion (2015 est.)

note	data are in 2017 dollars
country comparison to the world	121

GDP (official exchange rate)

\$15.23 billion (2016 est.)

GDP - real growth rate

2.9% (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world	65
---------------------------------	----

GDP - per capita (PPP)

\$9,900 (2015 est.)

note	data are in 2017 dollars
country comparison to the world	137

Gross national saving

20.1% of GDP (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world	77
---------------------------------	----

by end use

household consumption	63.4%
government consumption	18.6%
investment in fixed capital	29.7%
investment in inventories	3.4%
exports of goods and services	52.5%
imports of goods and services	-67.6% (2017 est.)

by sector of origin

agriculture	9.6%
industry	23.4%
services	66.2% (2017 est.)

Agriculture - products

citrus, grapes, tea, hazelnuts, vegetables; livestock

Industries

steel, machine tools, electrical appliances, mining (manganese, copper, gold), chemicals, wood products, wine

Industrial production growth rate

7% (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world	27
---------------------------------	----

Labor force

1.998 million (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	125
---------------------------------	-----

Labor force - by occupation

agriculture	55.6%
industry	8.9%
services	35.5% (2006 est.)

Unemployment rate

11.8% (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	147
---------------------------------	-----

Population below poverty line

9.2% (2010 est.)

Household income or consumption by percentage share

lowest 10%	2%
highest 10%	31.3% (2008)

Distribution of family income - Gini index

46 (2011)

country comparison to the world	62
---------------------------------	----

Budget

revenues	\$4.26 billion
expenditures	\$4.852 billion (2017 est.)

Taxes and other revenues

28% of GDP (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world	96
---------------------------------	----

) or deficit (-)

-3.9% of GDP (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world	142
---------------------------------	-----

Public debt

44.5% of GDP (2016 est.)

note	data cover general government debt, and includes 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; Georgia does not maintain intra-governmental debt or social funds
country comparison to the world	119

Fiscal year

calendar year

Inflation rate (consumer prices)

2.1% (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	184
---------------------------------	-----

Central bank discount rate

7% (23 September 2015)

note	this is the Refinancing Rate, the key monetary policy rate of the National Bank of Georgia
country comparison to the world	57

Commercial bank prime lending rate

12.62% (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	72
--	----

Stock of narrow money

\$2.389 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	129
--	-----

Stock of broad money

\$2.454 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	148
--	-----

Stock of domestic credit

\$7.753 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	113
--	-----

Market value of publicly traded shares

\$795.7 million (31 December 2011 est.)

country comparison to the world	105
--	-----

Current account balance

-\$1.91 billion (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	154
--	-----

Exports

\$2.831 billion (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	121
---------------------------------	-----

Exports - commodities

vehicles, ferro-alloys, fertilizers, nuts, scrap metal, gold, copper ores

Exports - partners

Russia 9.8%, Turkey 8.2%, China 8.1%, Bulgaria 7.3%, Azerbaijan 7.3%, Armenia 7.2%, Germany 4.1% (2016)

Imports

\$6.64 billion (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	108
---------------------------------	-----

Imports - commodities

fuels, vehicles, machinery and parts, grain and other foods, pharmaceuticals

Imports - partners

Canada 18.6%, Turkey 14%, Russia 7%, Ireland 6.5%, China 5.7%, Azerbaijan 5.1%, Germany 4.4%, Ukraine 4.3% (2016)

Reserves of foreign exchange and gold

\$2.756 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	108
---------------------------------	-----

Debt - external

\$14.08 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	105
---------------------------------	-----

Stock of direct foreign investment - at home

\$14.66 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	87
---------------------------------	----

Stock of direct foreign investment - abroad

\$2.185 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	79
---------------------------------	----

Exchange rates

1.7657 (2013 est.)

Energy

Electricity access

electrification - total population	100% (2016)
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Electricity - production

11.57 billion kWh (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	94
---------------------------------	----

Electricity - consumption

12.44 billion kWh (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	86
---------------------------------	----

Electricity - exports

560 million kWh (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	64
---------------------------------	----

Electricity - imports

478.9 million kWh (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	81
---------------------------------	----

Electricity - installed generating capacity

4.28 million kW (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world	84
---------------------------------	----

Electricity - from fossil fuels

36.2% of total installed capacity (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world	173
---------------------------------	-----

Electricity - from nuclear fuels

0% of total installed capacity (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world	96
---------------------------------	----

Electricity - from hydroelectric plants

63.8% of total installed capacity (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world	24
---------------------------------	----

Electricity - from other renewable sources

0% of total installed capacity (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world	183
---------------------------------	-----

Crude oil - production

400 bbl/day (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	94
---------------------------------	----

Crude oil - exports

1,002 bbl/day (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world	73
---------------------------------	----

Crude oil - imports

200 bbl/day (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world	81
---------------------------------	----

Crude oil - proved reserves

35 million bbl (1 January 2017 es)

country comparison to the world	83
---------------------------------	----

Refined petroleum products - production

0 bbl/day (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world	148
---------------------------------	-----

Refined petroleum products - consumption

23,000 bbl/day (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world	135
---------------------------------	-----

Refined petroleum products - exports

283.1 bbl/day (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world	116
---------------------------------	-----

Refined petroleum products - imports

23,910 bbl/day (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world	111
---------------------------------	-----

Natural gas - production

10 million cu m (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world	95
---------------------------------	----

Natural gas - consumption

2.18 billion cu m (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world	86
---------------------------------	----

Natural gas - exports

0 cu m (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world	109
---------------------------------	-----

Natural gas - imports

1.26 billion cu m (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world	57
---------------------------------	----

Natural gas - proved reserves

8.495 billion cu m (1 January 2017 es)

country comparison to the world	86
---------------------------------	----

Carbon dioxide emissions from consumption of energy

7 million Mt (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world	118
---------------------------------	-----

Communications

Telephones - fixed lines

total subscriptions	831,346
subscriptions per 100 inhabitants	17 (July 2016 est.)
country comparison to the world	73

Telephones - mobile cellular

total	5,532,701
subscriptions per 100 inhabitants	112 (July 2016 est.)
country comparison to the world	114

Telephone system

general assessment	fixed-line telecommunications network has limited coverage outside Tbilisi; multiple mobile-cellular providers provide services to an increasing subscribership throughout the country
domestic	cellular telephone networks cover the entire country; mobile-cellular teledensity roughly 110 per 100 persons; intercity facilities include a fiber-optic line between T'bilisi and K'ut'aisi
international	country code - 995; the Georgia-Russia fiber-optic submarine cable provides

	connectivity to Russia; international service is available by microwave, landline, and satellite through the Moscow switch; international electronic mail and telex service are available (2015)
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Broadcast media

Tbilisi-based Georgian Public Broadcaster (GPB) includes Channel 1, Channel 2, as well as the Batumi-based Adjara TV (also a part of GPB); all three are funded from the state budget; there are a number of independent commercial TV stations, including but not limited to Rustavi 2, Imedi, Maestro, Kavkasia, GDS, and TV1; the Georgian Orthodox Church also operates a satellite-based TV station called Unanimity; 26 regional TV broadcasters across Georgia are members of the Georgian Association of Regional Broadcasters (GARB) that seeks to strengthen the regional media's capacities and to distribute regional products; a nationwide digital switchover occurred in 2015; there are several dozen private radio stations; GPB operates 2 radio stations (2016)

Internet country code

.ge

Internet users

total	2,464,107
percent of population	50.0% (July 2016 est.)
country comparison to the world	91

Transportation

National air transport system

number of registered air carriers	5
inventory of registered aircraft operated by air carriers	13
annual passenger traffic on registered air carriers	232,263

annual freight traffic on registered air carriers	185,040 mt-km (2015)
--	----------------------

Civil aircraft registration country code prefix

4L (2016)

Airports

22 (2013)

country comparison to the world	135
--	-----

Airports - with paved runways

total	18
047 m	1
047 m	7
437 m	3
523 m	5
under 914 m	2 (2017)

Airports - with unpaved runways

total	4
437 m	1
523 m	2
under 914 m	1 (2013)

Heliports

2 (2013)

Pipelines

gas 1,596 km; oil 1,175 km (2013)

Railways

total	1,363 km
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broad gauge	1,326 km 1.520-m gauge (1,251 km electrified)
narrow gauge	37 km 0.912-m gauge (37 km electrified) (2014)
country comparison to the world	82

Roadways

total	19,109 km
paved	19,109 km (includes 69 km of expressways) (2010)
country comparison to the world	113

Merchant marine

total	84
by type	bulk carrier 1, general cargo 24, oil tanker 2, other 57 (2017)
country comparison to the world	90

Ports and terminals

major seaport(s)	Black Sea - Bat'umi, P'ot'i
-------------------------	-----------------------------

Military and Security

Military expenditures

3.1% of GDP (2012)

country comparison to the world	27
--	----

Military branches

Georgian Armed Forces: Land Forces (include Air and Air Defense Forces); separatist Abkhazia Armed Forces: Ground Forces, Air Forces; separatist South Ossetia Armed Forces

note

Georgian naval forces have been incorporated into the Coast Guard, which is part of the Ministry of Internal Affairs rather than the Ministry of Defense (2015)

Military service age and obligation

18 to 27 years of age for compulsory and voluntary active duty military service; conscript service obligation is 12 months (2017)

Transnational Issues

Disputes - international

Russia's military support and subsequent recognition of Abkhazia and South Ossetia independence in 2008 continue to sour relations with Georgia

Refugees and internally displaced persons

IDPs

208,000 (displaced in the 1990s as a result of armed conflict in the breakaway republics of Abkhazia and South Ossetia; displaced in 2008 by fighting between Georgia and Russia over South Ossetia) (2016)

stateless persons

250 (2016)

Illicit drugs

limited cultivation of cannabis and opium poppy, mostly for domestic consumption; used as transshipment point for opiates via Central Asia to Western Europe and Russia

Niue



Introduction

Background

Niue's remoteness, as well as cultural and linguistic differences between its Polynesian inhabitants and those of the adjacent Cook Islands, has caused it to be separately administered by New Zealand. The population of the island continues to drop (from a peak of 5,200 in 1966 to 1,618 in 2017) with substantial emigration to New Zealand 2,400 km to the southwest.

Geography

Location

Oceania, island in the South Pacific Ocean, east of Tonga

Geographic coordinates

19 02 S, 169 52 W

Map references

Oceania

Area

total	260 sq km
land	260 sq km
water	0 sq km
country comparison to the world	213

Area - comparative

1.5 times the size of Washington, DC

Land boundaries

0 km

Coastline

64 km

Maritime claims

territorial sea	12 nm
exclusive economic zone	200 nm

Climate

tropical; modified by southeast trade winds

Terrain

steep limestone cliffs along coast, central plateau

Elevation

highest point: unnamed elevation 1.4 km east of Hikutavake 80 m

mean elevation	NA
elevation extremes	lowest point: Pacific Ocean 0 m

Natural resources

fish, arable land

Land use

arable land 3.8%; permanent crops 11.5%; permanent pasture 3.8%

agricultural land	19.1%
forest	71.2%
other	9.7% (2011 est.)

Irrigated land

0 sq km (2012)

Population - distribution

population distributed around the peripheral coastal areas of the island

Natural hazards

tropical cyclones

Environment - current issues

increasing attention to conservationist practices to counter loss of soil fertility from traditional slash and burn agriculture

Environment - international agreements

party to	Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Law of the Sea, Ozone Layer Protection
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Geography - note

one of world's largest coral islands; the only major break in the surrounding coral reef occurs in the central western part of the coast

People and Society

Population

1,618 (July 2017 est.)

country comparison to the world	233
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Nationality

noun	Niuean(s)
adjective	Niuean

Ethnic groups

Niuen 66.5%, part-Niuen 13.4%, non-Niuen 20.1% (includes 12% European and Asian and 8% Pacific Islanders) (2011 est.)

Languages

Niuean (official) 46% (a Polynesian language closely related to Tongan and Samoan), Niuean and English 32%, English (official) 11%, Niuean and others 5%, other 6% (2011 est.)

Religions

Ekalesia Niue (Congregational Christian Church of Niue - a Protestant church founded by missionaries from the London Missionary Society) 67%, other Protestant 3% (includes Seventh Day Adventist 1%, Presbyterian 1%, and Methodist 1%), Mormon 10%, Roman Catholic 10%, Jehovah's Witnesses 2%, other 6%, none 2% (2011 est.)

Population growth rate

-0.03% (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world	201
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Population distribution

population distributed around the peripheral coastal areas of the island

Urbanization

urban population	44% of total population (2017)
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rate of urbanization	-0.49% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)
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Major urban areas - population

ALOFI (capital) 1,000 (2014)

Sex ratio

NA

Infant mortality rate

total	NA
male	NA
female	NA

Life expectancy at birth

total population	NA
male	NA
female	NA (2017 est.)

Total fertility rate

NA

Health expenditures

7.4% of GDP (2014)

country comparison to the world	68
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Physicians density

1.84 physicians/1,000 population (2008)

Drinking water source

total: 1.5% of population (2015 est.)

improved	
-----------------	--

unimproved	
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Sanitation facility access

total: 0% of population (2015 est.)

improved	
unimproved	

AIDS - adult prevalence rate

NA

AIDS

NA

AIDS - deaths

NA

Obesity - adult prevalence rate

50% (2016)

country comparison to the world	6
---------------------------------	---

Education expenditures

NA

Government

Country name

conventional long form	none
conventional short form	Niue
note	pronunciation falls between nyu-way and new-way, but not like new-wee
former	Savage Island

etymology

the origin of the name is obscure; in Niuean, the word supposedly translates as "behold the coconut"

Dependency status

self-governing in free association with New Zealand since 1974; Niue fully responsible for internal affairs; New Zealand retains responsibility for external affairs and defense; however, these responsibilities confer no rights of control and are only exercised at the request of the Government of Niue

Government type

self-governing parliamentary democracy (Fouo Ekepule) in free association with New Zealand

Capital

name	Alofi
geographic coordinates	19 01 S, 169 55 W
time difference	UTC-11 (6 hours behind Washington, DC, during Standard Time)

Administrative divisions

none; note - there are no first-order administrative divisions as defined by the US Government, but there are 14 villages at the second order

Independence

19 October 1974 (Niue became a self-governing state in free association with New Zealand)

National holiday

Waitangi Day (Treaty of Waitangi established British sovereignty over New Zealand), 6 February (1840)

Constitution

several previous (New Zealand colonial statutes); latest 19 October 1974 (Niue Constitution Act 1974); amended 1992, 2007 (2016)

Legal system

English common law

Suffrage

18 years of age; universal

Executive branch

chief of state	Queen ELIZABETH II (since 6 February 1952); represented by Governor General of New Zealand Governor General Dame Patricia Lee REDDY (since 28 September 2016); the UK and New Zealand are represented by New Zealand High Commissioner Ross ARDEN (since February 2014)
head of government	Premier Toke TALAGI (since 18 June 2008)
cabinet	Cabinet chosen by the premier
appointments	the monarchy is hereditary; premier indirectly elected by the Legislative Assembly for a 3-year term; election last held on 12 May 2017 (next to be held in 2020)
election results	Toke TALAGI reelected premier; Legislative Assembly vote - Toke TALAGI (independent) 15, O'Love JACOBSEN (independent) 5

Legislative branch

description	unicameral Assembly or Fono Ekepule (20 seats; 14 members directly elected in single-seat constituencies by simple majority vote and 6 directly elected from the National Register or "common roll" by majority vote; members serve 3-year terms)
elections	last held on 6 May 2017 (next to be held in 2020)

election results	percent of vote by party - NA; seats by party - independent 20
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Judicial branch

highest resident court(s)	Court of Appeal (consists of the chief justice and up to 3 judges); note - the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council (in London) is the final appeal court beyond the Niue Court of Appeal
judge selection and term of office	Niue chief justice appointed by the governor-general on the advice of the Cabinet and tendered by the premier; other judges appointed by the governor-general on the advice of the Cabinet and tendered by the chief justice and the minister of justice; judges serve until age 68
subordinate courts	High Court
note	Niue is a participant in the Pacific Judicial Development Program, which is designed to build governance and the rule of law in 15 Pacific island countries

Political parties and leaders

Niue People's Action Party or NPP [Young VIVIAN]

Political pressure groups and leaders

NA

International organization participation

ACP, AOSIS, FAO, IFAD, OPCW, PIF, Sparteca, SPC, UNESCO, UPU, WHO, WIPO, WMO

Diplomatic representation in the US

none (self-governing territory in free association with New Zealand)

Diplomatic representation from the US

none (self-governing territory in free association with New Zealand)

Flag description

yellow with the flag of the UK in the upper hoist-side quadrant; the flag of the UK bears five yellow five-pointed stars - a large star on a blue disk in the center and a smaller star on each arm of the bold red cross; the larger star stands for Niue, the smaller stars recall the Southern Cross constellation on the New Zealand flag and symbolize links with that country; yellow represents the bright sunshine of Niue and the warmth and friendship between Niue and New Zealand

National symbol(s)

yellow, five-pointed star; national color: yellow

National anthem

name	"Ko e Iki he Lagi" (The Lord in Heaven)
music	unknown/unknown, prepared by Sioeli FUSIKATA
note	adopted 1974

Economy

Economy - overview

The island in recent years has suffered a serious loss of population because of emigration to New Zealand. Efforts to increase GDP include the promotion of tourism and financial services, although the International Banking Repeal Act of 2002 resulted in the termination of all offshore banking licenses.

GDP (purchasing power parity)

\$10.01 million (2003 est.)

country comparison to the world	229
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GDP (official exchange rate)

\$10.01 million (2003)

GDP - real growth rate

6.2% (2003 est.)

country comparison to the world	22
---------------------------------	----

GDP - per capita (PPP)

\$5,800 (2003 est.)

country comparison to the world	166
---------------------------------	-----

by sector of origin

agriculture	23.5%
industry	26.9%
services	49.5% (2003)

Agriculture - products

coconuts, passion fruit, honey, limes, taro, yams, cassava (manioc, tapioca), sweet potatoes; pigs, poultry, beef cattle

Industries

handicrafts, food processing

Industrial production growth rate

NA%

Labor force

663 (2001)

country comparison to the world	231
---------------------------------	-----

Labor force - by occupation

note	most work on family plantations; paid work exists only in government service, small industry, and the Niue Development Board
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Unemployment rate

12% (2001)

country comparison to the world	154
---------------------------------	-----

Population below poverty line

NA%

Household income or consumption by percentage share

lowest 10%	NA%
highest 10%	NA%

Budget

revenues	\$15.07 million
expenditures	\$16.33 million (FY04/05)

) or deficit (-)

-12.6% of GDP (FY04/05)

country comparison to the world	212
---------------------------------	-----

Fiscal year

1 April - 31 March

Inflation rate (consumer prices)

4% (2005)

country comparison to the world	156
---------------------------------	-----

Exports

\$201,400 (2004 est.)

country comparison to the world	221
---------------------------------	-----

Exports - commodities

canned coconut cream, copra, honey, vanilla, passion fruit products, pawpaws, root crops, limes, footballs, stamps, handicrafts

Imports

\$9.038 million (2004 est.)

country comparison to the world	218
---------------------------------	-----

Imports - commodities

food, live animals, manufactured goods, machinery, fuels, lubricants, chemicals, drugs

Debt - external

\$418,000 (2002 est.)

country comparison to the world	203
---------------------------------	-----

Exchange rates

1.2039 (2013 est.)

Energy

Electricity - production

3 million kWh (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world	217
---------------------------------	-----

Electricity - consumption

2.79 million kWh (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world	215
---------------------------------	-----

Electricity - exports

0 kWh (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	175
---------------------------------	-----

Electricity - imports

0 kWh (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	179
---------------------------------	-----

Electricity - installed generating capacity

1,000 kW (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world	215
---------------------------------	-----

Electricity - from fossil fuels

100% of total installed capacity (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world	14
---------------------------------	----

Electricity - from nuclear fuels

0% of total installed capacity (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world	151
---------------------------------	-----

Electricity - from hydroelectric plants

0% of total installed capacity (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world	191
---------------------------------	-----

Electricity - from other renewable sources

0% of total installed capacity (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world	200
---------------------------------	-----

Crude oil - production

0 bbl/day (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world	182
---------------------------------	-----

Crude oil - exports

0 bbl/day (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world	169
---------------------------------	-----

Crude oil - imports

0 bbl/day (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world	168
---------------------------------	-----

Crude oil - proved reserves

0 bbl (1 January 2017 es)

country comparison to the world	180
---------------------------------	-----

Refined petroleum products - production

0 bbl/day (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world	187
---------------------------------	-----

Refined petroleum products - consumption

60 bbl/day (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world	215
---------------------------------	-----

Refined petroleum products - exports

0 bbl/day (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world	184
---------------------------------	-----

Refined petroleum products - imports

64.25 bbl/day (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world	212
---------------------------------	-----

Natural gas - production

0 cu m (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world	175
---------------------------------	-----

Natural gas - consumption

0 cu m (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world	214
---------------------------------	-----

Natural gas - exports

0 cu m (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world	156
---------------------------------	-----

Natural gas - imports

0 cu m (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world	162
---------------------------------	-----

Natural gas - proved reserves

0 cu m (1 January 2014 es)

country comparison to the world	177
---------------------------------	-----

Carbon dioxide emissions from consumption of energy

3,520 Mt (2012 est.)

country comparison to the world	213
---------------------------------	-----

Communications

Telephone system

domestic	single-line (fixed line) telephone system connects all villages (and virtually all households) on island
international	country code - 683 (2015)

Broadcast media

1 government-owned TV station with many of the programs supplied by Television New Zealand; 1 government-owned radio station broadcasting in AM and FM (2009)

Internet country code

.nu

Internet users

total	1,090
percent of population	91.6% (July 2016 est.)
country comparison to the world	213

Transportation

Airports

1 (2013)

country comparison to the world	228
---------------------------------	-----

Airports - with paved runways

total	1
437 m	1 (2017)

Airports - with unpaved runways

total	1
437 m	1 (2013)

Roadways

total	234 km
paved	210 km (2017)
country comparison to the world	214

Ports and terminals

major seaport(s)	Alofi
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Military and Security

Military branches

no regular indigenous military forces; Police Force

Military - note

defense is the responsibility of New Zealand

Transnational Issues

Disputes - international

none