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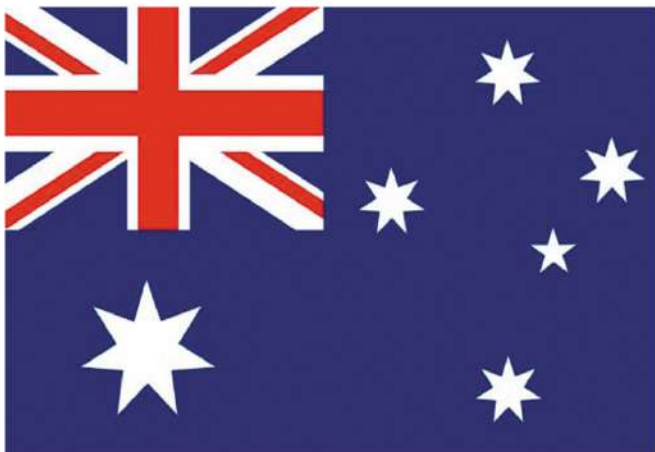
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AUSTRALIA



MAP



History:

The first known landing in Australia by Europeans was in 1606 by Dutch navigator Willem Janszoon. Later that year, Spanish explorer Luís Vaz de Torres sailed through, and navigated, what is now called Torres Strait and associated islands. Twenty-nine other Dutch navigators explored the western and southern coasts in the 17th century and named the continent New Holland. Macassan trepangers visited Australia's northern coasts after 1720, possibly earlier. Other European explorers followed until, in 1770, Lieutenant James Cook charted the east coast of Australia for Great Britain. He returned to London with accounts favoring colonization at Botany Bay (now in Sydney).

The First Fleet of British ships arrived at Botany Bay in January 1788 to establish a penal colony, the first colony on the Australian mainland. In the century that followed, the British established other colonies on the continent, and European explorers ventured into its interior. Aboriginal people were greatly weakened and their numbers diminished by introduced diseases and conflict with the colonists during this period.

The colonies voted by referendum to unite in a federation in 1901, and modern Australia came into being. Australia fought as part of the British Empire and later Commonwealth in the two world wars and became a long-standing ally of the United States when threatened by Imperial Japan during World War II. Trade with Asia increased and a post-war immigration program received more than 6.5 million migrants from every continent. Supported by immigration of people from almost every country in the world since the end of World War II, the population increased to more than 25.5 million by 2020, with 30 percent of the population born overseas.

Geography:

Australia, the smallest continent and one of the largest countries on Earth, lying between the Pacific and Indian oceans in the Southern Hemisphere. Australia's capital is Canberra, located in the southeast between the larger and more important economic and cultural centers of Sydney and Melbourne. The Australian mainland extends from west to east for nearly 2,500 miles (4,000 km) and from Cape York Peninsula in the northeast to Wilsons Promontory in the southeast for nearly 2,000 miles (3,200 km). To the south, Australian jurisdiction extends a further 310 miles (500 km) to the southern extremity of the island of Tasmania, and in the north it extends to the southern shores of Papua New Guinea. Australia is separated from Indonesia to the northwest by the Timor and Arafura seas, from Papua New Guinea to the northeast by the Coral Sea and the Torres Strait, from the Coral Sea Islands Territory by the Great Barrier Reef, from New Zealand to the southeast by the Tasman Sea, and from Antarctica in the far south by the Indian Ocean.

- ☒ Continent: Australia
- ☒ Region: Oceania
- ☒ Coordinates: 27.000°S 144.000°E
- ☒ Area: Ranked 6th
- ☒ • Total: 7,686,850 km² (2,967,910 sq mi)
- ☒ • Land: 98.21%
- ☒ • Water: 1.79%
- ☒ Coastline: 59,681 km (37,084 mi)
- ☒ Borders None
- ☒ Highest point: Mount Kosciuszko, 2,228 m (7,310 ft)
- ☒ Lowest point: Lake Eyre, -15 m (-49 ft)

- ☒ Longest river: Murray River, 2,375 km (1,476 mi)
- ☒ Largest lake: Lake Eyre, 9,500 km² (3,668 sq mi)
- ☒ Exclusive economic zone: 8,148,250 km² (3,146,060 sq mi)

Climate:

There are four seasons across most of Australia, with the tropical north experiencing a wet and dry season. Summer runs from December to March (average temperature 29 °C), autumn from March to May, winter runs from June to August (average 13 °C) and spring from September to November. Perth experiences hot, dry summers and mild winters. It's unusual for it to rain during summer but thunderstorms and rain are very common during the cooler months.

The south coast of Western Australia experiences cold fronts and winds that come from Antarctica.

Despite being so far away from each other, Darwin and Cairns experience similar weather throughout the year. The northern end of Australia experiences wet and dry seasons, unlike other parts of Australia.

Darwin experiences the wet season from November to April, where temperatures range from 25 °C to 34 °C. This season is characterized by high humidity, monsoonal rains and storms. The dry season occurs from May to October and is characterized by warm, dry sunny days with cooler nights. While the temperature doesn't differ too much throughout the year, the humidity isn't as high during the dry season.

Cairns experiences heavy rainfall during the summer months, when the weather is quite humid and hot. There are lower levels of rainfall during autumn/ winter, but the wind can be quite strong. The temperature during the "cooler" months is still fairly warm but mild, and it isn't as humid. On the north-west coast of Western Australia (see Eighty Mile Beach), the heat is intense even along the coast. For example, in Port Hedland, the average daily temperature in January, the hottest month, is 31 °C (88 °F). At night, the temperature can drop below 10 °C (50 °F) from May to September. The coldest record is 4 °C (39.2 °F) and was set in July 2006. During the day, the temperature can exceed 40 °C (104 °F) from September to April, and the highest record is 49 °C (120.2 °F), set in January 2008.

Rivers:

Murray River:

The Murray River is Australia's longest river and is located in the south-eastern region of Australia. The Murray River acts as a mouth for some other major Australian rivers. The source of the Murray is in the Australian Alps and its mouth is at the Murray Mouth Lookout which meets the Southern Ocean. The Murray river flows through South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales. The Murray River supports some major settlements including Albury, Wodonga, Mildura, Merbein and Murray Bridge amongst others. The river is named after Colonial Secretary, Sir George Murray.

Murrumbidgee River:

The Murrumbidgee River is Australia's second-longest river and is located in the south-eastern region of Australia as well. The river's source is Peppercorn Hill and its mouth is the Murray River. This river helps to support livestock pastures, grapes, citrus fruits, wheat, and cotton, and its rice yields are one of the highest in the world. The river supports some major towns including Australia's capital city, Canberra.

Darling River:

The Darling River is the third-longest river in Australia and is located in New South Wales. Its sources are the Culgoa River and the Barwon River, and its mouth again is the Murray River. The river flows through extensive saltbush pastures and often evaporates in areas due high temperatures and the low level of rainfall which is roughly 250 mm annually.

Lachlan River:

The source of the Lachlan River is at the Great Dividing Range and the mouth is at the Murray River. The Lachlan River flows through New South Wales, and is dammed to form the Wyangala Reservoir near Cowra. The Lachlan River mainly helps to support wheat fields and sheep pastures.

Warrego River:

The source of the Warrego River is Mount Ka Ka Mundi and the mouth is the Darling River. The Warrego river flows from Queensland down to New South Wales and the towns of Augathella, Charleville, Wyandra, and Cunnamulla are located on the banks of this river. The name 'Warrego' is an Australian Aboriginal word from the Bidyara language, which is believed to mean "bad". It is also an Aboriginal term meaning "river of sand". This could be because the river often dries up or simply doesn't flow during droughts.

River name:

- ☒ Murray River, Murray-Darling, 2,375
- ☒ Murrumbidgee River, Murray-Darling, 1,485
- ☒ Darling River, Murray-Darling, 1,472
- ☒ Lachlan River, Murray-Darling, 1,448
- ☒ Warrego River, Murray-Darling, 1,380 KM

Political System:

Australia has a mixed system of government; it is a representative democracy and a constitutional monarchy. It is also a federation of states. In Australia, federal elections are held approximately every 3 years to select members of parliament to represent Australians and make laws on their behalf.

A Constitutional Monarchy:

In a constitutional monarchy, the monarch does not have absolute power—they must follow the country's constitution. The Australian head of state is Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The Queen appoints the Governor-General to act on her behalf.

In 1901, 6 British colonies united to form the country of Australia. Prior to this and for at least 50 000 years, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples lived on the Australian continent and practiced traditional cultures and languages. The colonies became Australian states and a federal Parliament was created with the power to make laws about national matters such as defense, immigration, trade and foreign affairs. The Australian Constitution, the set of rules by which Australia is run, sets out how the federal and state parliaments share the power to make laws.

The federal Parliament alone does not make all laws across the nation. Three levels of government work together to provide Australians with the services they need. The three levels are:

- ☒ Federal, Australian, Parliament, in Canberra
- ☒ State and territory parliaments, in each state and territory capital city
- ☒ Local councils, also called shires, across Australia.

Separation of powers:

The Australian Constitution defines 3 groups, the Parliament, the Executive and the Judiciary and describes how they share power. The separation of powers helps to ensure that no group has all the power, by giving each group their own area of responsibility:

- ☒ Parliament (the Legislature) makes and changes the law.
- ☒ Executive puts the law into action.
- ☒ Judiciary settles disputes about the law.

Economy:

Australia's economy has shown resilience to multiple shocks throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Closed borders and targeted lockdowns contained the virus throughout most of 2020 and 2021. International trade remained strong in most sectors, partly thanks to high commodity prices. Australia's international arrivals began to resume in November 2021 and the international border fully reopened in February 2022.

The Australian Government's cautious approach has benefited the economy. Australia's household consumption is expected to improve as restrictions ease. Meanwhile major tax incentives are projected to trigger the strongest boost in business investment since the mining boom. Australia's growth rate is remaining strong at 4.2% in 2022, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Australian GDP is projected to be 6.7% larger by the end of 2022 than in pre-pandemic 2019. location and diversity. Fast-growing Asia is set to deliver 44% of global GDP by 2026. Australian trade is already oriented towards Asia's economies – especially in minerals, energy, services and agriculture. Also, our diverse and highly productive economy is resilient against economic shocks, including the ongoing pandemic.

Real GDP is projected to grow by 4.2% in 2022 and 2.5% in 2023. The Australian economy is set to continue its solid recovery from the pandemic after having withstood the recent resurgence of COVID-19 cases as well as severe flooding in the states of Queensland and New South Wales. Wage and price pressures will rise given the already tight labour market and the strains on global supply chains, before moderating in 2023.

Australia top 5 Export and Import partners:

Market	Trade (US\$ Mil)	Partner share(%)
China	102,996	38.67
Japan	39,455	14.81
Korea, Rep.	17,464	6.56
United Kingdom	10,570	3.97
United States	10,171	3.82

1. Population: 25.7 million
2. GDP (PPP): \$1.3 trillion
3. -2.4% growth
4. 1.5% 5-year compound annual growth
5. \$51,680 per capita
6. Unemployment: 6.6%
7. Inflation (CPI): 0.9%
8. FDI Inflow: \$20.1 billion

Defense:

This year, the consolidated defense funding line of Australia (including both the Department of Defense and the Australian Signals Directorate) is \$48.6 billion, which is 2.11% of GDP based on the Budget papers' estimates of GDP. That funding represents a very substantial nominal growth of 7.4%. It's the 10th straight year of real growth, but with inflation running hot, it's hard to determine a precise percentage; we've estimated it at 3.8% based on the Budget papers, but, if inflation stays around 5%, the real growth figure will be less.

Despite disruptions to supply chains, Defence and its industry partners have achieved significant increases in acquisition spending. While Defence may have fallen short of its acquisition spending target in 2021-22, it still achieved a \$2.1 billion increase on the previous year, which was itself a \$1.5 billion increase. That's translating into growing local spending, both in absolute terms and in relative terms compared to overseas spending.

For 2022, Australia is ranked 17 of 142 out of the countries considered for the annual GFP review.

Man Power:

Total Population: 25,809,973
 Available Manpower: 10,840,189 (42.0%)
 Fit-for-Service: 8,878,631 (34.4%)
 Reaching Mil Age Annually: 283,910 (1.1%)
 Tot Military Personnel (est.): 79,000 (0.3%)
 Active Personnel: 59,000 (0.2%)
 Reserve Personnel: 20,000 (0.1%)
 Paramilitary: 0 (0.0%)

Land Force:

Tanks: 59
 Armored Vehicles: 1,765
 Self-Propelled Artillery: 0
 Towed Artillery: 54
 Rocket Projectors: 0

Naval:

Total Assets: 43
 Aircraft Carriers: 0
 Helicopter Carriers: 2
 Destroyers: 3
 Frigates: 8
 Corvettes: 0
 Submarines: 6
 Patrol Vessels: 12
 Mine Warfare: 4

Air Power:

Total Aircraft Strength: 430
 Fighters/Interceptors: 72 (16.7%)
 Dedicated Attack: 37 (8.6%)
 Transports: 38 (8.8%)
 Trainers: 113 (26.3%)
 Special-Mission: 31 (7.2%)
 Tanker Fleet: 6 (1.4%)
 Helicopters: 133 (30.9%)

Logistics:

Labor Force: 12,568,000
 Merchant Marine Fleet: 581
 Ports / Trade Terminals: 29
 Roadway Coverage: 873,573
 Railway Coverage: 33,343
 Airports: 418

Australia Membership of International Organizations:

United Nations, ASEAN Regional Forum, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), G-20, International Monetary Fund (IMF), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), World Bank, and the World Trade Organization (WTO). Australia is a Partner for Cooperation with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), an Enhanced Opportunities Partner of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and a member of the Pacific Islands Forum.

- ☒ Australian National Commission for UNESCO
- ☒ Human Rights and Indigenous Issues
- ☒ International Environment Issues
- ☒ International Treaties Database
- ☒ The Commonwealth of Nations
- ☒ The United Nations
- ☒ International organisations
- ☒ G20
- ☒ UN specialised agencies and regional commissions
- ☒ International Law
- ☒ Human rights and gender equality
- ☒ Disarmament and non-proliferation
- ☒ The Commonwealth of Nations
- ☒ Multilateral Banks
- ☒ Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- ☒ World Bank Group
- ☒ Asian Development Bank
- ☒ MIKTA – Mexico, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Turkey, Australia

Brief Analysis:

Australia is a stable, democratic and culturally diverse nation with a highly skilled workforce and one of the strongest performing economies in the world. With spectacular landscapes and a rich ancient culture, Australia is a land like no other. It is the earth's sixth-largest country in land area and is the only nation to govern an entire continent. Australia's economy has shown resilience to multiple shocks throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Closed borders and targeted lockdowns contained the virus throughout most of 2020 and 2021. Despite disruptions to supply chains, Defense and its industry partners have achieved significant increases in acquisition spending. While Defense may have fallen short of its acquisition spending target in 2021-22, it still achieved a \$2.1 billion increase on the previous year, which was itself a \$1.5 billion increase.

BRAZIL



MAP



History:

The history of Brazil begins with indigenous people in Brazil. Europeans arrived in Brazil at the ending of the 15th century. The first European to claim sovereignty over Indigenous lands part of what is now the territory of the Federative Republic of Brazil on the continent of South America was Pedro Álvares Cabral (c. 1467/1468 – c. 1520) on 22 April 1500 under the sponsorship of the Kingdom of Portugal. From the 16th to the early 19th century, Brazil was a colony and a part of the Portuguese Empire. The country expanded south along the coast and west along the Amazon and other inland rivers from the original 15 donatary captaincy colonies established on the northeast Atlantic coast east of the Tordesillas Line of 1494 (approximately the 46th meridian west) that divided the Portuguese domain to the east from the Spanish domain to the west, although Brazil was at one time a colony of Spain. The country's borders were only finalized in the early 20th century.

On 7 September 1822, the country declared its independence from Portugal and it became the Empire of Brazil. A military coup in 1889 established the First Brazilian Republic. The country has seen two dictatorship periods: the first during the Vargas Era (1937–1945) and the second during the military rule (1964–1985) under the Brazilian military government.

After 1930, the successive governments continued industrial and agricultural growth and development of the vast interior of Brazil. Getúlio Vargas led a military junta that had taken control in 1930 and would remain to rule from 1930 to 1945 with the backing of the Brazilian military, especially the Army. In this period, he faced the Constitutionalist Revolt in 1932 and two separate coup d'état attempts: by Communists in 1935 and by local right-wing elements of the Brazilian Integralism movement in 1938.

Tancredo Neves was elected president in an indirect election in 1985 as the nation returned to civilian rule. He died before being sworn in, and the elected vice president, José Sarney, was sworn in as president in his place.

Fernando Collor de Mello was the first elected president by popular vote after the military regime in December 1989 defeating Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva in a two-round presidential race with 35 million votes. Collor won in the state of São Paulo against many prominent political figures. The first democratically elected President of Brazil in 29 years.

Geography:

The country of Brazil occupies roughly half of South America, bordering the Atlantic Ocean. Brazil covers a total area of 8,514,215 km² (3,287,357 sq mi) which includes 8,456,510 km² (3,265,080 sq mi) of land and 55,455 km² (21,411 sq mi) of water. The highest point in Brazil is Pico da Neblina at 2,994 m (9,823 ft). Brazil is bordered by the countries of Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, Venezuela, and France (overseas department of France, French Guiana). Brazil is the largest country in South America and the fifth largest nation in the world. It forms an enormous triangle on the eastern side of the continent with a 4,500-mile (7,400-kilometer) coastline along the Atlantic Ocean. It has borders with every South American country except Chile and Ecuador.

The Brazilian landscape is very varied. It is most well known for its dense forests, including the Amazon, the world's largest jungle, in the north. But there are also dry grasslands (called pampas), rugged hills, pine forests, sprawling wetlands, immense plateaus, and a long coastal plain.

Northern Brazil is dominated by the Amazon River and the jungles that surround it. The Amazon is not one river but a network of many hundreds of waterways. Its total length stretches 4,250 miles (6,840 kilometers). Thousands of species live in the river, including the infamous piranha and the boto, or pink river dolphin.

The Brazilian government has grouped the country's states into five large geographic and statistical units called the Major Regions (Grandes Regiões): North (Norte), Northeast (Nordeste), Central-West (Centro-Oeste), Southeast (Sudeste), and South (Sul). The tropical North comprising the states of Acre, Rondônia, Amazonas, Pará, Tocantins, Roraima, and Amapá covers more than two-fifths of Brazilian territory and includes the largest portion of Amazon rainforest and parts of the Guiana and Brazilian highlands; however, the region accounts for a limited proportion of the nation's population and economic output.

Climate:

Brazil has a humid tropical and subtropical climate except for a drier area in the Northeast, sometimes called the drought quadrilateral or drought polygon, that extends from northern Bahia to the coast between Natal and São Luís; that zone receives about 15–30 inches (375–750 mm) of precipitation a year. Much of Brazil receives 40–70 inches (1,000–1,800 mm) annually, but precipitation often is much heavier in parts of the Amazon basin and the sea-facing rim of the Serra do Mar.

The central parts of the Brazilian Highlands receive most of their precipitation during the summer months (November to April), often in the form of torrential downpours. Storms and floods may strike the Northeast at that time, depending on weather patterns, but the region may also experience prolonged drought. These shifting conditions make life difficult in the sertão, the backlands of the Northeast, and are a major cause for migration out of the region. Summer temperatures are largely uniform. In January most of the lowlands average roughly 79 °F (26 °C), and the highlands are a few degrees cooler, depending on elevation. The coast of Rio Grande do Sul is also somewhat cooler, averaging around 73 °F (23 °C), whereas the Northeast backland's drought quadrilateral, the hottest region of the country, averages some 84 °F (29 °C), with daytime temperatures exceeding 100 °F (38 °C). However, the Northeast's low humidity makes the heat less oppressive than in Rio de Janeiro.

In the winter (May to October) the Brazilian Highlands are generally dry, and snow falls in only a few of the southernmost states. Regular frosts accompany winter air patterns from the south, and near-freezing temperatures can reach as far north as São Paulo. Cool, rainy weather may extend along the coast as far north as Recife and, in the west, to the Pantanal. Cool air occasionally spills over from the Paraguay lowlands into the western Amazon basin and may travel as far north as the Guyana border. Winter temperatures in the Amazon lowlands remain virtually unchanged from those of the summer months, but temperatures in the drought quadrilateral drop to about 79 °F (26 °C). Temperatures in the Brazilian Highlands average about 68 °F (20 °C) in the central and northern regions and are cooler toward the south: Curitiba, at an elevation of some 3,000 feet (900 metres), averages 57 °F (14 °C) in June and July. During those months the mean temperature at Porto Alegre is the same, but Rio de Janeiro is much hotter, averaging 73 °F (23 °C), partly because of the warm currents that bathe the entire Brazilian coast.

River:***Amazonica (Amazon):***

The Amazon River is the world's second longest river, and the largest by the volume of water it discharges. The Amazon's distant source was for a long time thought to be the headwaters of Apurimac River but further studies have indicated that the Cordillera Rumi Cruz. The Amazon River discharges an average of 209,000 cubic meters of water per second, greater than a combined discharge for the next seven rivers in the country. The river accounts for 20% of the total riverine discharge into the ocean. The Amazon Basin forms the world's largest drainage basin covering an area of 7,050,000 square kilometers. Most of the Amazon's tributaries begin flooding in November and continue until June. The main river can be navigated by the large steamers while other small ocean vessels can reach Iquitos in Peru. The Amazon Rain-forest is home to more than 30% of all known animal species. Anaconda, river dolphin, and over 5,600 species of fish are some of the animals found in the Amazon basin.

Tocantins-Araguaia:

The Araguaia River, though a tributary of the Tocantins River, is in and of itself a major river in Brazil, measuring 2,627 kilometers in length. The Araguaia has several tributaries of its own, with the major tributary originating from the Araras and Divisoas mountain ranges. The river then flows northeast where it meets Tocantins River in the town of Sao Joao. The Tocantins River, which runs from south to north, is around 2,450 kilometers long and drains its waters into the Atlantic Ocean alongside the Amazon River. The Tocantins-Araguaia system is home to some of the largest aquatic mammals including Amazonian manatee, river dolphin, and tucuxi. The river also has over 350 species of fish and reptiles. The Tocantins-Araguaia system has a total of five dams including Serra Da Masa, Luiz Eduardo, Peixe Angical, Cana Brava, and Tucurui dam which is the world's largest dam.

Parana:

The Parana River runs through Brazil, Argentina, and Paraguay for a total of around 4,880 kilometers. The river is the second longest in South America after the Amazon River, and merges with the Paraguay River and Uruguay River to form the Río de la Plata before emptying into the Atlantic Ocean. Rio Parana is a massive watershed encompassing much of southern Brazil and other parts of Argentina and Paraguay. Parana is a major source of income for fishermen living along its banks. Its delta acts as one of the world's best bird watching destinations. The navigable river also serves as a waterway linking several inland cities to the ocean and also provides water ports in many cities.

Political System:

Government Name:

Federative Republic of Brazil

Constitution:

Adopted: 1988; Resulting from the previous six constitutions, this version of the constitution abolished the monarchy in Brazil and introduced separate state powers. It also reinforces the powers of the legislature and introduces environmental protection.

Government Type:

Federal Republic

Main Powers:

Executive:

The president leads the executive branch and is the commander-in-chief of the Brazilian armed forces. The vice president would replace the president and assume the role of presidency while the president is abroad. The cabinet administrators assist the president in the exercise of the executive power by administering a corresponding government ministry.

The president and vice president are elected by the citizens of Brazil by absolute majority vote through a two-round system. Duration of the presidency is 4 years.

Judicial:

The judiciary is separate from other government entities.

Justices are appointed by the president and approved by the federal senate.

Mandatory retirement age of 70 for Judges and precedent.

Legislative:

The federal senate is the upper house of bicameral congress. The chamber of deputies is the lower house.

The federal senate has 81 members who are elected by plurality vote in multi-member constituencies. The chamber of deputies has 513 members who are elected through an open-list proportional representation system.

Federal Senate: 8 years; Chamber of Deputies: 4 years

Economy:

The economy of Brazil is historically the largest in Latin America and the Southern Hemisphere in nominal terms. The Brazilian economy is the third largest in the Americas. The economy is a middle income developing mixed economy. In 2022, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Brazil will be the 10th largest in the world by nominal gross domestic product (GDP) and 9th largest by purchasing power parity.

In 2022, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Brazilian nominal GDP was US\$1.833 trillion, the country has a long history of being among the ten largest economies in the world. The GDP per capita was US\$8,570 per inhabitant.

In 2020, Forbes ranked Brazil as having the 7th largest number of billionaires in the world. Brazil is a member of diverse economic organizations, such as Mercosur, Prosur, G8+5, G20, WTO, Paris Club, Cairns Group, and is advanced to be a permanent member of the OECD.

Brazil's economic freedom score is 53.3, making its economy the 133rd freest in the 2022 Index. Brazil is ranked 26th among 32 countries in the Americas region, and its overall score is below the regional and world averages.

Brazil's economic growth slowed in 2019, turned negative in 2020, and rebounded in 2021. Its level of economic freedom has changed little over the past five years. Led by modest score increases in labor freedom and government integrity, Brazil has recorded a mere 0.4-point overall gain in economic freedom since 2017 and remains in the lower ranks of the "Mostly Unfree" countries. Monetary freedom is relatively good, but its fiscal health is among the world's worst.

Population: 212.6 million

GDP (PPP): \$3.2 trillion

Growth: -4.1%

-0.6% 5-year compound annual growth

Per capita: \$14,916

Unemployment: 13.7%

Inflation (CPI): 3.2%

FDI Inflow: \$24.8 billion

After a strong recovery by 5% in 2021, GDP growth is expected to slow significantly in 2022, to 0.6%, before picking up to 1.2% in 2023. Rising inflation, the war in Ukraine, and tighter financial conditions have eroded economic sentiment and purchasing power, which is expected to strongly dent domestic demand in the first half of 2022. The 2022 presidential election is adding uncertainty, helping to keep investment subdued until 2023. The labour market recovery has been slow; the participation rate and real labour incomes remain below pre-pandemic levels.

Although foreign trade only represented 32.4% of its GDP in 2020 (World Bank), Brazil is among the world's 30 largest exporters and importers and the country has an enormous economic potential. Brazil mainly exports soya beans (13.7%), iron ores (12.3%), petroleum oils (9.4%), cane or beet sugar (4.2%), and frozen bovine meat (3.2%); while its main imports are petroleum oils (4.8%), parts and accessories for tractors and motor vehicles (3.2%), electrical apparatus for line telephony (2.8%), electronic integrated circuits and microassemblies (2.4%), and floating vessels (2.3%).

According to IMF Foreign Trade Forecasts, the volume of exports of goods and services increased by 8.9% in 2021 and is expected to decrease to 4.1% in 2022, while the volume of imports of goods and services increased by 10.6% in 2021 and is expected to decrease to 5% in 2022

The country's main trade partners are China, the United States, Argentina, Germany, the Netherlands, Canada, South Korea, Mercosur and the EU.

Defense:

The defense budget of Brazil stands at \$21.8 billion in 2022. The market is expected to grow at a CAGR of more than 6% during 2023-27. Currently, with the Brazilian economy steadily recovering, it is anticipated that a greater allocation of funds will be set aside for the defense sector over the forecast period. As Brazil faces no major external security threats, defense expenditure is expected to be driven by internal issues, such as the need to supply the military with the equipment required to tackle drug trafficking, arms smuggling, and organized crime. With the country also undertaking major modernization programs to increase the capabilities of its armed forces, defense spending is expected to rise significantly. Key modernization deals are unlikely to be rolled back as they are already in an advanced stage of production. For 2022, Brazil is ranked 10 of 142 out of the countries considered for the annual GFP review.

Man Power:

Total Population: 213,445,417
 Available Manpower: 108,857,163 (51.0%)
 Fit-for-Service: 86,018,503 (40.3%)
 Reaching Mil Age Annually: 3,415,127 (1.6%)
 Tot Military Personnel (est.): 2,100,000 (1.0%)
 Active Personnel: 360,000 (0.2%)
 Reserve Personnel: 1,340,000 (0.6%)
 Paramilitary: 400,000 (0.2%)

Air Power:

Total Aircraft Strength: 679
 Fighters/Interceptors: 42 (6.2%)
 Dedicated Attack: 77 (11.3%)
 Transports: 125 (18.4%)
 Trainers: 210 (30.9%)
 Special-Mission: 41 (6.0%)
 Tanker Fleet: 2 (0.3%)
 Helicopters: 179 (26.4%)
 Attack Helicopters: 12 (1.8%)

Naval:

Total Assets: 112
 Aircraft Carriers: 0
 Helicopter Carriers: 1
 Destroyers: 0
 Frigates: 6
 Corvettes: 2
 Submarines: 7

Patrol Vessels: 22
 Mine Warfare: 5

Land:

Tanks: 439
Armored Vehicles: 1,958
Self-Propelled Artillery: 136
Towed Artillery: 546
Rocket Projectors: 78

Land:

Labor Force: 86,621,000
Merchant Marine Fleet: 864
Ports / Trade Terminals: 17
Roadway Coverage: 2,000,000
Railway Coverage: 29,850
Airports: 4,093

Brazil Membership of international Organization:

United Nations,

Organization of American States,

☒ Inter-American Development Bank,

☒ G-20, International Monetary Fund,

☒ World Bank,

☒ World Trade Organization.

☒ Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC)

☒ Inter-American Juridical Committee of the Organization of American States (IAJC-OAS)

☒ Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI)

☒ Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO)

☒ Organization of Ibero-American States (OEI)

☒ Latin American Parliament (PARLATINO)

☒ Latin American Technological Information Network (RITLA)

☒ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

☒ Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

☒ International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)

☒ United Nations Information Center (UNIC Rio)

☒ International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth – United Nations Development Program (UNDP IPC-IG)

☒ United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

☒ International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

☒ Andean Development Corporation (CAF)

☒ International Finance Corporation (IFC)

Brief Summary:

Brazil is South America's most influential country, a rising economic power and one of the world's biggest democracies. Over the past few years it has made major strides in its efforts to raise millions out of poverty, although the gap between rich and poor remains wide.

The exploitation of the Amazon rainforest, much of which is in Brazil, has been a major international worry, since the wilderness is a vital regulator of the climate.

The economy of Brazil is historically the largest in Latin America and the Southern Hemisphere in nominal terms. The Brazilian economy is the third largest in the Americas. The economy is a middle income developing mixed economy. In 2022, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Brazil will be the 10th largest in the world by nominal gross domestic product (GDP) and 9th largest by purchasing power parity.

In 2022, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Brazilian nominal GDP was US\$1.833 trillion, the country has a long history of being among the ten largest economies in the world. The GDP per capita was US\$8,570 per inhabitant.

As Brazil faces no major external security threats, defense expenditure is expected to be driven by internal issues, such as the need to supply the military with the equipment required to tackle drug trafficking, arms smuggling, and organized crime. With the country also undertaking major modernization programs to increase the capabilities of its armed forces, defense spending is expected to rise significantly. Key modernization deals are unlikely to be rolled back as they are already in an advanced stage of production.

FRANCE



MAP



History:

The first written records for the history of France appeared in the Iron Age. What is now France made up the bulk of the region known to the Romans as Gaul. In the later stages of the Roman Empire, Gaul was subject to barbarian raids and migration, most importantly by the Germanic Franks.

The Frankish king Clovis¹ united most of Gaul under his rule in the late 5th century, setting the stage for Frankish dominance in the region for hundreds of years. A burgeoning worldwide colonial empire was established in the 16th century. The French monarchy's political power reached a zenith under the rule of Louis XIV, "The Sun King".

In the late 18th century the monarchy and associated institutions were overthrown in the French Revolution. The country was governed for a period as a Republic, until Napoleon Bonaparte's French Empire was declared. Following his defeat in the Napoleonic Wars, France went through several further regime changes, being ruled as a monarchy, then briefly as a Second Republic, and then as a Second Empire, until a more lasting French Third Republic was established in 1870.

France was one of the Triple Entente powers in World War I against Germany and the Central Powers. France was one of the Allied Powers in World War II, but was conquered by Nazi Germany in 1940. The Third Republic was dismantled, and most of the country was controlled directly by Germany while the south was controlled until 1942 by the collaborationist Vichy government. The Free France movement took over the colonial empire, and coordinated the wartime Resistance. Following liberation in 1944, the Fourth Republic was established.

France slowly recovered, and enjoyed a baby boom that reversed its very low fertility rate. Long wars in Indochina and Algeria drained French resources and ended in political defeat. In the wake of the 1958 Algerian Crisis, Charles de Gaulle set up the French Fifth Republic. Into the 1960s decolonization saw most of the French colonial empire become independent, while smaller parts were incorporated into the French state as overseas departments and collectivities. Since World War II France has been a permanent member in the UN Security Council and NATO. It played a central role in the unification process after 1945 that led to the European Union. Despite slow economic growth in recent years, it remains a strong economic, cultural, military and political factor in the 21st century.

Geography:

France, the largest country in Western Europe, has long been a gateway between the continent's northern and southern regions. Its lengthy borders touch Germany and Belgium in the north; the Atlantic Ocean in the west; the Pyrenees Mountains and Spain in the south. Wide fertile plains dominate most of the north and west, making France the agricultural epicenter of Europe. The sprawling, forested plateau of the Massif Central, a range of ancient mountains and extinct volcanoes, occupies France's southern interior. Metropolitan France, or Mainland France, covers an area of 551,695 km²; it includes the island of Corsica. France has a total population of 67.4 million people (in 2021), 65.2 million inhabitants in Metropolitan France (the European part of France plus Corsica), and about 2.2 million in its overseas regions French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, and Reunion.

France has ample land area to provide habitat for a wide variety of plants and animals. More than 25 percent of its territory is covered with forest, and another 50 percent is countryside or farmland.

Lowland forests are home to deer and wild boar, while the woodlands of the Alps and Pyrenees provide refuge for rare chamois antelope, ibex, brown bears, and alpine hares, among many other species. The Mediterranean coastline is a stopover of millions of migrating African birds, including flamingos, vultures, egrets, and bee-eaters. The French government has made a broad commitment to preserving open spaces and the wildlife they contain. About 10 percent of the country has been set aside as national or regional parklands and nature reserves. France is one of the oldest nations on Earth and the most ethnically diverse country in Europe. These deep and broad influences have made France a world leader throughout history in nearly all aspects of culture, including cuisine, wine-making, politics, philosophy, music, art, film, fashion, literature, and sports.

Climate:

France is a country of average elevation, and plains and hills occupy two thirds of the territory. However, it has two mountain barriers, one in the east and the other in the south: The Alps and the Pyrenees. Mont Blanc (4,810 m), the highest point in France, is located in the Alps, on the border with Italy. The Massif Central, in the center of the country, plays a role in dispersing water to the four major basins: The Seine to the north, the Loire to the northwest, the Rhone to the east and the Garonne to the southwest. Nearly 60% of the mainland surface area is used for agriculture (33 million hectares), 34% is forests and natural or semi-natural environments (19 million hectares), while just under 6% corresponds to urbanized land (3 million hectares).

All of France is considered to be under the effect of oceanic influences, moderated by the North Atlantic Drift on the west and the Mediterranean Sea on the south. Average annual temperatures decline to the north, with Nice on the Côte d'Azur at 59 °F (15 °C) and Lille on the northern border at 50 °F (10 °C). Rainfall is brought mainly by westerly winds from the Atlantic and is characterized by cyclonic depressions. Annual precipitation is more than 50 inches (1,270 mm) at higher elevations in western and northwestern France, in the western Pyrenees, in the Massif Central, and in the Alps and the Jura. In winter eastern France especially may come under the influence of the continental high-pressure system, which brings extremely cold conditions and temperature inversions over the cities, during which cold air is trapped below warmer air, with consequent fogs and urban pollution. The climate of France, then, can be discussed according to three major climatic zones: oceanic, continental and Mediterranean, with some variation in the Aquitaine Basin and in the mountains.

Rivers:

The Loire is the longest river of France at 630 miles (1,013 km). It rises in the Massif Central in the Ardèche department, high up in the Cevennes mountain ranges. The source is 1,350 meters (4,430 ft) above sea level at the foot of the bleak Gerbier de Jonc. The Loire flows through a large part of France before emptying into the Atlantic Ocean.

The Seine River, the second longest river in France at 482 miles (776 km), is so much part of Paris that it is the best known of all the French rivers. It rises modestly just about 30 km northwest of Dijon in the Côte d'Or, then flows northwest to the attractive town of Troyes in Champagne, known for its medieval streets and outlet shopping malls. The mighty river then flows past the forest of Fontainebleau through Melun, Corbeil then through Paris. This is the heart of the Seine, the river that divides the city between the right and the left bank, forming the greatest element of the capital's life and cityscape.

The Garonne is 357 miles (575 km) long and rises in the Spanish Pyrenees from glacial waters high up in Aragon. The fourth longest river in France, it flows north then east around Saint-Gaudens and across one of France's largest alluvial plains. It passes through Toulouse, famous for its great artist Toulouse-Lautrec, just after the Ariège river joins it.

The Rhône river is 504 miles (813 km) long from its source in Switzerland to the sea, with 338 miles (545 km) within France. It rises in the canton of Valais in Switzerland, passes through Lake Geneva which marks the frontier between the two countries and enters France in the southern Jura mountains. The first city the river runs through is Lyon, where it joins the Saône (298 miles or 480 km long).

The Dordogne River, the fifth longest in France, is 300 miles (483 km) long, rising in the mountains of the Auvergne at Puy de Sancy, 1,885 meters (6,184 ft) above sea level. It starts with a series of deep gorges passing through skiing country before passing through Argentat.

Political System:

France is one of the birthplaces of modern democracy. The current French government runs according to the Constitution of the Fifth Republic, which was enacted in 1958. France is a republic and a parliamentary democracy and has a hybrid presidential/parliamentary political system. The head of state is the French President who appoints the Prime Minister as head of government. The French parliament is bicameral. The lower chamber is the National Assembly (Assemblée Nationale) which sits in the Palais Bourbon with 577 elected députés. The upper chamber is the Senate (Sénat) which sits inside the Luxembourg Palace. . It has 348 senators elected by an electoral college of representatives. The Senate has been politically conservative in recent times, with a right-wing majority in all but three years since 1958.

Although the two chambers have similar powers, the National Assembly is the more prominent of the two.

The central French government is the main decision-making body in France and overseas policy development in areas such as healthcare, education, and public transport. However, there are three tiers of government below the national government that perform various administrative and legal functions: 18 regions (régions) including five overseas territories; 96 departments (départements); and around 35,000 communes.

France is 22nd on the 2021 Democracy Index and ranks as having a “flawed democracy.”

Economy:

France is one of the major economic powers of the world, ranking along with such countries as the United States, Japan, Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom. Its financial position reflects an extended period of unprecedented growth. Despite the dominance of the private sector, the tradition of a mixed economy in France is well established. Successive governments have intervened to protect or promote different types of economic activity, as has been clearly reflected in the country’s national plans and nationalized industries.

France’s extensive land area of which more than half is arable or pastoral land and another quarter is wooded presents broad opportunities for agriculture and forestry. The country’s varied relief and soils and contrasting climatic zones further enhance this potential. Agriculture employs relatively few people, about 3 percent of the labor force and makes only a small contribution to GDP—about 2 percent. Yet France is the EU’s leading agricultural nation, accounting for more than one-fifth of the total value of output, and alone is responsible for more than one-third of the EU’s production of oilseeds, cereals, and wine. France also is a major world exporter of agricultural commodities, and approximately one-eighth of the total value of the country’s visible exports is related to agriculture and associated food and drink products.

France’s economic freedom score is 65.9, making its economy the 52nd freest in the 2022 Index. France is ranked 31st among 45 countries in the Europe region, and its overall score is below the regional average but above the world average. Over the past five years, France’s economic growth slowed from 2017 through 2019, turned negative in 2020, and rebounded in 2021. A five-year trend of slightly rising economic freedom has continued. Led by solid increases in its rule of law (property rights, judicial effectiveness, and government integrity) scores, France has recorded a 2.6-point overall gain of economic freedom since 2017 and has remained in the midrange of the “Moderately Free” category. Business freedom, monetary freedom, and trade freedom are strong, but the score for government spending is one of the lowest in the world.

Population: 67.4 million GDP (PPP): \$3.0 trillion Growth: -8.2% (-0.3% 5-year compound annual Growth) per capita: \$46,062 Unemployment: 8.6% Inflation (CPI): 0.5% FDI Inflow: \$17.9 billion.

In 2021, France exported mostly to Germany (€18.3B), Italy (€10.8B), Belgium (€10.3B), Spain (€10.2B), and United States (€9.3B), and imported mostly from Germany (€21.9B), China (€18.7B), Belgium (€14.1B), Italy (€12.2B), and Spain (€11.3B).

FASTEST GROWING EXPORT MARKETS (2019 - 2020)

Turkey,

\$512M (+ 7.67%)

Kuwait,

\$385M (+ 61%)

Kazakhstan,

\$191M (+ 33.9%)

FASTEST GROWING IMPORT MARKETS (2019 - 2020)

Netherlands,

\$6.14B (+ 16.3%)

Belgium,

\$2.64B (+ 6.32%)

Greece,

\$828M (+ 62.4%)

In 2020, France imported \$562B, making it the number 7 trade destination in the world. During the last five reported years the imports of France changed by \$7.97B from \$554B in 2015 to \$562B in 2020.

Military Power:

In the long-term, the France Military Expenditure is projected to trend around 55309.97 USD Million in 2022 and 55649.51 USD Million in 2023, according to our econometric models. For 2022, France is ranked 7 of 142 out of the countries considered for the annual GFP review.

Population:

Total Population: 68,084,217

Available Manpower: 29,957,055 (44.0%)

Fit-for-Service: 23,693,308 (34.8%)

Reaching Mil Age Annually: 748,926 (1.1%)

Tot Military Personnel (est.): 415,000 (0.6%)

Active Personnel: 205,000 (0.3%)

Reserve Personnel: 35,000 (0.1%)

Paramilitary: 175,000 (0.3%)

Air:

Total Aircraft Strength: 1,055
 Fighters/Interceptors: 266 (25.2%)
 Dedicated Attack: 0 (0.0%)
 Transports: 125 (11.8%)
 Trainers: 165 (15.6%)
 Special-Mission: 46 (4.4%)
 Tanker Fleet: 18 (1.7%)
 Helicopters: 435 (41.2%)
 Attack Helicopters: 69 (6.5%)

Naval:

Total Assets: 180
 Aircraft Carriers: 1
 Helicopter Carriers: 3
 Destroyers: 10
 Frigates: 11
 Corvettes: 0
 Submarines: 10
 Patrol Vessels: 15
 Mine Warfare: 17

Resources:

Oil Production: 16,000 bbl
 Oil Consumption: 1,705,000 bbl
 Oil Proven Reserves: 65,970,000 bbl

Strategic Weapons:

France possesses approximately 290 nuclear weapons, which it can launch from submarines or missiles dropped from aircraft. Its submarines are based at the Île Longue peninsula, south of Brest in the Brittany region of France. In 2020, France spent an estimated US\$5.7 billion to build and maintain its nuclear forces.

France Membership of international organization:

- ☑ Justice and Home Affairs / Justice et Affaires intérieure
- ☑ European External Action Service / Service européen pour l'action extérieure
- ☑ Home Affairs - Organised crime and human trafficking
- ☑ European Partners against Corruption (EPAC - EU's National Police Monitoring & Inspection Bodies and Anti-Corruption Agencies)
- ☑ European Police Office (Europol)

Land:

Tanks: 406
 Armored Vehicles: 6,558
 Self-Propelled Artillery: 109
 Towed Artillery: 105
 Rocket Projectors: 13

Logistics:

Labor Force: 27,742,000
 Merchant Marine Fleet: 548
 Ports / Trade Terminals: 17
 Roadway Coverage: 1,053,215
 Railway Coverage: 29,640
 Airports: 464

- ☒ European Investment Bank (EIB) / Banque européenne d'investissement (BEI)
- ☒ European Central Bank (ECB) / Banque centrale européenne (BCE)
- ☒ European Court of Justice / Cour de justice
- ☒ European Court of Auditors / Cour des comptes européenne
- ☒ European Ombudsman / Le médiateur européen
- ☒ United Nations Convention against Corruption / Convention des Nations Unies contre la Corruption

- ☒ UN Global Compact
- ☒ United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network (UNC JIN)
- ☒ Publications on corruption in the field of education (UNESCO)
- ☒ The International Court of Justice / Cour internationale de Justice
- ☒ United Nations Documentation: Research Guide
- ☒ UN Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention
- ☒ Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice - Corruption
- ☒ UNDP activities in favour of Democratic Governance
- ☒ African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption
- ☒ Asian Development Bank (ADB): Anti-Corruption Unit
- ☒ Asian Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI) / Organisation asiatique des institutions supérieures de contrôle des finances publiques (ASOSAI)

- ☒ Task Force on Organised Crime in the Baltic Sea Region
- ☒ European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) / Banque Européenne pour la Reconstruction et le Développement (BERD)
- ☒ European Healthcare Fraud and Corruption Network (EHFCN)
- ☒ European Partners against Corruption (EPAC)
- ☒ European Organisation of Supreme Audit Organisations (EUROSAI) / Organisation des Institutions Supérieures de Contrôle des Finances Publiques d'Europe (EUROSAI)
- ☒ Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) / Organisation Mondiale des Parlementaires contre la Corruption (GOPAC)

- ☒ IBA Anti-Money Laundering
- ☒ Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA)
- ☒ Inter-American Development Bank
- ☒ NATO
- ☒ UNSC
- ☒ EU

Brief Summary:

France is known the world over for its cuisine, fashion, culture and language.

A key player on the global stage and a country at the political heart of Europe, France paid a high price in both economic and human terms during the two world wars. The years which followed saw protracted conflicts culminating in independence for Algeria and most other French colonies in Africa, as well as decolonisation in south-east Asia. France was one of the founding fathers of European integration as the continent sought to rebuild after the devastation of the Second World War. France is one of the major economic powers of the world, ranking along with such countries as the United States, Japan, Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom. Its financial position reflects an extended period of unprecedented growth. Despite the dominance of the private sector, the tradition of a mixed economy in France is well established. Successive governments have intervened to protect or promote different types of economic activity, as has been clearly reflected in the country's national plans and nationalized industries.

GERMANY



MAP

**History:**

The concept of Germany as a distinct region in Central Europe can be traced to Julius Caesar, who referred to the unconquered area east of the Rhine as Germania, thus distinguishing it from Gaul (France). The period of the High Middle Ages saw several important developments within the German-speaking areas of Europe. The first was the establishment of the trading conglomerate known as the Hanseatic League,

which was dominated by a number of German port cities along the Baltic and North Sea coasts. The two parts of the Holy Roman Empire clashed in the Thirty Years' War (1618–1648), which was ruinous to the twenty million civilians living in both parts. The Thirty Years' War brought tremendous destruction to Germany; more than 1/4 of the population in the German states were killed by the catastrophic war. The estates of the Holy Roman Empire attained a high extent of autonomy in the Peace of Westphalia.

The German revolutions of 1848–49 failed. The Industrial Revolution modernized the German economy, led to the rapid growth of cities and the emergence of the socialist movement in Germany. Prussia, with its capital Berlin, grew in power. German universities became world-class centers for science and humanities, while music and art flourished. The unification of Germany (excluding Austria and the German-speaking areas of Switzerland) was achieved under the leadership of the Chancellor Otto von Bismarck with the formation of the German Empire in 1871.

By 1900, Germany was the dominant power on the European continent and its rapidly expanding industry had surpassed Britain's while provoking it in a naval arms race. Germany led the Central Powers in World War I (1914–1918) against the Allied Powers. Defeated and partly occupied, Germany was forced to pay war reparations by the Treaty of Versailles and was stripped of its colonies and significant territory along its borders. The German Revolution of 1918–19 put an end to the German Empire and established the Weimar Republic, an ultimately unstable parliamentary democracy. In January 1933, Adolf Hitler, leader of the Nazi Party, used the economic hardships of the Great Depression along with popular resentment over the terms imposed on Germany at the end of World War I to establish a totalitarian regime. This Nazi Germany made racism, especially antisemitism, a central tenet of its policies, and became increasingly aggressive with its territorial demands, threatening war if they were not met. Germany quickly remilitarized, then annexed Austria and the German-speaking areas of Czechoslovakia in 1938.

After seizing the rest of Czechoslovakia, Germany launched an invasion of Poland, which quickly grew into World War II. During the war, the Nazi regime established a systematic genocide program known as the Holocaust which killed 17 million people, including 6 million Jews (representing 2/3rd of the European Jewish population of 1933). Following the Allied invasion of Normandy in June, 1944, the German Army was pushed back on all fronts until the final collapse in May 1945. Under occupation by the Allies, Austria was again made a separate country, denazification efforts took place, large populations under former German-occupied territories were displaced, German territories were split up by the victorious powers. Germany spent the entirety of the Cold War era divided into the NATO-aligned West Germany and Warsaw Pact-aligned East Germany. Germans also fled from Communist areas into West Germany, which experienced rapid economic expansion, and became the dominant economy in Western Europe.

In 1989, the Berlin Wall was opened, the Eastern Bloc collapsed, and East Germany was reunited with West Germany in 1990. The Franco-German friendship became the basis for the political integration of Western Europe in the European Union. In 1998–1999, Germany was one of the founding countries of the Eurozone. Germany remains one of the economic powerhouses of Europe, contributing about one-quarter of the eurozone's annual Gross Domestic Product. In the early 2010s, Germany played a critical role in trying to resolve the escalating euro crisis, especially concerning Greece and other Southern European nations. In the middle of the decade, the country faced the European migrant crisis as the main receiver of asylum seekers from Syria and other troubled regions.

Geography:

Germany is the country of north-central Europe, traversing the continent's main physical divisions, from the outer ranges of the Alps northward across the varied landscape of the Central German Uplands and then across the North German Plain. Germany is bounded at its extreme north on the Jutland peninsula by Denmark. East and west of the peninsula, the Baltic Sea (Ostsee) and North Sea coasts, respectively, complete the northern border. To the west, Germany borders The Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg; to the southwest it borders France.

Germany shares its entire southern boundary with Switzerland and Austria. In the southeast the border with the Czech Republic corresponds to an earlier boundary of 1918, renewed by treaty in 1945. The easternmost frontier adjoins Poland along the northward course of the Neisse River and subsequently the Oder to the Baltic Sea, with a westward deviation in the north to exclude the former German port city of Stettin (now Szczecin, Poland) and the Oder mouth. This border reflects the loss of Germany's eastern territories to Poland, agreed to at the Yalta Conference (February 1945), mandated at the Potsdam Conference (July–August 1945) held among the victorious World War II Allies, and reaffirmed by subsequent governments.

Climate:

In most of Germany, a country located in the center of Europe, from 47 to 55 degrees north latitude, the climate is moderately continental, characterized by cold winters, with average daily temperatures around 0 °C (32 °F) or slightly above, and warm summers, with maximum temperatures around 23/26 °C (73/79 °F) in July and August.

The northernmost area (see Bremen, Hamburg, Lübeck, Rostock, Kiel) is slightly milder, but it's also rainier and windier because of the influence of the Atlantic Ocean.

Germany is favored with a generally temperate climate, especially in view of its northerly latitudes and the distance of the larger portions of its territory from the warming influence of the North Atlantic Current. Extremely high temperatures in the summer and deep, prolonged frost in the winter are rare. These conditions, together with a more-than-abundant and well-distributed amount of rainfall, afford ideal conditions for raising crops. As throughout western Europe in general, however, Germany's climate is subject to quick variations when the moderate westerly winds from the Atlantic Ocean collide with the cold air masses moving in from northeastern Europe. Whereas in the open coastlands near the North and Baltic seas the maritime component prevails, continental elements gain in importance moving toward the east and southeast.

Seasonal weather is subject to great variations from year to year. Winters may be unusually cold or prolonged, particularly in the higher elevations in the south, or mild, with the temperatures hovering only two or three degrees above or below the freezing point. Spring may arrive early and extend through a hot, rainless summer to a warm, dry autumn with the threat of drought.

Rivers:

Neckar River – 228 miles (367 km):

The Neckar River is 228 miles long and flows primarily through the state of Baden-Württemberg in southwest Germany. "Neckar" may come from the Celtic word Nikros, meaning "wild water" or "wild fellow." The natural landscape of the Neckar River varies, with narrow valleys alternating with widening valleys, large valley meadows, and a great deal of "wild" meandering as it flows along.

Like many rivers in Germany, the Neckar is known for its simple, scenic charm. The river flows past hilly banks, vineyards, orchards, and woods. Many sections of the river were industrialized and redeveloped for hydropower during the 19th and 20th centuries. Because of this, the Neckar is often seen as a symbol of endangered nature.

Ems River – 230 miles (371 km):

The Ems River is a 230-mile-long river in northwestern Germany. It begins in the Teutoburger Forest and ends in the North Sea. The Ems River forms the border between Germany and the Netherlands. Biking is very popular along the Ems River, with three different long-distance bicycle routes that run alongside and cross the river: The EmsAuenWeg, the Emsland Route, and the Hase Ems Weg.

Spree River – 250 miles (403 km):

The Spree River is 250 miles long, beginning its journey in the Lusatian Mountains in northern Bohemia, Czech Republic, just above the German town of Neugersdorf. It connects into the Elbe River in Germany and empties into the North Sea.

As The Spree River flows through Germany, a portion of it forms a marshy wooded biosphere reserve known as the Spree Forest, or Spreewald. Spreewald contains wetlands with alder forests, sandy dry areas with pine forests, grasslands, and fields. Approximately 18,000 species of flora and fauna have been identified here.

In the city of Berlin, the Spree River is also the location of the Badeschiff (“bathing ship”), a floating public swimming pool. The Badeschiff opened in 2004, providing a sanitary environment near the river where people could swim.

Inn River – 317 miles (510 km):

The Inn River is a 317-mile-long river that begins in the Swiss Alps. It flows northeast across western Austria and southern Germany. The Inn enters Germany through the state of Bavaria. The Inn River runs along the border of Bavaria, and eventually flows into the Danube, forming the border between Germany and Austria.

Moselle River – 339 miles (545 km):

Known for its beautiful valley and striking scenery, the Moselle River is 339 miles long. It begins in the Vosges mountains in eastern France, then flows through northeastern France and Luxembourg to western Germany. The beauty of the Moselle River inspired the ancient Roman poet, Ausonius, to write a poem about it in 371.

Today, the Moselle River flows between stretches of castles, ruins, and vineyards. It provides a popular setting for visitors to cycle and run alongside the flowing water, as well as participate in watersports such as canoeing. The Moselle River valley is considered one of the most beautiful in all of Germany. Vineyards and Rieslings (a variety of white grape), picturesque villages, castles, and lush landscapes cover the Moselle River valley.

Elbe River – 724 miles (1,165 km):

The Elbe River is one of Central Europe’s most important waterways, measuring 724 miles long. It begins in the Krkonoše or Giant Mountains, a mountain range in the northern Czech Republic. After traveling through Germany, it empties into the North Sea. The Elbe has the 4th largest river basin in Europe and it has important trade links as far inland as Prague.

Most of the Elbe River remains largely unaltered by humans and full of lush landscapes, wetlands, and woodlands. The Middle Elbe Biosphere Reserve extends along the Elbe River. Here many wildlife species thrive, including red and black kites, cranes, and storks.

Rhine River – 765 miles (1,230 km):

The Rhine River is 765 miles long, making it the second-longest river in Central and Western Europe (following the Danube River). The Rhine River flows through Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Austria, Germany, France, and the Netherlands. Since the time of the Roman Empire, the Rhine River has been used as an important transport route in Europe to bring trade and goods inland.

The Rhine River is also a cultural icon for Germany. It was an important symbol in German nationalism in the 19th century. The German composer, Richard Wagner, used the Rhine as the setting for *Das Rheingold*, the first opera of his infamous three-part epic, *Der Ring des Nibelungen* (you might be familiar with a song from this epic-opera, "Ride of the Valkyries"). In Wagner's opera, the Rhine River is where the Rheinmaidens protect their hoard of gold.

Political System:

Germany is a Federal democracy, with strong political parties, an independent judiciary, and powerful regional and local governments. As such, things can get a little confusing - even for native citizens.

The "Federal" part refers to the way that power is divided nationally. Institutions in Berlin have certain Federal powers, which reach across regional boundaries. For instance, Berlin mandates rules regarding health insurance.

On the other hand, many powers are reserved for regional assemblies or local authorities. This helps to prevent power accumulating in the center - potentially threatening the health of German democracy.

One source of confusion can be dealt with straight away, the head of state isn't the most powerful person in German politics. Instead, the President has a mainly ceremonial role (except in very unusual circumstances). The head of government is actually the Chancellor, who runs the largest political party in Germany's Bundestag. Nationally, two major institutions dominate the German political scene, Bundesrat and Bundestag in Germany.

The Bundesrat is the "second chamber". Unlike the Bundestag, its 69 members are not elected. Instead, they are recommended by provincial governments, and tend to reflect the national vote tallies of the major parties. Designed to provide a check on executive power, the second chamber must agree to all legislation tabled by the Bundestag, and also acts as a champion of regional powers.

If federal laws infringe on regional powers, the Bundesrat is tasked with registering dissent and blocking those laws. Importantly, the chamber can also veto changes to the German constitution - a hugely important check on the Bundestag's power.

By contrast, the Bundestag is fully elected and much more powerful. Members of the Bundestag form German governments, propose legislation, schedule budgets, and vote on foreign policy issues such as declarations of war.

As the party list system suggests, German democracy is based around political parties - organizations set up to follow common sets of principles, and synchronize their efforts in the various political institutions.

These are the major political players right now:

☒ **Christian Democrats:** Located on the center-right, the CPD has been Germany's most electorally successful party. Founded in 1945 by a coalition of anti-Nazi groups and conservatives, the party brings together Protestants and Catholics, and generally follows pro-market, socially conservative policies. Famous figures include Angela Merkel (the current Chancellor), Helmut Kohl, and Konrad Adenauer.

☒ **Social Democrats (SPD):** The SPD is Germany's oldest party, and thought of as its second largest. Founded in 1863, the party was once Marxist-influenced but has become more moderate in the past 50 years. Nowadays, it lies in the center ground and tends to propose social protections for workers, greater environmental regulation, and socially liberal policies.

☒ **Greens:** Germany has one of the most successful Green parties in the world. Greens like Joschka Fischer have served as Foreign Minister, pushing Germany towards support for peace and pro-renewable policies.

☒ **Free Democrats (FDP):** Positioned to the right of the CDP economically, but socially very liberal, the FDP is hard to place in German politics. Headed by Christian Lindner, and founded in 1948, it regularly wins 7-8% in elections.

☒ **Die Linke:** Created in 2007 by left-wing dissidents in the SDP, Die Linke is a left-wing party that draws inspiration from anti-capitalist thinkers. Successful in the post-Communist East, it holds over 60 Bundestag seats.

☒ **Alternative for Germany (AFD):** Highly controversial, AFD is a right-wing nationalist party that seeks to reduce immigration and occupies anti-Islam positions. It has few allies in other parties, which tend to work to reduce its growth and influence.

What is the role of the German president?

As the Head of State, the German president is the figurehead of democracy and the guardian of the constitution. They must agree to the laws and the election of Chancellors, but in practice have very few concrete powers. Presidents are not elected. Instead, they are chosen (in a process like the selection of a Pope) by a committee of Bundestag members. Presidents must be aged over 40, and they serve a maximum of two five-year terms.

Economy:

Germany is the fourth largest economy in the world after the United States, China and Japan. Its research infrastructure and highly skilled professionals attract companies aiming to enter the European market or set up production facilities from all over the world.

GDP: 2.5% growth in 2022

According to the ifo Institute, German GDP is expected to grow by 2.5% in 2022, compared with 3.3% growth in the euro area. In Q1 2022, German GDP increased by 0.2% compared to Q4 2021, adjusted for price, seasonal and calendar effects. As our whitepaper "Germany in post-covid times" shows, the German economy has almost fully recovered from the Covid-19 pandemic. However, new challenges such as supply shortages, rising energy prices and the war in Ukraine are clouding the economic outlook.

Trade Figures, International Growth Rates and Export Share:

German trade volume steadily increased after falling in 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions, which resulted in reduced demand for German products. In 2021, Germany defended its position as the third largest export nation in the world after China and the US. The global economic recovery in 2021, mainly driven by China and the US, was boosting the German export economy. However, sanctions imposed on exports due to the war in Ukraine are heavily affecting foreign trade.

In May 2022, Germany exported goods valued at €125.8 billion (decrease of -0.5% on the previous month) and imported goods valued at €126.7 billion (increase of 2.7% on the previous month).

Inflation:

Germany has not been spared the effects of rising inflation worldwide. Due to the war in Ukraine, the main cause of high inflation continues to be price increases for energy products. Rising prices are also being observed for many other goods, especially food. However, fuel discounts and the introduction of the 9€-ticket for public transport all over Germany surprisingly depressed German inflation in June to 7.6%, a decrease of 0.3%-points on the previous month.

In addition to temporary base effects from the past, crisis-related effects such as supply shortages and significant price increases at upstream economic stages become visible. This is also reflected in the consumer price index. Following the end of lockdowns around the world, global demand and private consumption are pushing up prices.

People transformation, Labour market, STEM shortages and demographic change:

As a result of the comprehensive registration of Ukrainian refugees in the job centers, in June 2022 the number of unemployed people increased sharply compared to the previous month. According to the German Federal Employment Agency, approx. 2,363,000 people are currently unemployed in Germany. The unemployment rate rose to 5.2%, an increase of 0.3 percentage points on the previous month but remains still 0.7% points below the June 2021 level. This puts the unemployment rate 0.1%-points above the pre-pandemic level of March 2020. The shortage of skilled labour continues to weigh heavily on the labor market - especially STEM specialists (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) are in strong demand.

Sustainability: Green Hydrogen and Decarbonisation:

The Net Zero Readiness Index shows that Germany is among the leading countries when it comes to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and achieving climate neutrality in a global comparison; Germany holds 5th place in our Climate Protection Ranking.

One focus of the German federal government with regard to climate protection is the production of green hydrogen. Northern Germany especially is considered to be a model region for green hydrogen and sustainable energy production. A high share of sustainable energy production (42% in 2020) justified Germany's 3rd place in the sector readiness ranking.

Defense:

For 2022, Germany is ranked 16 of 142 out of the countries considered for the annual GFP review.

In 2021 the Ministry of Defense (MOD) received €46.9 billion in funding. To reach the 2 per cent target, Germany's military expenditure would have to rise to €75.5 billion in 2022 and €85.6 billion by 2026. The revised draft budget appropriates €50.3 billion for the MOD in 2022 and then €50.1 billion per year until 2026.

Hard Power

Man Power:

Total Population: 79,903,481

Available Manpower: 36,755,601 (46.0%)

Fit-for-Service: 29,404,481 (36.8%)

Reaching Mil Age Annually: 799,035 (1.0%)

Tot Military Personnel (est.): 199,000 (0.2%)

Active Personnel: 184,000 (0.2%)

Reserve Personnel: 15000

Naval forces:

Total Assets: 80

Aircraft Carriers: 0

Helicopter Carriers: 0

Destroyers: 0

Frigates: 12

Corvettes: 5

Submarines: 6

Patrol Vessels: 0

Mine Warfare: 12

Land Forces:

Tanks: 266

Armored Vehicles: 9,217

Self-Propelled Artillery: 121

Towed Artillery: 0

Rocket Projectors: 38

Air Power:

Total Aircraft Strength: 617

Fighters/Interceptors: 134 (21.7%)

Dedicated Attack: 75 (12.2%)

Transports: 43 (7.0%)

Trainers: 37 (6.0%)

Special-Mission: 41 (6.6%)

Tanker Fleet: 0 (0.0%)

Helicopters: 287 (46.5%)

Attack Helicopters: 55 (8.9%)

Logistics:

Labor Force: 44,585,000

Merchant Marine Fleet: 599

Ports / Trade Terminals: 13

Roadway Coverage: 625,000

Railway Coverage: 33,590

Airports: 539

Natural Resources:

Oil Production: 40,000 bbl

Oil Consumption: 2,460,000 bbl

Oil Proven Reserves: 129,600,000 bbl

Germany Overall Role in International Organizations:

Germany maintains diplomatic relations with 195 countries and has a global presence with 227 missions, 153 of them embassies. Germany has permanent representatives at 12 international organizations.

Germany is a member of the Council of Europe, European Union, European Space Agency, G4, G8, International Monetary Fund, NATO, OECD, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, UN, World Bank Group and the World Trade Organization.

Germany assumes responsibility in multilateral organizations such as the United Nations (UN), the European Union (EU), the North Atlantic Alliance (NATO), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the European Council, the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD), the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Germany is the largest net contributor to the United Nations and has several development agencies working in Africa and the Middle East. The development policy of the Federal Republic of Germany is an independent area of German foreign policy. It is formulated by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and carried out by the implementing organizations. The German government sees development policy as a joint responsibility of the international community. It is the world's third biggest aid donor after the United States and France.

NATO:

Under the doctrine introduced by the 2003 Defense Policy Guidelines, Germany continues to give priority to the transatlantic partnership with the United States through the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. However, Germany is giving increasing attention to coordinating its policies with the European Union through the Common Foreign and Security Policy.

CHINA



MAP

**History:**

Modern Chinese history began in 1912 after the last Chinese emperor abdicated the throne and the country became a republic. After 1912, political and military instability was common in China and it was initially fought over by different warlords. Shortly thereafter, two political parties or movements began as a solution to the country's problems. These were the Kuomintang, also called the Chinese National Party and the Communist Party.

Problems later began for China in 1931 when Japan seized Manchuria—an act that eventually began a war between the two nations in 1937. During the war, the Communist Party and the Kuomintang cooperated with each other to defeat Japan but later in 1945, a civil war between the Kuomintang and the communists broke out. This civil war killed more than 12 million people. Three years later, the civil war ended with a win by the Communist Party and leader Mao Zedong, which then led to the establishment of the People's Republic of China in October 1949.

During the early years of communist rule in China and the People's Republic of China, mass starvation, malnutrition, and disease were common. In addition, there was an idea for a highly planned economy at this time and the rural population was divided into 50,000 communes, each of which was responsible for farming and running different industries and schools.

In an effort to further jump-start China's industrialization and political change Chairman Mao began the "Great Leap Forward" initiative in 1958. The initiative failed, however, and between 1959 and 1961, famine and disease again spread throughout the country. Shortly thereafter in 1966, Chairman Mao began the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution which put local authorities on trial and attempted to change historic customs to give the Communist Party more power.

In 1976, Chairman Mao died and Deng Xiaoping became China's leader. This led to economic liberalization but also a policy of government-controlled capitalism and a still strict political regime. Today, China remains much the same, as every aspect of the country is heavily controlled by its government.

Fast Facts: China

- ☒ Official Name: People's Republic of China
- ☒ Capital: Beijing
- ☒ Population: 1414.00 Million
- ☒ Official Language: Standard Chinese or Mandarin
- ☒ Currency: Renminbi yuan (RMB)
- ☒ Form of Government: Communist Party-led state
- ☒ Climate: Extremely diverse; tropical in south to subarctic in north
- ☒ Total Area: 3,705,390 square miles (9,596,960 square kilometers)
- ☒ Highest Point: Mount Everest at 29,029 feet (8,848 meters)
- ☒ Lowest Point: Turpan Pendi at -505 feet (-154 meters)

Geography:

China is a country of East Asia. It is the largest of all Asian countries and has the largest population of any country in the world. Occupying nearly the entire East Asian landmass, it covers approximately one-fourteenth of the land area of Earth. Among the major countries of the world, China is surpassed in area by only Russia and Canada, and it is almost as large as the whole of Europe.

China has 33 administrative units directly under the central government; these consist of 22 provinces, 5 autonomous regions, 4 municipalities (Chongqing, Beijing, Shanghai, and Tianjin), and 2 special administrative regions (Hong Kong and Macau). The island province of Taiwan, which has been under separate administration since 1949, is discussed in the article Taiwan. Beijing (Peking), the capital of the People's Republic, is also the cultural, economic, and communications Centre of the country. Shanghai is the main industrial city; Hong Kong is the leading commercial Centre and port.

China stretches for about 3,250 miles (5,250 km) from east to west and 3,400 miles (5,500 km) from north to south. Its land frontier is about 12,400 miles (20,000 km) in length, and its coastline extends for some 8,700 miles (14,000 km). The country is bounded by Mongolia to the north; Russia and North Korea to the Northeast; the Yellow Sea and the East China Sea to the east; the South China Sea to the southeast; Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar (Burma), India, Bhutan, and Nepal to the south; Pakistan to the southwest; and Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan to the west. In addition to the 14 countries that border directly on it, China also faces South Korea and Japan, across the Yellow Sea, and the Philippines, which lie beyond the South China Sea.

Within China's boundaries exists a highly diverse and complex country. Its topography encompasses the highest and one of the lowest places on Earth, and its relief varies from nearly impenetrable mountainous terrain to vast coastal lowlands. Its climate ranges from extremely dry, desert like conditions in the northwest to tropical monsoon in the southeast, and China has the greatest contrast in temperature between its northern and southern borders of any country in the world.

Rivers and Mountains:

China has many rivers. Nearly half of the major river systems in China, including the three longest—the Yangtze, Yellow River, and Pearl River, originate in the Tibetan Plateau. They flow west to east and drain into the Pacific Ocean. About 10 percent of the country's area drains into the Indian and Arctic oceans. The remaining 40 percent have no outlet to the sea. They drain through the dry western and northern areas of China, forming deep underground water reserves.

There are thousands of mountains ranges in China. They extend east to west, and from north to south. Each has its own special geographical features. Some have steep cliffs, some have snow on their peaks throughout the year, some have temples and inscriptions and valleys and lakes.

The Qinling Mountains form a natural geographical dividing line between north and south China. The four "great" mountains are Mt. Taishan, Mt. Hengshan, Mt. Songshan and Mt. Huashan. The beautiful mountain scenery of China attracts visitors from all over the world.

Government of China:

China's government is a communist state with a unicameral legislative branch called the National People's Congress that is made up of 2,987 members from the municipal, regional, and provincial levels. There is also a judicial branch comprised of the Supreme People's Court, Local People's Courts, and Special People's Courts.

China is divided into 23 provinces, five autonomous regions, and four municipalities. National suffrage is 18 years of age and the main political party in China is the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). There are also smaller political parties in China, but all are controlled by CCP. In the Chinese system, the Communist Party is the power center that controls every government department, military force, court and parliamentary meeting. The party rules over a pyramid structure, with Xi Jinping at the top and over 4 million grassroots branches at the bottom.

China's Leader:

Xi Jinping is the most powerful figure in the Chinese political system. He is the president of China, but his real influence comes from his position as the general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party.

The Communist Party of China: With more than 89 million members, the Communist Party is the biggest political party in the world. It fully dominates all branches of China's political system.

The National People's Congress:

The congress, with about 3,000 delegates (not all of them are Communist Party members), is supposed to be the top governing body of the Chinese government. Its main job is to write laws and supervise the government.

Economy:

China's high growth based on resource-intensive manufacturing, exports, and low-paid labor has largely reached its limits and has led to economic, social, and environmental imbalances. Reducing these imbalances requires shifts in the structure of the economy from manufacturing to high value services, and from investment to consumption. Given its size, China is central to important regional and global development issues.

China is the largest emitter of greenhouse gases, with per capita emissions now surpassing those of the European Union, although slightly below the OECD average and well below the United States, and its air and water pollution affects other countries. Global environmental problems cannot be solved without China's engagement. China's growing economy is also an important source of global demand, and its economic rebalancing will create new opportunities for manufacturing exporters but may reduce demand for commodities over the medium-term.

Following real GDP growth of 8.1 percent in 2021, growth is projected to slow to 5.0 percent in 2022. The forecast reflects rising headwinds: Domestic demand has slowed, and the global economic environment has worsened significantly with the war in Ukraine.

The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in China was worth 14722.73 billion US dollars in 2020, according to official data from the World Bank. The GDP value of China represents 13.04 percent of the world economy.

GDP Growth Rate: 1.30%

GDP Annual Growth Rate: 4.80%

GDP: 14722.73 USD Billion

GDP per capita: 10430.73 USD

GDP per capita PPP: 16410.80 USD

Full Year GDP Growth: 8.10%

Trade:

China Exports by Countries:

United States: \$577.13B	Hong Kong: \$349.44B
Japan: \$165.82B	South Korea: \$148.85B
Germany: \$115.18B	Netherlands: \$102.43B
India: \$97.51B	United Kingdom: \$87.03B
Vietnam: \$137.90B	

China Imports by Countries:

South Korea: \$213.45B	Japan: \$205.52B	United States: \$180.97B
Australia: \$163.73B	China: \$156.82B	Germany: \$119.92B
Brazil: \$109.88B		

Military Power:

The Chinese government has announced a 2022 defense budget of CNY1.45 trillion (USD229.5 billion), a nominal year-on-year increase of 7.1%. The expenditure – announced at the opening session of the annual National People's Congress (NPC) represents the seventh consecutive year of single-digit growth. China's hike in defense spending comes amid the People's Liberation Army's growing incidents of muscle-flexing in the strategic Indo-Pacific region.

Monitoring China's defense budget provides critical insights into the ongoing modernization of the People's Liberation Army (PLA). The rate of growth in China's defense budget is closely linked to its economic development and perceived security demands. NPC spokesperson Zhang Yesui emphasized this during a press conference in the run-up to the NPC when he stated that China's defense budget was "in line with [China's] level of national development" and aimed at safeguarding national sovereignty, securing development interests, fulfilling international responsibilities, and meeting the needs of military reforms.

The official defense budget does not account for all of China's military-related activities. For example, many defense-related outlays fall directly under the Central Military Commission (CMC), China's highest military authority, chaired by Xi Jinping. For instance, the People's Armed Police (PAP), a paramilitary force charged with maintaining internal security and supporting the military in times of war, is under the command of the CMC but not included in the budget. The Chinese Coast Guard, which plays a key role in asserting China's maritime claims and was placed under the control of the PAP in 2018, is likewise excluded from the official budget.

Official figures also do not account for aspects of China's space program, extra-budgetary revenues from military-owned commercial enterprises, defense mobilization funds, authorized sales of land or excess food produced by some units, recruitment bonuses for college students, and provincial military base operating costs.

Military Might:

For 2022, China is ranked 3 of 142 out of the countries considered for the annual GFP review.

Total Population: 1,397,897,72

Available Manpower: 754,864,769 (54.0%)

Fit-for-Service: 619,268,690 (44.3%)

Reaching Mil Age Annually: 19,570,568 (1.4%)

Tot Military Personnel (est.): 3,134,000 (0.2%)

Active Personnel: 2,000,000 (0.1%)

Reserve Personnel: 510,000 (0.0%)

Paramilitary: 624,000 (0.0%)

Air Power:

Total Aircraft Strength: 3,285

Fighters/Interceptors: 1,200 (36.5%)

Dedicated Attack: 371 (11.3%)

Transports: 286 (8.7%)

Trainers: 399 (12.1%)

Special-Mission: 114 (3.5%)

Tanker Fleet: 3 (0.1%)

Helicopters: 912 (27.8%)

Attack Helicopters: 281 (8.6%)

Land:

Tanks: 5,250

Armored Vehicles: 35,000

Self-Propelled Artillery: 4,120

Towed Artillery: 1,734

Rocket Projectors: 3,160

Naval:

Total Assets: 777

Aircraft Carriers: 2

Helicopter Carriers: 1

Destroyers: 41

Frigates: 49

Corvettes: 70

Vessels: 152

Warfare: 36

Logistics:

Labor Force: 774,710,000

Merchant Marine Fleet: 6,662

Ports / Trade Terminals: 22

Roadway Coverage: 4,960,600

Railway Coverage: 131,000

Natural Resources:

Oil Production: 3,775,000 bbl Oil Consumption: 12,470,000 bbl

Oil Proven Reserves: 25,630,000,000 bbl

Strategic Weapon:

China was estimated by the Federation of American Scientists to have an arsenal of about 260 total warheads as of 2015, the fourth largest nuclear arsenal amongst the five nuclear weapon states acknowledged by the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and one of 320 total warheads by the SIPRI.

China Membership and Role in International Organizations:

China's growing influence inside the United Nations is inevitable, stemming from President Xi Jinping's more assertive foreign policy and the fact that China's assessed contributions to the world body are now second only to those of the United States. Traditionally focused on the U.N.'s development activities, China now flexes its muscles in the heart of the U.N., its peace and security work. The Chinese-Russian tactical alignment in the U.N. Security Council challenges protection of human rights and humanitarian access, demonstrated in July 2020 when China and Russia vetoed two resolutions regarding Syria and both blocked the appointment of a French national as special envoy for Sudan.

The optimism of neoliberalism has been challenged by rising concerns about China playing a more active role in the United Nations (UN) and its specialized agencies. Currently, four of the 15 UN specialized agencies are headed by Chinese nationals, including the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDP), and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). And with its contribution rising to 12 percent of the UN regular budget, passing Japan at 8.5 percent, China is currently the second-largest monetary contributor to the UN.

A substantial number of multinational corporations operate in China, both Western and otherwise. China is one of the world's fastest-growing economies, and its inhabitants make up almost 20% of the world's population. Since its adoption of free-market principles, China has become one of the world's most hyped investment locations.

China has been an active participant in the international economic institutions, namely the World Trade Organization (WTO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, and the Paris climate agreement.

☒ Egmont Group

☒ Food and Fertilizer Technology Center for the Asian and Pacific Region

☒ Global Financial Innovation Network

☒ International Association of Insurance Supervisors

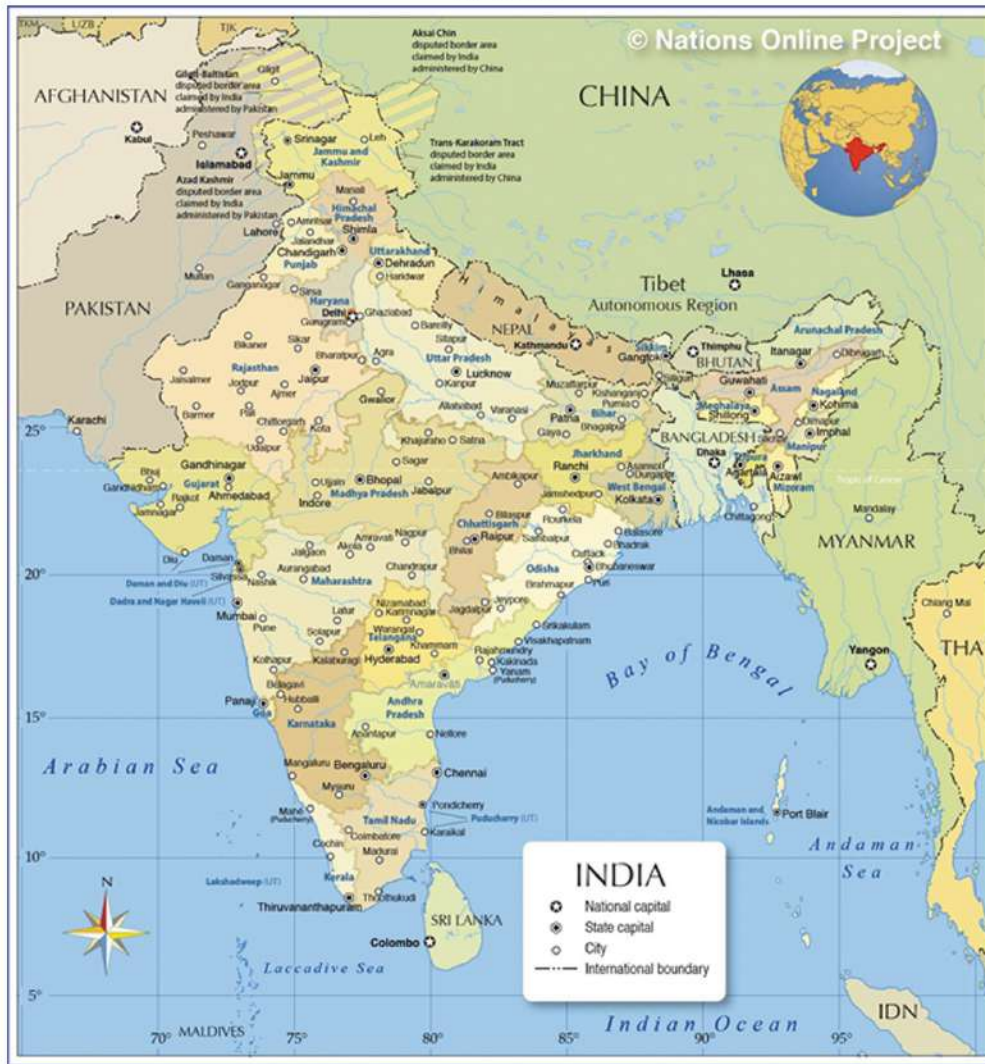
- ☒ Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
- ☒ International Council for Information Technology in Government Administration
- ☒ International Cotton Advisory Committee International Cotton Advisory Committee
- ☒ International Cooperation on Cosmetics Regulation
- ☒ International Council for Harmonization of Technical Requirements for Pharmaceuticals for Human Use
- ☒ International Competition Network
- ☒ International Organization of Securities Commissions International Forum of Independent Audit Regulators International Forum of Independent Audit Regulators
- ☒ The International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna like Species in the North Pacific Ocean. International Seed Testing Association
- ☒ North Pacific Fisheries Commission
- ☒ World Organization for Animal Health
- ☒ South East Asian Central Banks
- ☒ Study Group on Asian Tax Administration and Research
- ☒ Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
- ☒ South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization
- ☒ Technical Committee on Customs Valuation, World Customs Organization
- ☒ Technical Committee on Rules of Origin, World Customs Organization
- ☒ Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission World Trade Organization World Trade Organization
- ☒ Asian Development Bank

Breif Summary:

China is the world's most populous country with a population of 1.44 billion people. It has quickly become the second largest economy in the world. And, it is the world's third biggest country by territory.

China is not only big but it has broad geographical and cultural diversity. To understand China, it means paying attention to China's diversity, to its distinctive geographical regions, historic patterns, economic activities and resources. China's economy has grown fast throughout the past forty decades, and China has become the world's second biggest economy. The high growth based on resource-intensive manufacturing and exports is reaching its limits, and China is restructuring its economy from low-end manufacturing to higher-end manufacturing and services, and from investment to consumption. Nevertheless, massive investment in infrastructure continues, as proved by the 'Belt and Road Initiative', the global infrastructure development strategy extending to almost 110 countries.

INDIA



MAP

**History:**

India, officially the republic of India, has long Ancient history. By 4,500 BCE, settled life had spread more widely and began to gradually evolve into the Indus Valley civilization, an early civilization of the Old world, which was contemporaneous with Ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia. This civilization flourished between 2,500 BCE and 1900 BCE in what today is Pakistan and north-western India. Islamic conquests made limited inroads into modern Afghanistan and Sindh as early as the 8th century, followed by the invasions of Mahmud Ghazni. The Delhi Sultanate was founded in 1206 CE by Central Asian Turks who ruled a major part of the northern Indian subcontinent in the early 14th century, but declined in the late 14th century.

From the mid-18th century to the mid-19th century, large regions of India were gradually annexed by the East India Company, a chartered company acting as a sovereign power on behalf of the British government. Dissatisfaction with company rule in India led to the Indian Rebellion of 1857, which rocked parts of north and central India, and led to the dissolution of the company. After World War I, a nationwide struggle for independence was launched by the Indian National Congress, led by Mahatma Gandhi, and noted for nonviolence. Later, the All-India Muslim League would advocate for a separate Muslim-majority nation state. The British Indian Empire was partitioned in August 1947 into the Dominion of India and Dominion of Pakistan, each gaining its independence.

Geography:

India is a country that occupies the greater part of South Asia. Its capital is New Delhi, built in the 20th century just south of the historic hub of Old Delhi to serve as India's administrative center. Its government is a constitutional republic that represents a highly diverse population consisting of thousands of ethnic groups and likely hundreds of languages. With roughly one-sixth of the world's total population, India is the second most populous country, after China.

India is situated north of the equator between 8°4' north (the mainland) to 37°6' north latitude and 68°7' east to 97°25' east longitude.

It is the seventh-largest country in the world, with a total area of 3,287,263 square kilometers (1,269,219 sq mi). India measures 3,214 km (1,997 mi) from north to south and 2,933 km (1,822 mi) from east to west. It has a land frontier of 15,200 km (9,445 mi) and a coastline of 7,516.6 km (4,671 mi)

India's frontier, which is roughly one-third coastline, abuts six countries. It is bounded to the northwest by Pakistan, to the north by Nepal, China, and Bhutan; and to the east by Myanmar (Burma). Bangladesh to the east is surrounded by India to the north, east, and west. The island country of Sri Lanka is situated some 40 miles (65 km) off the southeast coast of India across the Palk Strait and Gulf of Mannar. The land of India together with Bangladesh and most of Pakistan forms a well-defined subcontinent, set off from the rest of Asia by the imposing northern mountain rampart of the Himalayas and by adjoining mountain ranges to the west and east.

In area, India ranks as the seventh largest country in the world.

Much of India's territory lies within a large peninsula, surrounded by the Arabian Sea to the west and the Bay of Bengal to the east; Cape Comorin, the southernmost point of the Indian mainland, marks the dividing line between those two bodies of water. India has two union territories composed entirely of islands: Lakshadweep, in the Arabian Sea, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, which lie between the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea.

Rivers:

Most of the rivers discharge their waters into the Bay of Bengal. Some of the rivers flow through the western part of the country and merge into the Arabian Sea. The northern parts of the Aravalli range, some parts of Ladakh, and arid regions of the Thar Desert have inland drainage. All major rivers of India originate from one of the three main watersheds-

- ☒ The Himalaya and the Karakoram range
- ☒ The Chota Nagpur plateau and Vindhya and Satpura range
- ☒ The Western Ghats

1. Indus River System: 3180 km total length, 1114 km length in India
2. Brahmaputra River System: 2900 km total length, 916 km length in India
3. Ganga River System: 2510 km total length, 2510 km length in India
4. Yamuna River System: 1376 km total length, 1376 km length in India
5. Narmada River System: 1312 km total length, 1312 km length in India
6. Tapi River System: 724 km total length, 724 km length in India
7. Godavari River System: 1465 km total length, 1465 km length in India
8. Krishna River System: 1400 km total length, 1400 km length in India
9. Cauvery River System: 805 km total length, 805 km length in India
10. Mahanadi River System: 851 km total length, 851 km length in India

Climate:

In terms of climate, India can be divided into a number of regions. For the most part, the country has a tropical climate which throughout most of the interior is a mixture of wet and dry tropical weather. In northern parts there is a humid tropical climate and along the western coast lies wet tropical areas. Stretching in a strip up the Centre of the country is a semi-arid climate, which also stretches across the north-west. Although stereotypical images may bring to mind the heat of India, the country can also experience extreme cold. This takes place largely in the northern mountainous regions which include the cold, arid and windswept Himalayas.

There are quite strong variations in India's four seasons. The summer months can get extremely hot, stretching between March and June with maximum temperatures in certain parts reaching at least 40°C. This is the pre-monsoon season (though thunderstorms are experienced in the north-eastern and eastern parts of Bihar, Assam and West Bengal while in the plains of north-west India, hot and dry winds are common). July to September brings the monsoon rains which supply around three-quarters of the countries yearly rainfall. Autumn stretches from October to December and marks the transition to winter.

Temperatures slowly start to decrease and there is also a reduction in the humidity experienced across the country. Rainfall is still common in some parts. Winter can begin as early as December, however for most areas January and February see the onset of this cold season which brings average temperatures of between 10°C and 15°C in the northwest regions and between 20°C and 25°C in the southeast region of mainland India. The heaviest snowfall in the mountainous regions occurs between these months and the temperatures can drop well below zero.

Political System of India:

The dominion of India was reborn on January 26, 1950, as a sovereign democratic republic and a union of states. With universal adult franchise, India's electorate was the world's largest, but the traditional feudal roots of most of its illiterate populace were deep, just as their religious caste beliefs were to remain far more powerful than more recent exotic ideas, such as secular statehood. Elections were to be held, however, at least every five years, and the major model of government followed by India's constitution was that of British parliamentary rule, with a lower House of the People (Lok Sabha), in which an elected prime minister and a cabinet sat, and an upper Council of States (Rajya Sabha). Nehru led his ruling Congress Party from New Delhi's Lok Sabha until his death in 1964. The nominal head of India's republic, however, was a president, who was indirectly elected.

- ☒ President is the head of state and elected by Electoral College
- ☒ 5 year term
- ☒ Commander of armed forces
- ☒ can put India in a state of emergency
- ☒ Vice-President is the Chairman of the Council of States
- ☒ 5 year term
- ☒ Elected by Electoral College
- ☒ Council of Ministers is the supreme governing body
- ☒ Cabinet members, ministers of state
- ☒ the president approves them and they must be members of Parliament
- ☒ Help the president and prime minister exercise their power.

President power

- ☒ Nominal executive
- ☒ oversees ceremonial functions (similar to royalty in Great Britain)
- ☒ The Presidents signs all the bills, but cannot reject them

Prime Minister power

- ☒ Chosen by the political party that is in power
- ☒ Known as the "chief advisor" to the president, but is actually the head of the Government and the most powerful
- ☒ Picks the Council of Ministers

Council of States (Rajya Sabha)

- ☒ Upper house
- ☒ Elected by the state parliaments
- ☒ 250 members
- ☒ Mostly elected from their state parliaments
- ☒ 12 members are assigned by the President
- ☒ 6 year terms
- ☒ Rolling retirement – 1/3 retire every year

The People's Assembly (Lok Sabha)

- ☒ Lower house
- ☒ Elected directly by the people
- ☒ 545 Members
- ☒ 543 members are selected from the states
- ☒ 2 members are selected by the president
- ☒ Elected every 5 years

States and Territories

- ☒ India has 28 states and seven union territories
- ☒ State governors are appointed by the president
- ☒ They serve five year terms
- ☒ States have their own parliaments
- ☒ They oversee education, agriculture, local government,
- ☒ the federal government has power over anything not Assigned to the states

ECONOMY:

India has emerged as the fastest-growing major economy in the world and is expected to be one of the top three economic powers in the world over the next 10-15 years, backed by its robust democracy and strong partnerships. Currently, India is the sixth-largest economy, behind the U.S., China, Japan, Germany and the U.K. India's nominal gross domestic product (GDP) at current prices is estimated to be at Rs. 232.15 trillion (US\$ 3.12 trillion) in FY22.

India is the third-largest unicorn base in the world with over 100 unicorns with a total valuation of US\$ 332.7 billion.

India needs to increase its rate of employment growth and create 90 million non-farm jobs between 2023 and 2030s, for productivity and economic growth according to McKinsey Global Institute. The net employment rate needs to grow by 1.5% per year from 2023 to 2030 to achieve 8-8.5% GDP growth between 2023 and 2030.

According to data from the Department of Economic Affairs, as of January 28, 2022, foreign exchange reserves in India reached the US\$ 634.287 billion mark.

Overall Exports and Imports for India 2021

The total value of exports (FOB) is US\$ 323,251 million.

The total value of imports (CIF) is US\$ 478,884 million.

At the HS6 digit level, 4,442 products are exported to 226 countries and 4,356 products are imported from 210 countries.

The top five exported HS 6 digit level products to world by India along with trade value are:

India exported Petroleum oils, (excl. crude); preparation, worth US\$ 42,560,122.41 million.

India exported Diamonds non-industrial, excluding mounted o, worth US\$ 20,575,454.94 million.

India exported other medicaments of mixed or unmixed products, worth US\$ 12,476,878.36 million.

India exported Art. Of jewelry and pts thereof of pser mtl , worth US\$ 12,366,518.38 million.

India exported Semi-milled or wholly milled rice, worth US\$ 6,616,848.87 million.

The top five countries to which India exported 2021 along with the partner share in percentage are:

India exports to the United States worth US\$ 54,288 million, with a partner share of 16.79 percent.

India exports to the United Arab Emirates worth US\$ 29,539 million, with a partner share of 9.14 percent.

India exports to China worth US\$ 17,279 million, with a partner share of 5.35 percent.

India exports to Hong Kong, China worth US\$ 11,478 million, with a partner share of 3.55 percent.

India exports to Singapore worth US\$ 10,739 million, with a partner share of 3.32 percent.

Military Power:

India's military expenditure increased to USD 76.6 billion in 2021, marking a 0.9 per cent hike over the 2020 figures, according to a report released by defense think-tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). "India's military expenditure of USD 76.6 billion in 2021 was the third highest in the world. Its spending was up by 0.9 per cent from 2020 and by 33 per cent from 2012," the report issued by the Stockholm-based defense think-tank.

For 2022, India is ranked 4 of 142 out of the countries considered for the annual GFP review.

Total Population: 1,339,330,514
Available Manpower: 629,485,342 (47.0%)
Fit-for-Service: 496,891,621 (37.1%)
Reaching Mil Age Annually: 22,768,619 (1.7%)
Tot Military Personnel (est.): 5,132,000 (0.4%)
Active Personnel: 1,450,000 (0.1%)
Reserve Personnel: 1,155,000 (0.1%)
Paramilitary: 2,527,000 (0.2%)

Land Force

Tanks: 4,614 Armored Vehicles: 12,000
Self-Propelled Artillery: 100 Towed Artillery: 3,311
Rocket Projectors: 1,338

Air Force

Total Aircraft Strength: 2,182
Fighters/Interceptors: 564 (25.8%)
Attack: 130 (6.0%)
Transports: 253 (11.6%)
Trainers: 353 (16.2%)
Special-Mission: 71 (3.3%)
Tanker Fleet: 6 (0.3%)
Helicopters: 805 (36.9%)
Attack Helicopters: 37 (1.7%)

Recourses

Oil Production: 710,000 bbl
Oil Consumption: 4,521,000 bbl
Oil Proven Reserves: 4,495,000,000 bbl

Logistics

Labor Force: 521,900,000
Merchant Marine Fleet: 1,801
Ports / Trade Terminals: 13

Indian Strategic Weapon:

India has approximately 150 nuclear warheads, and has land-based, sea-based and air-launch nuclear capabilities. The state had declared a No First Use policy, which means they have vowed to never use nuclear weapons first in a conflict. However, as of August 2019, India said they are reconsidering this policy.

International Organizations in Which India is a Member:

India is a potential superpower and has a growing international influence all around the world. The country has been emerging as a prominent ally in global affairs. Not only has a regional power, the country also been a strong nuclear power in the world. Being a newly industrialized country, India has a great history of collaboration with several countries.

It has acted as a prominent member of several international organizations and has also been a founding member of some. India has played a pivotal and influential role in organizations like the World Trade Organization, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and Shanghai Cooperation.

Names of Organizations:

AALCO Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization

ADB Asian Development Bank

AfDB African Development Bank (non-regional members)

AG Australia Group

ASEAN Regional Forum The Association of Southeast Asian Nations

BIMSTEC Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation

BIS Bank for International Settlements

BRICS Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa

CoN Commonwealth of Nations

CERN European Organization for Nuclear Research

CP Colombo Plan

EAS East Asia Summit

FAO Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

G-15 Group of 15

G-20 Group of 20

G-24 Intergovernmental Group of Twenty-Four on International Monetary Affairs and Development

G-77 Group of 77

IAEA International Atomic Energy Agency

IBRD International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank)

ICAO International Civil Aviation Organization

ICC International Chamber of Commerce

ICRM International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

IDA International Development Association

IEA International Energy Agency

IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development

IFC International Finance Corporation

IFRC International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IMF International Monetary Fund
IMO International Maritime Organization
IMSO International Mobile Satellite Organization
Interpol International Criminal Police Organization
IOC International Olympic Committee
IOM International Organization for Migration (observer)
IPEEC International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation
IPU Inter-Parliamentary Union
ISO International Organization for Standardization
ITSO International Telecommunications Satellite Organization
ITU International Telecommunication Union
ITUC International Trade Union Confederation (the successor to ICFTU (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions) and the WCL (World Confederation of Labour))
LAS League of Arab States (observer)
MIGA Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
MTCR Missile Technology Control Regime
NAM Non-Aligned Movement
OAS Organization of American States (observer)
OPCW Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
PCA Permanent Court of Arbitration
PIF Pacific Islands Forum (partner)
SAARC South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SACEP South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme
SCO Shanghai Cooperation Organization (member)
UN United Nations
UNAIDS United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCTAD United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDOF United Nations Disengagement Observer Force
UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNHCR United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNWTO World Tourism Organization
UPU Universal Postal Union
WCL World Confederation of Labour
WCO World Customs Organization
WFTU World Federation of Trade Unions
WHO World Health Organization
WIPO World Intellectual Property Organization
WMO World Meteorological Organization
WTO World Trade Organization

IRAN



MAP



History:

The history of Iran, which was commonly known until the mid-20th century as Persia in the Western world, is intertwined with the history of a larger region, also to an extent known as Greater Iran, comprising the area from Anatolia in the west to the borders of Ancient India and the Syr Darya in the east, and from the Caucasus and the Eurasian Steppe in the north to the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman in the south. The Iranian Empire proper begins in the Iron Age, following the influx of Iranian peoples. Iranian people gave rise to the Medes, the Achaemenid, Parthian, and Sasanian Empires of classical antiquity.

The Muslim conquest of Persia (633–654) ended the Sasanian Empire and is a turning point in Iranian history. Islamization of Iran took place during the eighth to tenth centuries, leading to the eventual decline of Zoroastrianism in Iran as well as many of its dependencies. Over the course of the first half of the 19th century, Iran lost many of its territories in the Caucasus, which had been a part of Iran for centuries, comprising modern-day Eastern Georgia, Dagestan, Republic of Azerbaijan, and Armenia, to its rapidly expanding and emerging rival neighbor, the Russian Empire, following the Russo-Persian Wars between 1804–13 and 1826–8.

Islamization was a long process by which Islam was gradually adopted by the majority population of Iran. Richard Bulliet's "conversion curve" indicates that only about 10% of Iran converted to Islam during the relatively Arab-centric Umayyad period. Beginning in the Abbasid period, with its mix of Persian as well as Arab rulers, the Muslim percentage of the population rose. As Persian Muslims consolidated their rule of the country, the Muslim population rose from approximately 40% in the mid-9th century to close to 100% by the end of the 11th century. In 1722, Peter the Great of neighboring Imperial Russia launched the Russo-Persian War (1722–1723), capturing many of Iran's Caucasian territories, including Derbent, Shaki, Baku, but also Gilan, Mazandaran and Astrabad. In 1724, conforming to the Treaty of Constantinople, the Ottomans and the Russians agreed to divide the newly conquered territories of Iran amongst themselves. The Great Persian Famine of 1870–1871 is believed to have caused the death of two million people. A new era in the history of Persia dawned with the Persian Constitutional Revolution against the Shah in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The Shah managed to remain in power, granting a limited constitution in 1906 (making the country a constitutional monarchy). The first Majlis (parliament) was convened on October 7, 1906. The discovery of petroleum in 1908 by the British in Khuzestan spawned intense renewed interest in Persia by the British Empire. Control of Persia remained contested between the United Kingdom and Russia, in what became known as The Great Game, and codified in the Anglo-Russian Convention of 1907, which divided Persia into spheres of influence, regardless of her national sovereignty.

During World War I, the country was occupied by British, Ottoman and Russian forces but was essentially neutral (see Persian Campaign). In 1919, after the Russian revolution and their withdrawal, Britain attempted to establish a protectorate in Persia, which was unsuccessful. In 1925, after being prime minister for two years, Reza Khan became the first shah of the Pahlavi dynasty.

Reza Shah ruled for almost 16 years until September 16, 1941, when he was forced to abdicate by the Anglo-Soviet invasion of Iran. He established an authoritarian government that valued nationalism, militarism, secularism and anti-communism combined with strict censorship and state propaganda. Reza Shah introduced many socio-economic reforms, reorganizing the army, government administration, and finances.

Iran remained officially neutral. Its monarch Rezā Shāh was deposed during the subsequent occupation and replaced with his young son Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. At the Tehran Conference of 1943, the Allies issued the Tehran Declaration which guaranteed the post-war independence and boundaries of Iran. However, when the war actually ended, Soviet troops stationed in northwestern Iran not only refused to withdraw but backed revolts that established short-lived, pro-Soviet separatist national states in the northern regions of Azerbaijan and Iranian Kurdistan, the Azerbaijan People's Government and the Republic of Kurdistan respectively, in late 1945. Pahlavi increased his political power by convening the Iran Constituent Assembly, 1949, which finally formed the Senate of Iran, a legislative upper house allowed for in the 1906 constitution but never brought into being.

Iran was ruled as an autocracy under the Shah with American support from that time until the revolution. The Iranian government entered into agreement with an international consortium of foreign companies which ran the Iranian oil facilities for the next 25 years, splitting profits fifty-fifty with Iran but not allowing Iran to audit their accounts or have members on their board of directors.

In mid-1973, the Shah returned the oil industry to national control. Following the Arab-Israeli War of October 1973, Iran did not join the Arab oil embargo against the West and Israel. Instead, it used the situation to raise oil prices, using the money gained for modernization and to increase defense spending.

A border dispute between Iraq and Iran was resolved with the signing of the Algiers Accord on March 6, 1975.

The Iranian Revolution, also known as the Islamic Revolution, was the revolution that transformed Iran from an absolute monarchy under Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi to an Islamic republic under Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, one of the leaders of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic. Its time span can be said to have begun in January 1978 with the first major demonstrations, and concluded with the approval of the new theocratic Constitution whereby Ayatollah Khomeini became Supreme Leader of the country in December 1979. During this political and social crisis, Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein attempted to take advantage of the disorder of the Revolution, the weakness of the Iranian military and the revolution's antagonism with Western governments. On September 22, 1980, the Iraqi army invaded Iran at Khuzestan, precipitating the Iran–Iraq War. The attack took revolutionary Iran completely by surprise.

On his deathbed in 1989, Khomeini appointed a 25-man Constitutional Reform Council which named then president Ali Khamenei as the next Supreme Leader, and made a number of changes to Iran's constitution. A smooth transition followed Khomeini's death on June 3, 1989. While Khamenei lacked Khomeini's "charisma and clerical standing", he developed a network of supporters within Iran's armed forces and its economically powerful religious foundations. Under his reign Iran's regime is said – by at least one observer – to resemble more "a clerical oligarchy ... than an autocracy."

Geography:

Iran (pronounced ee-RAHN), formerly known as Persia, is situated at the crossroads of Central Asia, South Asia, and the Arab states of the Middle East. This strategic position and its access to the Persian Gulf in the south have made Iran an important country throughout its history.

Much of Iran is cut off from the outside world by a beautiful but often lonely landscape. High, rugged mountains create a barrier with Iran's neighbors in the west, and the eastern region is covered by a barren, salty desert.

In Iran's north, a narrow, fertile strip borders the Caspian Sea, and in the south, lowlands rim the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. Most people in Iran live along the edges of a high plateau that runs through the middle of the country. Iran borders Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Turkmenistan on the east, Iraq on the west, and Turkey, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and the Azerbaijan-Nakhichevan exclave on the north. To its south Iran borders the Gulf of Oman and the Persian Gulf, and to its north the Caspian Sea (the largest lake on earth, with an estimated surface area of 371,000 square kilometers).

The Aras (also known as Araks) River lies along the border with Iran and Azerbaijan. In the Treaty of Turkmenchay (1828) the river was chosen as the border between the Russian and Persian empires. In 1963 Iran and the Soviet Union began construction of the Aras Dam, which was inaugurated in 1971. Iran is a mountainous country. The Zagros Mountains bisect the country from north-west to south-east. Many peaks in the Zagros exceed 3,000 metres above sea level. Rimming the Caspian Sea are the Alborz Mountains, which are narrow but high. The volcanic Mount Damavand (5,671 metres), located in the centre of the Alborz, is Iran's highest peak; on clear days, it can be seen from Tehran.

The central portion of Iran is referred to as the Central Plateau. The eastern part of the plateau is covered by two salt deserts, the Dasht-e Kavir (Great Desert) and the Dasht-e Lut (Barren Desert).

- ☒ Continent: Asia
- ☒ Region Western Asia
- ☒ Coordinates: 32°00'N, 53°00'E
- ☒ Area Ranked: 17th
- ☒ • Total 1,648,195 km² (636,372 sq mi)
- ☒ • Land 99.27%
- ☒ • Water 0.73%
- ☒ Coastline: 2,815 km (1,749 mi)
- ☒ Borders Total land borders: 5,894 km (3,662 mi)

- ☒ Afghanistan: 921 km (572 mi)
- ☒ Armenia: 44 km (27 mi)
- ☒ Azerbaijan (proper): 432 km (268 mi)
- ☒ Azerbaijan (Nakhchivan exclave): 179 km (111 mi)
- ☒ Iraq: 1,599 km (994 mi)
- ☒ Pakistan: 959 km (596 mi)
- ☒ Turkey: 534 km (332 mi)
- ☒ Turkmenistan: 1,148 km (713 mi)
- ☒ Highest point Mount Damavand: 5,610 m (18,406 ft)
- ☒ Lowest point Caspian Sea: -28 m (-91.9 ft)
- ☒ Longest river: Karun
- ☒ Largest lake: Lake Urmia
- ☒ Exclusive economic zone: 168,718 km² (65,142 sq mi)

Climate:

Iran's climate ranges from subtropical to subpolar. In winter a high-pressure belt, centred in Siberia, slashes west and south to the interior of the Iranian plateau, and low-pressure systems develop over the warm waters of the Caspian Sea, the Persian Gulf, and the Mediterranean Sea. In summer one of the world's lowest-pressure centers prevails in the south. Low-pressure systems in Pakistan generate two regular wind patterns: the shamāl, which blows from February to October northwesterly through the Tigris-Euphrates valley, and the "120-day" summer wind, which can reach velocities of 70 miles (110 km) per hour in the Sīstān region near Pakistan. Warm Arabian winds bring heavy moisture from the Persian Gulf. Elevation, latitude, maritime influences, seasonal winds, and proximity to mountain ranges or deserts play a significant role in diurnal and seasonal temperature fluctuation. The average daytime summer temperature in Ābādān in Khūzestān province tops 110 °F (43 °C), and the average daytime winter high in Tabrīz in the East Āzarbāyjān province barely reaches freezing. Precipitation also varies widely, from less than 2 inches (50 mm) in the southeast to about 78 inches (1,980 mm) in the Caspian region. The annual average is about 16 inches (400 mm). Winter is normally the rainy season for the country; more than half of the annual precipitation occurs in that three-month period. The northern coastal region presents a sharp contrast.

Rivers:

Iran is home to a vast extended network of rivers, most of which originate in the mountainous regions and drain into interior basins. Most Iranian rivers are seasonal in flow, relatively short in length, and shallow in depth. Of Iran's major rivers, five flow into the Persian Gulf, these being the Dez, Karkheh, Karun, Diyala, and Lower Zab Rivers. Three, the Aras, Sefid Rud, and Atrek Rivers, flow into the Caspian Sea. Two others flow into smaller inland basins, namely the Zayanderud and Aji Chay.

Zayandeh Rood:

The Zayandeh Rood (Zayanderud or Payandehrud) is one of the most important rivers of the central plateau of Iran. The river takes its source in the northeastern front of Zard Kooch-e-Bakhtiari (Zardkuh) from Zagros Mountains in Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari Province in the vicinity of Cheshmeh Deymeh, and flows to the marshes of Gavkhoony (Gavkhooni Wetland). The maximum length of this river is 420 km and its width ranges from 10 to 20 m in the valleys and varies till 800 m in the city of Isfahan (Esfahan).

The Kooch-Rang tunnel aids in adjoining a part of the waters of the Karoon river to the Zayandeh Rood.

Arvand Rud River:

Arvand Rud is a river of some 200 km in length, formed by the confluence of the Euphrates and the Tigris in the town of al-Qurnah in the Basra Governorate of southern Iraq. copyright itto.org The southern end of the river constitutes the border between Iraq and Iran down to the mouth of the river as it discharges into the Persian Gulf. copyright itto.org The Arvand Rudd River flows in the townships of Khoram Shahr, Abadan and to the west of the Minoo Island (Minushahr). This river is known as the Shatt al-Arab (Shat-ol-arab) in Iraq.

Political System:

Iran is a unitary Islamic republic with one legislative house. The country's 1979 constitution put into place a mixed system of government, in which the executive, parliament, and judiciary are overseen by several bodies dominated by the clergy. At the head of both the state and oversight institutions is a ranking cleric known as the rahbar, or leader, whose duties and authority are those usually equated with a head of state.

Supreme Leader:

At the top of Iran's power structure is the Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who succeeded Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the father of the Iranian Revolution, upon Khomeini's death in 1989. Khomeini and Khamenei are the only two men to have held the office since the founding of the Islamic Republic in 1979.

According to Iran's Constitution, the Supreme Leader is responsible for the delineation and supervision of "the general policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran," which means that he sets the tone and direction of Iran's domestic and foreign policies. He has the power to appoint and dismiss the leaders of the judiciary, the state radio and television networks, and the supreme commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. He also appoints six of the twelve members of the Council of Guardians, the powerful body that oversees the activities of Parliament and determines which candidates are qualified to run for public office.

President:

The president is the second highest ranking official in Iran. While the president has a high public profile, his power is in many ways trimmed back by the constitution, which subordinates the entire executive branch to the Supreme Leader. In fact, Iran is the only state in which the executive branch does not control the armed forces.

The president is responsible for setting the country's economic policies. Though he has nominal rule over the Supreme National Security Council and the Ministry of Intelligence and Security, in practice the Supreme Leader dictates all matters of foreign and domestic security. Eight vice presidents serve under the president, as well as a cabinet of 22 ministers. The Council of Ministers must be confirmed by Parliament.

Parliament:

The Iranian Parliament is a unicameral legislative body whose 290 members are publicly elected every four years. It drafts legislation, ratifies international treaties, and approves the country's budget.

In the parliamentary elections of 2000, reformist candidates won nearly three-quarters of the seats in Parliament; only 14 percent of the newly elected deputies were clerics. However, Parliament is still held in check by the Council of Guardians, the influential oversight body that examines all laws passed by Parliament to determine their compatibility with sharia, or Islamic law. At times, the council, half of whose members are appointed by the Supreme Leader, has struck down up to 40 percent of the laws passed by Parliament.

Assembly of Experts:

The Assembly of Experts, which meets for one week every year, consists of 86 "virtuous and learned" clerics elected by the public to eight-year terms. Like presidential and parliamentary elections, the Council of Guardians determines who can run for a seat in the assembly.

Members of the Assembly of Experts in turn elect the Supreme Leader from within their own ranks and periodically reconfirm him. The assembly has never been known to challenge any of the Supreme Leader's decisions.

Council of Guardians:

Twelve jurists comprise the Council of Guardians, six of whom are appointed by the Supreme Leader. The head of the judiciary recommends the remaining six, which are officially appointed by Parliament.

The Council of Guardians is vested with the authority to interpret the constitution and determines if the laws passed by Parliament are in line with sharia (Islamic law). This means that the council has effective veto power over Parliament. If it deems that a law passed by Parliament is incompatible with the constitution or sharia, it is referred back to Parliament for revision.

Judiciary:

The judiciary branch of Iran's government is largely controlled by the Supreme Leader, who appoints the head of the judiciary, who in turn appoints the head of the Supreme Court and the chief public prosecutor.

NATIONAL SECURITY & INTELLIGENCE:

Iran is the only country whose executive does not control the armed forces. In fact, though the president has nominal rule over the Supreme National Security Council and the Ministry of Intelligence and Security, in practice the Supreme Leader dictates all matters of foreign and domestic security.

SUPREME NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL:

Article 176 of Iran's Constitution sets up the Supreme National Security Council, and charges it with "preserving the Islamic Revolution, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty." Its members include: the president; speaker of Parliament; the head of the judiciary; the chief of the combined general staff of the armed forces; the ministers of foreign affairs, the interior, and intelligence; and the commanders of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and the regular military, among others.

As head of the Supreme National Security Council, the president helps coordinate the Supreme Leader's foreign policy directives.

Regular Army:

Together with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), the regular army comprises the Islamic Republic's armed forces.

According to Iran's Constitution, the regular army of the Islamic Republic is responsible for guarding the independence and territorial integrity of the country and maintaining order. The army, which falls under the control of the Supreme Leader, must be committed to Islamic ideology.

Public courts deal with civil and criminal cases. There are also "revolutionary" courts that try certain categories of offenses, including crimes against national security, narcotics smuggling, and acts that undermine the Islamic Republic. Decisions rendered in revolutionary courts are final and cannot be appealed.

The rulings of the Special Clerical Court, which functions independently of the regular judicial framework and is accountable only to the Supreme Leader, are also final and cannot be appealed. The Special Clerical Court handles crimes allegedly committed by clerics, although it has also taken on cases involving lay people.

Economy:

The most formidable hurdle facing Iran's economy remains its continuing isolation from the international community. This isolation has hampered the short- and long-term growth of its markets, restricted the country's access to high technology, and impeded foreign investment. Iran's isolation is a product both of the xenophobia of its more conservative politicians—who fear postimperial entanglements—and sanctions imposed by the international community, particularly the United States, which accuses Iran of supporting international terrorism. The Iran and Libya Sanctions Act of 1996 expanded an existing U.S. embargo on the import of Iranian petroleum products to encompass extensive bans on investment both by U.S. and non-U.S. companies in Iran. These prohibitions included bans on foreign speculation in Iranian petroleum development, the export of high technology to Iran, and the import of a wide variety of Iranian products into the United States.

The national constitution divides the economy into three sectors: public, which includes major industries, banks, insurance companies, utilities, communications, foreign trade, and mass transportation; cooperative, which includes production and distribution of goods and services; and private, which consists of all activities that supplement the first two sectors. The constitution also establishes specific guidelines for the administration of the nation's economic and financial resources, and after the revolution the government declared null and void any law, or section of a law, that violated Islamic principles.

Iran's economic freedom score is 42.4, making its economy the 170th freest in the 2022 Index. Iran is ranked last among 14 countries in the Middle East and North Africa region, and its overall score is below the regional and world averages.

Over the past five years, Iran has experienced very slow growth: an average of only 1.2 percent annually. A five-year trend of declining economic freedom has accelerated. Sinking under the weight of sharp drops in scores for fiscal health and business freedom, Iran has recorded an 8.1-point overall loss of economic freedom since 2017 and has fallen further in the "Repressed" category. Although taxes and government spending do not weigh heavily on the economy, all of the other 10 indicators for Iran reflect significant weaknesses.

- ☒ Population: 84.0 million
- ☒ GDP (PPP): \$1.1 trillion
- ☒ Growth: 1.5%
- ☒ 1.2% 5-year compound annual growth
- ☒ Per Capita: \$13,073
- ☒ Unemployment: 11.0%
- ☒ Inflation (CPI): 36.5%
- ☒ FDI Inflow: \$1.3 billion

Iran, Islamic Rep. top 5 Export and Import partners:

Market Trade	(US\$ Mil)	Partner share(%)
Other Asia, nes	41,582	43.04
Unspecified	11,839	12.25
China	9,218	9.54
Iraq	8,961	9.27
United Arab Emirates	5,949	6.16

Defense:

According to the legislation for fiscal 2022, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps will receive 930 trillion rials (U.S. \$22 billion). Last year, the force was given a budget of 403 trillion rials. The country's conventional military, which last year received 212.79 trillion rials, is to get about 339.68 trillion rials (U.S. \$7.99 billion) for 2022. The Guard's blend of unconventional tactics and hybrid warfare has expanded Iran's sphere of influence to the shores of the Mediterranean and the Red seas, he added. From Iraq to Yemen, the tactical combination has made Saudi Arabia vulnerable on both its northern and southern land borders.

With the increased budget, further advances in the IRGC aerospace division's capability to use ballistic missile[s] and next-generation UAVs could shift the strategic equation in Iran's favor without countervailing action on the part of Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

For 2022, Iran is ranked 14 of 142 out of the countries considered for the annual GFP review.

Military Might:**Man Power:**

Total Population: 85,888,910

Available Manpower: 48,097,790 (56.0%)

Fit-for-Service: 40,367,788 (47.0%)

Reaching Mil Age Annually: 1,374,223 (1.6%)

Tot Military Personnel (est.): 1,015,000 (1.2%)

Active Personnel: 575,000 (0.7%)

Reserve Personnel: 350,000 (0.4%)

Paramilitary: 90,000 (0.1%)

Air Power:

Total Aircraft Strength: 543
 Fighters/Interceptors: 197 (36.3%)
 Dedicated Attack: 23 (4.2%)
 Transports: 85 (15.7%)
 Trainers: 96 (17.7%)
 Special-Mission: 9 (1.7%)
 Tanker Fleet: 7 (1.3%)
 Helicopters: 126 (23.2%)
 Attack Helicopters: 12 (2.2%)

Land Forces:

Tanks: 2,831
 Armored Vehicles: 7,600
 Self-Propelled Artillery: 1,030
 Towed Artillery: 2,108
 Rocket Projectors: 2,485

Naval:

Total Assets: 142
 Aircraft Carriers: 0
 Helicopter Carriers: 0
 Destroyers: 0
 Frigates: 7
 Corvettes: 3
 Submarines: 19
 Patrol Vessels: 66
 Mine Warfare: 1

Logistics:

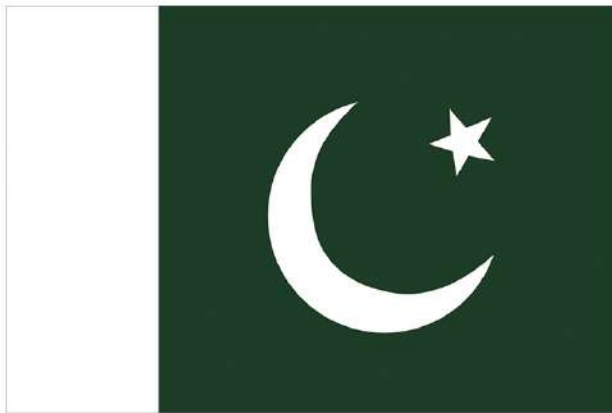
Labor Force: 30,500,000
 Merchant Marine Fleet: 893
 Ports / Trade Terminals: 4
 Roadway Coverage: 223,485
 Railway Coverage: 8,484
 Airports: 319

Iran Membership of International Organizations:

- ☒ International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (ITSO)
- ☒ Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)
- ☒ Islamic Development Bank (IDB)
- ☒ Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)
- ☒ Nonaligned Movement (NAM)
- ☒ Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)
- ☒ Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
- ☒ Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)
- ☒ Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)
- ☒ Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) (observer)
- ☒ South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) (observer)
- ☒ United Nations (UN)
- ☒ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- ☒ United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- ☒ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- ☒ United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- ☒ United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
- ☒ Universal Postal Union (UPU)
- ☒ World Confederation of Labour (WCL)
- ☒ World Customs Organization (WCO)
- ☒ World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU)
- ☒ World Health Organization (WHO)

- ☒ Colombo Plan (CP)
- ☒ Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)
- ☒ Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- ☒ Group of 15 (G15)
- ☒ Group of 24 (G24)
- ☒ Group of 77 (G77)
- ☒ International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- ☒ International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)
- ☒ International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)
- ☒ International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
- ☒ International Criminal Court (ICt) (signatory)
- ☒ International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol)
- ☒ International Development Association (IDA)
- ☒ International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
- ☒ International Finance Corporation (IFC)
- ☒ International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- ☒ International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)
- ☒ International Labour Organization (ILO)
- ☒ International Maritime Organization (IMO)
- ☒ International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO)
- ☒ International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- ☒ International Olympic Committee (IOC)

PAKISTAN



History:

The history of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan began on 14 August 1947 when the country came into being in the form of Dominion of Pakistan within the British Commonwealth as the result of the Pakistan Movement and the partition of India. While the history of the Pakistani Nation according to the Pakistan government's official chronology started with the Islamic rule over Indian subcontinent by Muhammad bin Qasim which reached its zenith during Mughal Era. In 1947, Pakistan consisted of West Pakistan (today's Pakistan) and East Pakistan (today's Bangladesh). The President of All-India Muslim League and later the Pakistan Muslim League, Muhammad Ali Jinnah became Governor-General while the secretary general of the Muslim League, Liaquat Ali Khan became Prime Minister. The constitution of 1956 made Pakistan an Islamic democratic country.

Pakistan faced a civil war and Indian military intervention in 1971 resulting in the secession of East Pakistan as the new country of Bangladesh. The country has also unresolved territorial disputes with India, resulting in four conflicts. Pakistan was closely tied to the United States in the Cold War. In the Afghan-Soviet War, it supported the Sunni Mujahideens and played a vital role in the defeat of Soviet Forces and forced them to withdraw from Afghanistan. The country continues to face challenging problems including terrorism, poverty, illiteracy, corruption and political instability. Terrorism due to War of Afghanistan damaged the country's economy and infrastructure to a great extent from 2001 to 2015 but Pakistan is once again developing.

Pakistan is a nuclear power as well as a de-facto nuclear-weapon state, having conducted six nuclear tests in response to five nuclear tests of their rival Republic of India in May 1998. The first five tests were conducted on 28 May and the sixth one on 30 May. With this status, Pakistan is seventh in the world, second in South Asia and the only country in the Islamic World.

Pakistan is a regional and middle power which is ranked among the emerging and growth-leading economies of the world and is backed by one of the world's largest and fastest-growing middle classes. It has a semi-industrialized economy with a well-integrated agriculture sector. It is one of the Next Eleven, a group of eleven countries that, along with the BRICs, have a high potential to become the world's largest economies in the 21st century. Many economists and think tanks suggested that by 2030 Pakistan will become Asian Tiger and CPEC will play an important role in it.

Geography:

Pakistan is bounded by Iran to the west, Afghanistan to the northwest and north, China to the northeast, and India to the east and southeast. The coast of the Arabian Sea forms its southern border. Since 1947 the Kashmir region, along the western Himalayas, has been disputed, with Pakistan, India, and China each controlling sections of the territory. Part of the Pakistani-administered territory comprises the called Azad Kashmir ("Free Kashmir") region which Pakistan nonetheless considers an independent state, with its capital at Muzaffarabad. The remainder of Pakistani-administered Kashmir consists of Gilgit and Baltistan, known collectively after 2009 as Gilgit-Baltistan (formerly the Northern Areas).

Pakistan is situated at the western end of the great Indo-Gangetic Plain. Of the total area of the country, about three-fifths consists of rough mountainous terrain and plateaus, and the remaining two-fifths constitutes a wide expanse of level plain. The land can be divided into five major regions: the Himalayan and Karakoram ranges and their subranges; the Hindu Kush and western mountains; the Balochistan plateau; the submontane plateau (Potwar Plateau, Salt Range, trans-Indus plain, and Sialkot area); and the Indus River plain. Within each major division there are further subdivisions, including a number of desert areas.

Pakistan encompasses a rich diversity of landscapes, starting in the northwest, from the soaring Pamirs and the Karakoram Range through a maze of mountain ranges, a complex of valleys, and inhospitable plateaus, down to the remarkably even surface of the fertile Indus River plain, which drains southward into the Arabian Sea. It contains a section of the ancient Silk Road and the Khyber Pass, the famous passageway that has brought outside influences into the otherwise isolated subcontinent. Lofty peaks such as K2 and Nanga Parbat, in the Pakistani-administered region of Kashmir, present a challenging lure to mountain climbers. Along the Indus River, the artery of the country, the ancient site of Mohenjo-daro marks one of the cradles of civilization.

☒ Continent: Asia

☒ Region: South Asia

☒ Coordinates 30.00°N 70.00°E Coordinates: 30.00°N 70.00°E

☒ Area: Ranked 33rd

☒ • Total 881,913 km² (340,509 sq mi)

☒ • Land 97.14%

☒ • Water 2.86%

☒ Coastline: 1,046 km (650 mi)

☒ Borders Total: 7,307 km (4,540.4 mi)

☒ Afghanistan: 2,670 km (1,659.1 mi)

☒ China: 559 km (347.3 mi)

☒ India: 3,320 km (2,063.0 mi)

☒ Iran: 959 km (595.9 mi)

☒ Highest point: K2 8,611 m (28,251 ft)

☒ Lowest point: Arabian Sea (0 m (0.0 ft))

☒ Longest river: Indus River

☒ Largest lake: Manchhar Lake

☒ Exclusive economic zone: 290,000 km² (110,000 sq mi)

Climate:

Pakistan lies in a temperate zone and its climate is varied as the country's topography is generally dry and hot near the coast and along the lowland plains of the Indus River, and becoming progressively cooler in the northern uplands and Himalayas. Four seasons are recognized: 1) a cool, dry winter from December to February; 2) a hot, dry spring from March through May; 3) the summer rainy season, also known as the southwest monsoon period, occurring from June to September; and 4) the retreating monsoons from October to November. A majority of the country receives very little rainfall, with the exception of the Northern regions, where monsoons can bring upwards of 200 mm a month from July to September. Inter-annual rainfall varies significantly, often leading to successive patterns of floods and drought.

El Niño is a significant influence on climate variability in Pakistan, with anomalies in both temperature and flood frequency and impact correlated with the El Niño cycle.

Rivers:

1. River Jhelum

River Jhelum is located in northern India and eastern Pakistan and it passes through the Kashmir Valley. It is a tributary of the Chenab River and has a total length of about 725 kilometers (450 mi). The river rises from the Verinag spring located at the foot of Pir Panjal, Kashmir. Then it joins its tributaries Lidder River at Khanabal and Sind River at Shadipora in Kashmir Valley. It flows through Srinagar and Wular Lake before entering Pakistan.

It also connects with the rest of Pakistan and Pakistani Kashmir at the Kohala Bridge east of Circle Bakote. It is then joined by the Poonch River and flows into the Mangla Dam reservoir in the Mirpur District.

River Jhelum has a high potential for power generation. In this regard, the government has taken steps to construct the following dams on the river.

☒ **Mangla Dam**, completed in 1967, is one of the largest earth-fill dams in the world, with a storage capacity of 5,900,000 acre-feet (7.3 km³)

☒ **Rasul Barrage**, constructed in 1967, has a maximum flow of 850,000 ft³/s (24,000 m³/s).

☒ **Trimmu Barrage**, constructed in 1939 some 20 km from Jhang Sadar at the confluence with the Chenab, has a maximum discharge capacity of 645,000 ft³/s (18,000 m³/s).

☒ **Haranpur (Victoria Bridge)** Constructed in 1933 Approximate 5 km from Malakwal near Chak Nizam Village. Its length is 1 km mainly used by Pakistan Railways but there is a passage for light vehicles, motorcycles, cycles, and pedestrians at one side.

☒ **Uri Dam** with 480 MW Hydroelectric station is located in Jammu and Kashmir state.

2. River Chenab

Pakistan is a country rich in natural beauty and scenic views. From lush green plains to vast mountain ranges to majestic deserts, Pakistan has it all. River Chenab, just like River Jhelum, is split between India and Pakistan. It rises in the upper Himalayas in the Lahaul and Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh state, India, and flows through the Jammu region of Jammu and Kashmir into the plains of Punjab, Pakistan, before flowing into the Indus River near the city of Uch Sharif.

3. River Ravi

River Ravi is a river located in northwestern India and eastern Pakistan. It is also one of six rivers of the Indus System in Punjab. Under the Indus Water treaty, the waters of River Ravi were allocated to India. Similarly, the Indus Basin Project transferred waters from western rivers of the Indus system to replenish the Ravi in Pakistan.

According to ancient history traced to Vedas, the Raavi River was known as Iravati. River Ravi is considered to be one of the crucial parts of the Indus River Basin and makes the headwater of the Indus Basin. If you have a knack for history you should not miss visiting historical places in Pakistan.

The waters of the Ravi River drain into the Arabian Sea (Indian Ocean) through the Indus River in Pakistan. The river rises in the Bara Bhangal, District Kangra in Himachal Pradesh, India. The river drains a total catchment area of 14,442 square kilometers (5,576 sq mi) in India after flowing for a length of 720 kilometers (450 mi).

4. River Sutlej

River Sutlej is the longest river in Pakistan that flows from the Punjab province. It is a transboundary river located in the region of northern India and Pakistan. River Sutlej is also known as Satadree in the local language. The source of the Sutlej is west of the catchment area of Lake Rakshastal in Tibet.

The waters of the Sutlej are allocated to India under the Indus Waters Treaty between India and Pakistan. The annual flow of the river is around 14 million acre-feet (MAF) in the upstream of Ropar barrage located across the Sutlej River downstream of the Bhakra dam.

River Sutlej is significant for Pakistan due to its role in the generation of hydroelectricity. River Sutlej accounts for many hydropower projects in Pakistan. The projects include 1,325 MW Bhakra Dam, the 1,000 MW Karcham Wangtoo Hydroelectric Plant, and the 1,500 MW Nathpa Jhakri Dam.

5. River Indus

River Indus is also known as the Sindhu River. The Indus River was known to the ancient Indians in Sanskrit as Sindhu and the Persians as Hindu which was regarded by both of them as “the border river”. It is one of the largest rivers in the whole of Asia. The river passes through China (western Tibet), India (Ladakh), and Pakistan. The river runs a course through the Ladakh region of India towards Gilgit-Baltistan and then merges with the Arabian Sea.

The river has a total drainage area exceeding 1,165,000 km² (450,000 sq mi). Its estimated annual flow stands at around 243 km³ (58 cu mi). The river has very interesting geography as well. It starts from the mountain springs and glaciers of the Himalayas, Karakoram, and the Hindu Kush ranges.

The northern part of the Indus Valley, with its tributaries, forms the Punjab region, while the lower course of the river is known as Sindh and ends in a large delta.

Political System:

The politics in Pakistan takes place within the framework under which the country is established by the constitution. Pakistan is an Islamic and federal parliamentary republic with Islam being its state religion and is classified as a nation-state in South Asia.

The Prime Minister of Pakistan solely leads the executive government which is independent of the state parliament. A bicameral parliament that is composed of two chambers– the Senate (upper house) and the National Assembly (lower house). The Judicature branch forms with the composition of the Supreme Court as an apex court, alongside with the high courts and other inferior courts. The judiciary's function is to interpret the constitution and federal laws and regulations. The President of Pakistan is a ceremonial figurehead who represents the unity of the nation-state; the presidency is a vital part of the Parliament.

Pakistan is subdivided into 4 provinces, 2 territories, and 1 capital territory. Each province has a Provincial Assembly, a directly elected legislature. Members are elected for five-year terms. Each Assembly elects a Chief Minister, who then selects the ministers of his or her cabinet.

Prime Minister of Pakistan:

The Prime Minister of Pakistan is the Head of Government of Pakistan and designated as the Chief Executive of the Republic, who leads the executive branch of the government, oversees the economical growth, heads the Council of Common Interests as well as the Cabinet, and is vested with the command authority over the nuclear arsenals. He is also a leader of the nation who has control over all matters of internal and foreign policy.

The Prime Minister is appointed by the members of the National Assembly through a vote. The Prime Minister is assisted by the Federal Cabinet, a Council of Ministers whose members are appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister. The Federal Cabinet comprises the ministers, ministers of state, and advisers.

The Parliament:

The bicameral federal legislature consists of the Senate (upper house) and National Assembly (lower house). According to Article 50 of the Constitution, the National Assembly, the Senate and the President together make up a body known as the Majlis-i-Shoora (Council of Advisers).

The President of Pakistan:

The President of Pakistan is the ceremonial Head of the State and a figurehead who is a civilian Commander-in-Chief of the Pakistan Armed Forces as per the Constitution of Pakistan and a leader of the nation.

The President is kept informed by the Prime Minister on all the matters of internal and foreign policy as well as on all legislative proposals. The Constitution of Pakistan vest the President the powers of granting pardons, reprieves, and the control of the military; however, all appointments at higher commands of the military must be made by the President on a "required and necessary" basis on consultation and approval from the Prime Minister. In addition, the constitution prohibits the President from exercising the authority of running the government.

The Senate:

The Senate is a permanent legislative body with equal representation from each of the four provinces, elected by the members of their respective provincial assemblies. There are representatives from the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and from Islamabad Capital Territory. The Chairman of the Senate, under the constitution, is next in line to act as President should the office become vacant and until such time as a new president can be formally elected.

Both the Senate and the National Assembly can initiate and pass legislation except for finance bills. Only the National Assembly can approve the federal budget and all finance bills. In the case of other bills, the President may prevent passage unless the legislature in joint sitting overrules the President by a majority of members of both houses present and voting. Unlike the National Assembly, the Senate cannot be dissolved by the President.

National Assembly of Pakistan:

Members of the National Assembly are elected by universal adult suffrage (eighteen years of age). Seats are allocated to each of the four provinces, the Federally Administered Tribal Areas, and Islamabad Capital Territory on the basis of population. National Assembly members serve for the parliamentary term, which is five years, unless they die or resign sooner, or unless the National Assembly is dissolved.

Although the vast majority of the members are Muslim, about 5% of the seats are reserved for minorities, including Christians, Hindus, and Sikhs. There are also 50+ special seats for women now, and women are selected by their respective party heads.

The Jurisdiction:

The Judiciary includes the Supreme Court, Provincial High Courts, District & Sessions Courts, Civil and Magistrate Courts exercising civil and criminal jurisdiction. Some Federal and Provincial Courts and tribunals such as Services Court, Income Tax & Excise Court, Banking Court and Boards of Revenue's Tribunals are established in all provinces as well.

Supreme Court:

The Supreme Court has original, appellate, and advisory jurisdiction. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court is appointed by the President; the other Supreme Court judges are appointed by the President after consultation with the Chief Justice. The Chief Justice and other Judges of the Supreme Court may remain in office until the age of sixty-eight years.

Economy:

Pakistan's economic freedom score is 48.8, making its economy the 153rd freest in the 2022 Index. Pakistan is ranked 34th among 39 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, and its overall score is below the regional and world averages.

Pakistan's economy slowed in 2019 and contracted in 2020. Growth resumed in 2021. A five-year trend of anemic economic freedom has weakened further. Driven down by declines in scores for business freedom, fiscal health, and rule of law, Pakistan has recorded a 4.0-point overall loss of economic freedom since 2017 and has fallen from the "Mostly Unfree" category to the "Repressed" category. Monetary freedom and trade freedom show some promise, but an ongoing lack of even handed rule of law threatens economic freedom.

Protection for the acquisition and disposition of property rights is weakened by organized crime, corruption, a weak regulatory environment, and subversion of the legal system. The judiciary is politicized and subject to external influence and intimidation by extremist groups and high-ranking political officials. Courts are slow, outdated, and inefficient. Corruption is endemic in politics, government, and law enforcement. The top individual income tax rate is 35 percent, and the top corporate tax rate has been reduced to 29 percent. The overall tax burden equals 11.4 percent of total domestic income. Government spending has amounted to 22.3 percent of total output (GDP) over the past three years, and budget deficits have averaged 7.8 percent of GDP. Public debt is equivalent to 87.2 percent of GDP.

- ☒ Population: 220.9 million
- ☒ GDP (PPP): \$1.1 trillion
- ☒ Growth rate: -0.4%
- ☒ compound annual growth: 3.4% 5-year
- ☒ per capita: \$5,150
- ☒ Unemployment: 4.7%
- ☒ Inflation (CPI): 10.7% still increasing due to political instability
- ☒ FDI Inflow: \$2.1 billion

Pakistan top 5 Export and Import partners

Market	Trade (US\$ Mil)	Partner share(%)
United States	4,030	16.97
China	2,037	8.58
United Kingdom	1,677	7.06
Germany:	1,341	5.65
Afghanistan:	1,180	4.97

Defense:

Pakistan's government is giving the military a nearly 6% funding increase for fiscal 2021-2022, and it increased the fiscal 2022-2023 defense budget by 2.69%, according to Finance Minister Miftah Ismail. The FY2022-2023 budget is an 11.17% increase over the original 1.37 trillion rupee budget for FY 2021-2022; but the former is a 2.69% increase when measured against the revised FY 2021-2022 budget.

The FY2022-2023 budget is 2.1% of the country's gross domestic product. That fiscal year begins July 1, 2022.

For 2022, Pakistan is ranked 9 of 142 out of the countries considered for the annual GFP review.

Military Might:**Man Power:**

Total Population: 238,181,034
 Available Manpower: 102,417,845 (43.0%)
 Fit-for-Service: 80,981,552 (34.0%)
 Tot Military Personnel (est.): 1,640,000 (0.7%)
 Active Personnel: 640,000 (0.3%)
 Reserve Personnel: 500,000 (0.2%)
 Paramilitary: 500,000 (0.2%)

Air Power:

Total Aircraft Strength: 1,387
 Fighters/Interceptors: 357 (25.7%)
 Dedicated Attack: 90 (6.5%)
 Transports: 54 (3.9%)
 Trainers: 551 (39.7%)
 Special-Mission: 24 (1.7%)
 Tanker Fleet: 4 (0.3%)
 Helicopters: 307 (22.1%)
 Attack Helicopters: 57 (4.1%)

Land Forces:

Tanks: 2,824
 Armored Vehicles: 9,950
 Self-Propelled Artillery: 689
 Towed Artillery: 1,208
 Rocket Projectors: 560

Naval:

Total Assets: 114
 Aircraft Carriers: 0
 Helicopter Carriers: 0
 Destroyers: 2
 Frigates: 6
 Corvettes: 2
 Submarines: 9
 Patrol Vessels: 48
 Mine Warfare: 3

Logistics:

Labor Force: 61,710,000

Merchant Marine Fleet: 57

Ports / Trade Terminals: 2

Roadway Coverage: 263,775

Railway Coverage: 11,88

Airports: 151

Strategic Weapons:

Pakistan continues to expand its nuclear arsenal with more warheads, more delivery systems, and a growing fissile materials production industry. Pakistan is pursuing what it calls a “full spectrum deterrence posture,” which includes long-range missiles and aircraft for strategic missions, as well as several short-range, lower-yield nuclear-capable weapon systems in order to counter military threats below the strategic level.

This is estimated that Pakistan now has a nuclear weapons stockpile of approximately 165 warheads.

Pakistan Membership of International Organizations:

- ☒ OIC
- ☒ WTO
- ☒ IMF
- ☒ WHO
- ☒ World Bank
- ☒ Asian Development Bank
- ☒ United Nations (UN) Member
- ☒ Conference on Disarmament (CD) Member
- ☒ International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Member
- ☒ Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) Member
- ☒ Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization Preparatory Commission Observer
- ☒ South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation
- ☒ Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT)
- ☒ Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)
- ☒ Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT) State Party
- ☒ IAEA Safeguards Agreement
- ☒ IAEA Additional Protocol
- ☒ Nuclear Safety Convention State Party
- ☒ Joint Spent Fuel Management Convention
- ☒ Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material State Part

- ☒ Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material State Party
- ☒ Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear
- ☒ Material (2005)
- ☒ India-Pakistan Non-Attack Agreement State Party
- ☒ Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) State Party
- ☒ Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) State Party
- ☒ BTWC Confidence Building Measures (CBMs)⁴ Never Submitted
- ☒ Geneva Protocol State Party
- ☒ WMD delivery systems:
- ☒ Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile
- ☒ Proliferation Security Initiative
- ☒ Zangger Committee
- ☒ Nuclear Suppliers Group
- ☒ Australia Group
- ☒ Missile Technology Control Regime
- ☒ Wassenaar Arrangement
- ☒ Security Council resolution
- ☒ Partnership for Peace (PFP)
- ☒ Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) as an observer
- ☒ South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)
- ☒ United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on 14th September 1949.
- ☒ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in 1976.
- ☒ United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in 1968.
- ☒ United Nations Integrated Mission in the Sudan (UNIMS)
- ☒ United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) on 23rd July 1995
- ☒ United Nations Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI)
- ☒ United Nations Organization Mission in Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC)
- ☒ Universal Postal Union (UPU) on 10-11-1947.
- ☒ World Confederation of Labour (WCL)
- ☒ World Customs Organization (WCO)
- ☒ World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



History:

European colonization of the Americas began in the late 15th century, however most colonies in what would later become the United States were settled after 1600. By the 1760s, the thirteen British colonies contained 2.5 million people and were established along the Atlantic Coast east of the Appalachian Mountains. After defeating France, the British government imposed a series of taxes, including the Stamp Act of 1765, rejecting the colonists' constitutional argument that new taxes needed their approval. Resistance to these taxes, especially the Boston Tea Party in 1773, led to Parliament issuing punitive laws designed to end self-government. In 1776, in Philadelphia, the Second Continental Congress declared the independence of the colonies as the "United States". Led by General George Washington, it won the Revolutionary War. The peace treaty of 1783 established the borders of the new nation.

The Articles of Confederation established a central government, but it was ineffectual at providing stability as it could not collect taxes and had no executive officer. A convention wrote a new Constitution that was adopted in 1789 and a Bill of Rights was added in 1791 to guarantee inalienable rights. With Washington as the first president and Alexander Hamilton his chief adviser, a strong central government was created.

The United States became the world's leading industrial power at the turn of the 20th century, due to an outburst of entrepreneurship and industrialization and the arrival of millions of immigrant workers and farmers. A national railroad network was completed and large-scale mines and factories were established. The New Deal defined modern American liberalism.[1] Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States entered World War II and financed the Allied war effort, and helped defeat Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy in the European theater.

The United States and the Soviet Union emerged as rival superpowers in the aftermath of World War II. During the Cold War, the two countries confronted each other indirectly in the arms race, the Space Race, propaganda campaigns, and localized wars against communist expansion. The Cold War ended when the Soviet Union was officially dissolved, leaving the United States as the world's sole superpower. Foreign policy after the Cold War has often focused on modern conflicts in the Middle East, especially in response to the September 11 attacks and the rise of the Islamic State.

Geography:

The U.S. borders both the North Atlantic and North Pacific Oceans and is bordered by Canada and Mexico. It is the third-largest country in the world by area and has a varied topography. The eastern regions consist of hills and low mountains, while the central interior is a vast plain (called the Great Plains region). The west has high rugged mountain ranges (some of which are volcanic in the Pacific Northwest). Alaska also features rugged mountains as well as river valleys. Hawaii's landscape varies but is dominated by volcanic topography.

The United States is located in the Northern Hemisphere; The United States is divided into 50 states, plus the District of Columbia. Sometimes called the lower 48 states or the contiguous states, all of the states except Hawaii and Alaska adjoin each other. Hawaii is an island state located in the Pacific Ocean and Alaska is located northwest of Canada. For Census purposes, the United States is divided into four regions: the Northeast, Midwest, West, and South. In 2020, about 17% of the population lived in the Northeast, 21% in the Midwest, 24% in the West, and 38% in the South.

That distribution has not always been the case. When the country was established, most of the population was in the Northeast and South. Because immigrants were primarily coming from European countries, the East Coast of the U.S. was the closest destination in the U.S.

Major Mountain:

There are two major mountain ranges in the United States that run north-south and, in many ways, have contributed to the population distribution. The first is the Appalachian Mountains which run from the Northeast in Maine and south into Georgia. The second range is the Rocky Mountains, which begin in Canada and then go through Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, and Arizona before continuing into Mexico.

The major rivers in the United States are the Missouri, Mississippi, Colorado, Rio Grande, and Columbia. The Missouri ends up merging with the Mississippi around St. Louis, Missouri. The Columbia River is in the Northwest. The Rio Grande is the Southwest's river that heads south through Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas. The Colorado River starts in Utah, goes into Colorado, then turns back west and heads through Utah back towards the Pacific Ocean.

Climate:

Being a huge country, the contiguous United States is home to a wide variety of climates. However, in general it has a continental climate, with cold winters (often frigid) and hot summers (sometimes very hot), with a different season duration depending on latitude and distance from the sea. There are, however, some exceptions: on the west coast overlooking the Pacific Ocean, the climate is cool and damp in the northern part and Mediterranean in the southern part; on the coast of the Gulf of Mexico, the climate is mild in winter and hot and muggy in summer, while in Florida, it is almost tropical; the mountainous areas are cold in winter and cool to cold even in summer; and finally, there are deserts which are mild in winter and scorching hot in summer.

Since there are no obstacles to cold air masses from Canada, almost all of the country can experience sudden cold waves in winter. Heat waves in summer can be intense as well, especially in inland areas. In general, the western half of the country is more arid than the eastern one, with the exception of the north-central coast of the Pacific, which is rainy.

While the Western United States are mostly occupied by mountains and plateaus, with vast arid and desert areas, the central-eastern part is mostly flat or covered by hills and low mountains, and its climate is generally more humid and rainy.

Government:

The U.S. government is a representative democracy with two legislative bodies, the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Senate consists of 100 seats, with two representatives from each of the 50 states. The House of Representatives consists of 435 seats, the occupants of which are elected by the people from each of the 50 states. The executive branch consists of the president, who is also the head of government and chief of state.

The U.S. also has a judicial branch of government that is made up of the Supreme Court, the U.S. Court of Appeals, U.S. District Courts, and State and County Courts. The U.S. comprises 50 states and one district (Washington, D.C.).

Political system:

The United States is by size of electorate, the second largest democracy on the globe and the most powerful nation on earth, politically, economically and militarily, but its political system is in many important respects unlike any other in the world. The American political system is clearly defined by basic documents. The Declaration of Independence of 1776 and the Constitution of 1789 form the foundations of the United States federal government. The Declaration of Independence establishes the United States as an independent political entity, while the Constitution creates the basic structure of the federal government.

The election of public officials and the balance of power between the three branches of government (executive, legislative, and judicial) carry out democracy in the United States. This system, which makes each branch accountable to the others, restricts the authority of any one branch of the government.

The legislative branch, or Congress (composed of the House of Representatives and the Senate), writes, amends, and passes bills, which the President, as head of the executive branch, must then sign into law.

The executive branch through the President may veto any bill. If the President does veto a bill, the legislative branch may overturn this action with a two-thirds majority in both legislative houses.

Two predominant political parties comprise the United States government, Republicans and Democrats:

Republicans are generally espousing more conservative (or "right") views and support policies to reduce federal regulations, strengthen the military, and boost capitalist endeavors.

Democrats, on the other hand, generally lean toward more liberal (or "left") opinions and support policies to strengthen social services, protect the environment, and make businesses accountable to labor.

Economy:

The United States has one of the world's wealthiest and most diversified economies, led by a highly productive services sector, advanced manufacturing, and world-class research and development. The U.S. has a high level of business freedom, but regulations vary by state. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 was a significant boost. Labor freedom is mostly high but varies from locality to locality. Massive government borrowing and the printing of money have been worsening inflation, with large deficits persisting and public debt growing.

The United States has 14 preferential trade agreements in force with 20 countries. The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 2.4 percent, and more than 2,300 non tariff measures are in effect. In February 2020, the Foreign Investment Risk Review Modernization Act took effect, widening the mandate of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States. The financial sector, one of the world's most developed and competitive, continues to be resilient.

The United States' economic freedom score is 72.1, making its economy the 25th freest in the 2022 Index. The United States is ranked 3rd among 32 countries in the Americas region, and its overall score is above the regional and world averages.

The United States has been running consistent trade deficits since 1976 due to high imports of oil and consumer products. In 2020, the biggest trade deficits were recorded with China, Mexico, Germany, Japan, Ireland, Vietnam and Italy and the biggest trade surpluses with Hong Kong, Netherlands, Australia, United Arab Emirates, Belgium, Brazil and Panama. China is the top trading partner, accounting for 16 percent of total trade, followed by Canada (15 percent) and Mexico (15 percent).

United States Imports by Countries in 2021:

China: \$541.53B Mexico: \$388.36B Canada: \$363.90B Japan: \$139.39B
Germany: \$138.19B Vietnam: \$108.20B South Korea: \$98.81B India: \$77.02B

United States Exports by Countries in 2021:

Canada \$306.93B Mexico: \$276.46B China: \$151.07B
Japan \$74.96B South Korea \$65.77B Germany: \$64.81B
United Kingdom \$61.43B Netherlands: \$53.57B

☒ Population: 329.5 million

☒ GDP (PPP): \$20.9 trillion

☒ -3.5% growth rate

☒ 1.1% 5-year compound annual growth

☒ \$63,416 per capita income

☒ Unemployment: 8.3%

☒ Inflation (CPI): 1.2%

☒ FDI Inflow: \$156.3 billion

Defense:

A nation's military is a crucial asset. The military enforces domestic and foreign policies and protects its citizens. National security is regarded as a government duty, including the security of citizens, the economy, and the country's institutions. National security is crucial and requires large budgets to build and maintain. The United States has the highest military spending of any nation. Its military spending includes all of the Department of Defense's regular activities, war spending, the nuclear weapon program, international military assistance, and other Pentagon-related spending.

The U.S. has the third-largest military with 1.367 million members on active duty and another 1.037 million in the National Guard and reserve.

US military spending amounted to \$801 billion in 2021, a drop of 1.4 per cent from 2020. The US military burden decreased slightly from 3.7 percent of GDP in 2020 to 3.5 per cent in 2021.

US funding for military research and development (R&D) rose by 24 per cent between 2012 and 2021, while arms procurement funding fell by 6.4 per cent over the same period. In 2021 spending on both decreased. However, the drop in R&D spending (-1.2 per cent) was smaller than that in arms procurement spending (-5.4 per cent).

United States Military Strength:

For 2022, the United States is ranked 1 of 142 out of the countries considered for the annual GFP review.

Total Population: 334,998,398 **Available Manpower:** 147,399,295 (44.0%)
Fit-for-Service: 122,274,415 (36.5%) **Reaching Mil Age Annually:** 4,354,979 (1.3%)
Tot Military Personnel (est.): 1,832,000 (0.5%) **Active Personnel:** 1,390,000 (0.4%)
Reserve Personnel: 442,000 (0.1%)

Air:

Total Aircraft Strength: 13,247
 Fighters/Interceptors: 1,957 (14.8%)
 Dedicated Attack: 783 (5.9%)
 Transports: 982 (7.4%)
 Trainers: 2,661 (20.1%)
 Special-Mission: 774 (5.8%)
 Tanker Fleet: 627 (4.7%)
 Helicopters: 5,463 (41.2%)
 Attack Helicopters: 910 (6.9%)

Naval:

Total Assets: 484
 Aircraft Carriers: 11
 Helicopter Carriers: 9
 Destroyers: 92
 Frigates: 0
 Corvettes: 22
 Submarines: 68
 Patrol Vessels: 10
 Mine Warfare: 8

Land:

Tanks: 6,612
 Armored Vehicles: 45,193
 Self-Propelled Artillery: 1,498
 Towed Artillery: 1,339
 Rocket Projectors: 1,366

Logistics:

Labor Force: 146,128,000
 Merchant Marine Fleet: 3,627
 Ports / Trade Terminals: 35
 Roadway Coverage: 6,586,610
 Railway Coverage: 293,564
 Airports: 13,513

List of international Organization US as Member:

The relationship between the US and some of the central multilateral organizations is an essential feature of contemporary international relations.

The following is a list of some major international organizations in which the United States of America officially participates.

- ☒ Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- ☒ International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- ☒ International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
- ☒ International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- ☒ International Labor Organization (ILO)
- ☒ International Maritime Organization (IMO)
- ☒ International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- ☒ North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
- ☒ Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA)
- ☒ Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG)
- ☒ Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- ☒ Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)
- ☒ Organization of American States (OAS)
- ☒ Pacific Community (SPC)
- ☒ Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) (partner)
- ☒ Paris Club
- ☒ Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)
- ☒ South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) (observer)
- ☒ Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI) (observer)
- ☒ United Nations (UN) - Membership in the UN includes participation in the UN's Six Principal Organs: the General Assembly, Secretariat, International Court of Justice, Security Council, Economic and Social Council, and Trusteeship Council.

SAUDI ARABIA



History:

Saudi Arabia traces its roots back to the earliest civilizations of the Arabian Peninsula. Over the centuries, the peninsula has played an important role in history as an ancient trade center and as the birthplace of Islam, one of the world's major monotheistic religions. The world's second-largest religion, Islam, emerged in modern-day Saudi Arabia. In the early 7th century, the Islamic prophet Muhammad united the population of Arabia and created a single Islamic religious polity.

The area of modern-day Saudi Arabia formerly consisted of mainly four distinct historical regions: Hejaz, Najd and parts of Eastern Arabia (Al-Ahsa), and Southern Arabia ('Asir). The modern Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was founded in 1932 by Abdulaziz bin Abdul Rahman, known in the West as Ibn Saud. From 1902 until his death in 1953, Saudi Arabia's founding father, Abdulaziz, ruled the Emirate of Riyadh (1902–1913), the Emirate of Nejd and Hasa (1913–1921), the Sultanate of Nejd (1921–1926), the Kingdom of Hejaz and Nejd (1926–1932), and as the King of Saudi Arabia (1932–1953). Thereafter, six of his sons in succession have reigned over the kingdom.

Abdulaziz's military and political successes were not mirrored economically until vast reserves of oil were discovered in 1938 in the Al-Hasa region, along the Persian Gulf coast. Development began in 1941 and by 1949, production was in full swing. In February 1945, King Abdul Aziz met President Franklin D. Roosevelt aboard the USS Quincy in the Suez Canal. A historic handshake agreeing on supplying oil to the United States in exchange for guaranteed protection to the Saudi regime is still in force today.

Abdulaziz died in 1953. King Saud succeeded to the throne on his father's death in 1953. Oil provided Saudi Arabia with economic prosperity and a great deal of political leverage in the international community. At the same time, the government became increasingly wasteful and lavish.

During the 1973 Arab-Israeli war, Saudi Arabia participated in the Arab oil boycott of the United States and other Western allies of Israel. A founding member of OPEC, Saudi Arabia voted in favor of the group's decision to moderate oil price increases beginning in 1971. After the 1973 war, the price of oil rose substantially, increasing Saudi Arabia's wealth and political influence.

Faisal was assassinated in 1975 by his nephew, Prince Faisal bin Musaid was succeeded by his half-brother King Khalid, during whose reign economic and social development continued at an extremely rapid rate, revolutionizing the infrastructure and educational system of the country; in foreign policy, close ties with the US resumed.

King Abdullah died in 2015 and his half-brother Salman became king. The new king reorganized the government, abolishing several bureaucratic departments. King Salman involved Saudi Arabia in the Second Yemeni Civil War. Salman named his son Mohammed bin Salman as crown prince in 2017, and Mohammed has been assisting his father in the government ever since.

Geography:

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a country situated in Southwest Asia, the largest country of Arabia, by the Arabian Peninsula, bordering the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea, north of Yemen. Its extensive coastlines on the Persian Gulf and Red Sea provide great leverage on shipping (especially crude oil) through the Persian Gulf and the Suez Canal.

The kingdom occupies 80% of the Arabian Peninsula. Most of the country's boundaries are with the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Oman, and the Republic of Yemen (formerly two countries: the Yemen Arab Republic or North Yemen; and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen or South Yemen). The Saudi government estimate is at 2,217,949 square kilometers, while other reputable estimates vary between 2,149,690 and 2,240,000 sq. kilometers. Less than 7% of the total area is suitable for cultivation, and in the early 1960s, population distribution varied greatly among the towns of the eastern and western coastal areas, the densely populated interior oases, and the vast, almost empty deserts.

Saudi Arabia is bounded by seven countries and three bodies of water. To the west, the Gulf of Aqaba and the Red Sea form a coastal border of almost 1,800 km (1,100 mi) that extends to the southern part of Yemen and follows a mountain ridge for approximately 320 km (200 mi) to the vicinity of Najran.

☒ Continent: Asia

☒ Region: Middle East

☒ Coordinates: 25°00'N 45°00'E

☒ Area: Ranked 12th

☒ • Total 2,149,690 km² (830,000 sq mi)

☒ • Land 100%

☒ • Water 0%

☒ Coastline: 2,640 km (1,640 mi)

☒ Borders total: 4,415 km (2,743 mi)

☒ Highest point: Jabal Sawda, 3,015 m (9,892 ft)

☒ Lowest point: Persian Gulf, Red Sea, 0 m (0 ft)

☒ Exclusive economic zone: 228,633 km², (88,276 sq mi)

Climate:

Saudi Arabia is characterized by a desert climate, with the exception of the southwestern part of the country, which exhibits a semi-arid climate. Summers in the central region are extremely hot and dry, ranging from 27°C to 43°C in the inland areas and 27°C to 38°C in coastal areas. In winter, the temperature ranges between 8°C to 20°C in the interior parts while higher temperatures (19°C - 29°C) have been recorded in the coastal areas of the Red Sea. The average annual rainfall in most parts of the country is below 150 mm throughout the year except the southwestern part where the rainfall occurs between 400 – 600 mm annually. In the east, on the coast of the Persian Gulf, the climate is sunny and desert. Winter is mild, but it's cooler than on the Red Sea coast: the average in January is between 12 and 17 °C (54 and 63 °F); sometimes at night it can get cold, especially in the northern part, near the border with Kuwait, where lows can drop to around freezing (0 °C or 32 °F).

Summer is very hot and sunny. However, since the prevailing wind blows from the northwest, originally from the Iraqi desert, and therefore it does not come directly from the sea, the summer is a bit less humid than on the coast of the Red Sea.

Rivers:

Saudi Arabia does not have any permanent rivers, but does have numerous wadis (valleys) which Saudi Arabia had deep water holes around the 'Al-Kharj and lakes at the Layla Aflaj up until the 1980s. They were fed by massive underground aquifers. The 'Al-Kharj was a critical source of drinking water. Unfortunately, due to the excessive drawing of water for agricultural and domestic use, all of the sources have been dried up. However, there are Wadis that serve as the source of water. The Wadis refer to a valley or a dry river bed which contains water, especially during the rainy season. The Wadis are particularly located in the gently sloping parts or the almost flat areas in the deserts, and they start at the distal parts of the fans and extend towards inland. Wadis exhibit a pattern of the braided stream because of the deficiency of water and the excess of sediments. Often Wadis could develop a dam of sediments which could lead to a change of the patterns of the stream during the next flash floods. Saudi Arabia stores approximately 6 billion cubic feet of water in the more than 200 dams found in the Wadi Bisha, Wadi Jizan, Wadi Fatima, and Najran among others. re riverbeds that are either permanently or intermittently dry.

Political System:

Saudi Arabia is a monarchy based on Islam. The government is headed by the King, who is also the commander in chief of the military.

The King appoints a Crown Prince to help him with his duties. The Crown Prince is second in line to the throne.

The King governs with the help of the Council of Ministers, also called the Cabinet. There are 22 government ministries that are part of the Cabinet. Each ministry specializes in a different part of the government, such as foreign affairs, education and finance.

The King is also advised by a legislative body called the Consultative Council (Majlis Al-Shura). The Council proposes new laws and amends existing ones. It consists of 150 members who are appointed by the King for four-year terms that can be renewed.

The country is divided into 13 provinces, with a governor and deputy governor in each one. Each province has its own council that advises the governor and deals with the development of the province.

Because Saudi Arabia is an Islamic state, its judicial system is based on Islamic law (Shari'ah). The King is at the top of the legal system. He acts as the final court of appeal and can issue pardons. There are also courts in the Kingdom. The largest are the Shari'ah Courts, which hear most cases in the Saudi legal system.

A royal decree in 1953 by his son King Saud established Saudi Arabia's Council of Ministers. During the 1950s and 1960s, twenty government ministries were founded. The Council of Ministers, in conjunction with the King, formed the executive and legislative branches of the government.

Government:

- ☒ COUNCIL OF MINISTERS SYSTEM
- ☒ LEGAL AND JUDICIAL STRUCTURE
- ☒ MAJLIS AL-SHURA
- ☒ MINISTRIES
- ☒ PROVINCIAL SYSTEM

Economy:

Saudi Arabia has an oil-based economy with strong government controls over major economic activities. It possesses about 16% of the world's proven petroleum reserves, ranks as the largest exporter of petroleum, and plays a leading role in OPEC. The petroleum sector accounts for roughly 87% of budget revenues, 42% of GDP, and 90% of export earnings. Saudi Arabia is encouraging the growth of the private sector in order to diversify its economy and to employ more Saudi nationals. Approximately 6 million foreign workers play an important role in the Saudi economy, particularly in the oil and service sectors; at the same time, however, Riyadh is struggling to reduce unemployment among its own nationals. Saudi officials are particularly focused on employing its large youth population. In 2017, the Kingdom incurred a budget deficit estimated at 8.3% of GDP, which was financed by bond sales and drawing down reserves. Although the Kingdom can finance high deficits for several years by drawing down its considerable foreign assets or by borrowing, it has cut capital spending and reduced subsidies on electricity, water, and petroleum products and recently introduced a value-added tax of 5%. In January 2016, Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister MUHAMMAD BIN SALMAN announced that Saudi Arabia intends to list shares of its state-owned petroleum company, ARAMCO - another move to increase revenue and outside investment. The government has also looked at privatization and diversification of the economy more closely in the wake of a diminished oil market. Historically, Saudi Arabia has focused diversification efforts on power generation, telecommunications, natural gas exploration, and petrochemical sectors. More recently, the government has approached investors about expanding the role of the private sector in the health care, education and tourism industries. Saudi Arabia's economic freedom score is 55.5, making its economy the 118th freest in the 2022 Index. Saudi Arabia is ranked 9th among 14 countries in the Middle East and North Africa region, and its overall score is below the regional and world averages.

- ☒ Currency: Saudi riyal
- ☒ Population: 34.8 million
- ☒ GDP (PPP): \$1.6 trillion
- ☒ Growth: -4.1%
- ☒ -0.1% 5-year compound annual growth
- ☒ Per Capita: \$46,811
- ☒ Unemployment: 8.2%
- ☒ Inflation (CPI): 3.4%
- ☒ FDI Inflow: \$5.5 billion

Defense:

The Royal Saudi Armed Forces are one of the best-funded in the world, having the world's sixth largest defense budget.

The defense budget of Saudi Arabia stands at \$45.6 billion in 2022. The market is expected to grow at a CAGR of more than 2% during 2023-27. Saudi Arabian defense spending has historically been sustained by strong fiscal reserves, supported by proceeds from its oil exports, which has allowed the country to accumulate robust emergency fiscal reserves and sustain robust defense spending. Against this backdrop, Saudi Arabia was hit hard by the volatility in the global oil market. Initially, the country's revenues deteriorated owing to the general decline in demand for oil. Saudi Arabia's new national defense strategy promotes joint action and response to varying and accelerating threats to protect the interests and security of the country. Saudi Arabia's military doctrine is mainly focused on the ongoing Iranian defense modernization which could pose a challenge to Saudi Arabian strategic and geopolitical interests. According to the new military strategy, the Saudi Arabian armed forces will modernize their military capabilities by acquiring high-tech and effective weapon systems that provide them with military superiority. To protect Saudi Arabia against internal threats such as extremism and terrorism, the Saudi Arabian Defense Doctrine (SDD) outlines several goals to enhance its military structure and capabilities.

For 2022, Saudi Arabia is ranked 20 of 142 out of the countries considered for the annual GFP review.

Man Power:

- Total Population: 34,783,757
- Available Manpower: 18,087,554 (52.0%)
- Fit-for-Service: 16,626,636 (47.8%)
- Reaching Mil Age Annually: 591,324 (1.7%)
- Tot Military Personnel (est.): 350,000 (1.0%)
- Active Personnel: 225,000 (0.6%)
- Reserve Personnel: 0 (0.0%)
- Paramilitary: 125,000 (0.4%)

Air Power:

Total Aircraft Strength: 897
 Fighters/Interceptors: 283 (31.5%)
 Dedicated Attack: 81 (9.0%)
 Transports: 49 (5.5%)
 Trainers: 190 (21.2%)
 Special-Mission: 14 (1.6%)
 Tanker Fleet: 22 (2.5%)
 Helicopters: 258 (28.8%)
 Attack Helicopters: 34 (3.8%)

Land Forces:

Tanks: 1,062
 Armored Vehicles: 6,202
 Self-Propelled Artillery: 705
 Towed Artillery: 1,818
 Rocket Projectors: 275

Resources:

Oil Production: 10,425,000 bbl
 Oil Consumption: 3,287,000 bbl
 Oil Proven Reserves: 266,200,000,000 bbl

Naval Force:

Total Assets: 57
 Aircraft Carriers: 0
 Helicopter Carriers: 0
 Destroyers: 0
 Frigates: 7
 Corvettes: 4
 Submarines: 0
 Patrol Vessels: 39
 Mine Warfare: 3

Logistics:

Labor Force: 13,800,000
 Merchant Marine Fleet: 392
 Ports / Trade Terminals: 5
 Roadway Coverage: 221,372
 Railway Coverage: 5,410
 Airports: 214

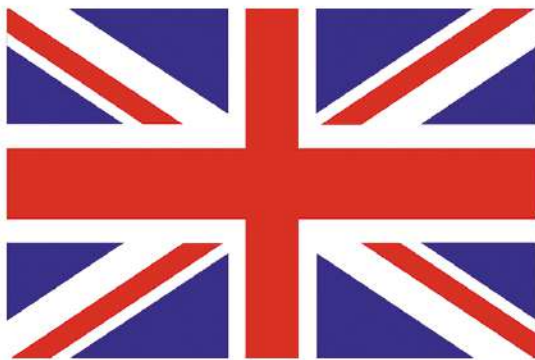
Saudi Arabia Membership of International Organizations:

Saudi Arabia is a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). It is also a member of the Arab League, the G20, the United Nations, World Trade Organization (WTO), the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and co-chairs the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Saudi Arabia hosted the G20 in 2020.

International Organization Participation:

ABEDA, AfDB (nonregional member), AFESD, AMF, BIS, CAEU, CP, FAO, G-20, G-77, GCC, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC (national committees), ICRM, IDA, IDB, IFAD, IFC, IFRCs, IHO, ILO, IMF, IMO, IMSO, Interpol, IOC, IOM (observer), IPU, ISO, ITSO, ITU, LAS, MIGA, NAM, OAPEC, OAS (observer), OIC, OPCW, OPEC, PCA, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNRWA, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WFTU (NGOs), WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO.

UNITED KINGDOM



History:

The history of the United Kingdom began in the early eighteenth century with the Treaty of Union and Acts of Union. The core of the United Kingdom as a unified state came into being in 1707 with the political union of the kingdoms of England and Scotland, into a new unitary state called Great Britain. The Act of Union 1800 added the Kingdom of Ireland to create the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. The first decades were marked by Jacobite risings which ended with defeat for the Stuart cause at the Battle of Culloden in 1746. In 1763, victory in the Seven Years' War led to the growth of the First British Empire.

With the defeat by the United States, France and Spain in the War of American Independence, Britain lost its 13 American colonies and rebuilt a Second British Empire based in Asia and Africa. As a result, British culture, and its technological, political, constitutional, and linguistic influence, became worldwide. Politically the central event was the French Revolution and its Napoleonic aftermath from 1793 to 1815, which British elites saw as a profound threat, and worked energetically to form multiple coalitions that finally defeated Napoleon in 1815. After World War 2, Britain was no longer a military or economic superpower, as seen in the Suez Crisis of 1956. Britain no longer had the wealth to maintain an empire, so it granted independence to almost all its possessions. The new states typically joined the Commonwealth of Nations. The postwar years saw great hardships, alleviated somewhat by large-scale financial aid from the United States, and some from Canada.

The UK took a strong stand against Communist expansion after 1945, playing a major role in the Cold War and the formation of NATO as an anti-Soviet military alliance with West Germany, France, the U.S., Canada and smaller countries. NATO remains a powerful military coalition. The UK has been a leading member of the United Nations since its founding, as well as numerous other international organizations. In the 1990s, neoliberalism led to the privatization of nationalized industries and significant deregulation of business affairs. London's status as a world financial hub grew continuously.

Britain has moved back and forth on its economic relationships with Western Europe. It joined the European Economic Community in 1973, thereby weakening economic ties with its Commonwealth. However, the Brexit referendum in 2016 committed the UK to leave the European Union, which it did in 2020.

Geography:

The United Kingdom comprises four geographic and historical parts: England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. The United Kingdom contains most of the area and population of the British Isles, the geographic term for the group of islands that includes Great Britain, Ireland, and many smaller islands. Together England, Wales, and Scotland constitute Great Britain, the larger of the two principal islands, while Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland constitute the second largest island, Ireland. England, occupying most of southern Great Britain, includes the Isles of Scilly off the southwest coast and the Isle of Wight off the southern coast. Scotland, occupying northern Great Britain, includes the Orkney and Shetland islands off the northern coast and the Hebrides off the northwestern coast. Wales lies west of England and includes the island of Anglesey to the northwest.

Apart from the land border with the Irish republic, the United Kingdom is surrounded by sea. To the south of England and between the United Kingdom and France is the English Channel. The North Sea lies to the east. To the west of Wales and northern England and to the southeast of Northern Ireland,

the Irish Sea separates Great Britain from Ireland, while southwestern England, the northwestern coast of Northern Ireland, and western Scotland face the Atlantic Ocean. At its widest the United Kingdom is 300 miles (500 km) across. From the northern tip of Scotland to the southern coast of England, it is about 600 miles (1,000 km). No part is more than 75 miles (120 km) from the sea. The capital, London, is situated on the tidal River Thames in southeastern England.

☒ Area: Ranked 78th

☒ Borders: 499 km (310 mi) land border with Ireland

☒ Climate: Temperate, with some areas of Scotland being Tundra, and Subarctic

☒ Coastline: 12,429 km (7,723 mi)

☒ Continent: Europe

☒ Coordinates: 54°00'N 2°30'W / 54.000°N 2.500°W

☒ Exclusive economic zone: In Europe: 773,676 km² (298,718 sq mi); All overseas territories: 6,805,586 km² (2,627,651 sq mi)

Climate:

The UK's climate is maritime, moist and temperate, with a moderate annual temperature range. Average annual precipitation in the UK typically ranges from approximately 800 mm to 1,400 mm. The UK climate is heavily influenced by its proximity to the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf Stream/North Atlantic Drift which brings warm water into high northern latitudes. Prevailing winds are westerly, thus UK regional climates vary with distance from the Atlantic as well as topography. Continental influences are most strongly seen in the Southeast of the country.

The climate of Great Britain, influenced by the Atlantic Ocean, is temperate and humid, with relatively small temperature variations between winter and summer. The weather, however, is variable, with frequent changes from day to day or even on the same day.

The average temperatures at sea level are above freezing (0 °C or 32 °F) also in January, when they hover around 4/5 °C (39/41 °F) in the main cities, and reach 6 °C (43 °F) in the south-western tip of the country; in July, they range from 12 °C (53.5 °F) in northern Scotland to 19 °C (66 °F) in the London area.

Precipitation is frequent throughout the country, but it's more frequent and abundant in the north and in the west. For example, in western Scotland, rainfall reaches 1,500 millimeters (60 inches) per year, and there are about 200 days with rain (that is, more than one day out of two!), while in Manchester, in western England, 800 mm (31.5 in) of rainfall in 141 days, and in Plymouth, on the southwest coast, 1,000 mm (40 in) of rainfall in 142 days. The southeast is less rainy: in London, only 615 mm (24.2 in) of rainfall in a year, however, distributed in no less than 111 days.

Rivers:

The United Kingdom has several major rivers passing through its cities, towns, and rural landscapes. Most of these rivers drain watersheds from these areas and join several estuaries which empty into the North Sea, Irish Sea, Bristol Channel, and the English Channel. Rivers play important roles in the UK including transportation of human and goods across cities and towns, major sources of water for households and industries, a source of hydroelectric power, and an important habitat for some of the UK's indigenous wildlife. The rivers are also famous for their sporting activities including canoeing, boat racing, and sailing. The longest rivers in Great Britain are looked at below.

Severn:

The Severn River is the longest river in the United Kingdom, covering a distance of 220 miles. The river rises to an altitude of 2,000 feet on Plynlimon and flows through Shropshire, Powys, and Worcestershire. The river discharges at 107 cubic meters per second at Apperley into the Bristol Channel which finally discharges into the Celtic Sea. River Severn has a drainage basin area of 4,400 square miles while the major tributaries include Vyrnwy, Stour, and Teme. The river has several bridges and rails constructed along its path which are efficient means of transport. River Severn is an important feeding ground for wader and spot ladybirds.

Thames:

The Thames River is England's second longest river, and the United Kingdom's second longest as well, after the Severn with a length of 215 miles. It flows through Southern England passing through several cities including London, Reading, Windsor, Oxford, and Henley-on-Thames. The Thames drains the entirety of Greater London and flows into the North Sea via the Thames Estuary. It has its source at Themes Head and Seven Spring. The river contains around 80 islands including the large estuary marshlands and small islets covered with trees. Several wildlife species including birds, fish, and aquatic mammals inhabit the River Themes.

Trent:

The River Trent is the United Kingdom's third longest river with a total length of 185 miles. It has its source at Staffordshire and drains parts of the Midlands and eastern Birmingham. The river goes through Nottingham, Burton upon Trent, and Stock-on-Trent and joins River Ouse at Trent Falls forming Humber Estuary that finally empties its waters into the North Sea. It is known for periodic flooding, especially after storms and snow melt, sometimes making the river change its course. River Trent provides habitat for some birds' species including wading birds and wildfowl.

Political System:

Politics in the UK can seem confusing at first glance. Although there is a British government that holds centralized executive power, there are also devolved governments in the constituent nations of Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. They determine policy in many areas including healthcare, education, and transport.

Government and Political System in the UK:

The UK is a constitutional monarchy, similar to countries such as Spain, the Netherlands, Japan, and the United Arab Emirates. This means that a monarch – in this case, Queen Elizabeth II – acts as Head of State. It is a parliamentary democracy where the elected British Government, the head of which is the Prime Minister, holds executive power.

Two chambers exercise legislative power: the lower chamber – the House of Commons – made up of 650 elected regional Members of Parliament (MP); and the upper chamber – the House of Lords – made up of a mixture of appointed and hereditary peers. Unlike with elected MPs, the number of members in the House of Lords is not fixed. Currently there are around 800 members from across the parties, as well as non-affiliated members.

Although the British government has central power, a certain amount of political power has been devolved to the regional governments in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Both Scotland and Wales established their own devolved parliaments in 1999. Northern Ireland has had its own devolved assembly since 1972. Although the UK Prime Minister is the head of the central government, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland have their own heads of government called First Ministers. These are leaders or representatives of the parties with the most seats in government. Nicola Sturgeon, leader of the Scottish National Party, has been First Minister of Scotland since 2014. Mark Drakeford, leader of Welsh Labour, has been First Minister of Wales since 2018.

Northern Ireland has joint heads of government under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement. Paul Givan of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) has been First Minister since June 2021. Michelle O'Neill of Sinn Fein has been Deputy First Minister since 2020.

The next UK General Election is due to take place on 2 May 2024.

The UK runs a first-past-the-post (FPTP) electoral system with elections every five years. It ranks 16th in the 2020 Democracy Index.

People vote in elections for Members of Parliament (MPs) to represent them. The party that gets the most seats in Parliament forms the Government.

There are lots of political parties in the UK, but the big ones are:

The Conservative Party (currently led by Boris Johnson). The Conservatives are “right wing,” or conservative. They typically believe that business shouldn’t be regulated and that we should all look after ourselves.

The Labour Party (currently led by Jeremy Corbyn). Labour are “left wing,” or liberal. People who are left wing believe that the state should support those who cannot support themselves. Ideas like the redistribution of wealth, the NHS, and job seeker’s allowance are fundamentally left-wing ideas.

The Liberal Democrats (currently led by Jo Swinson). The Lib Dems, as they’re called, fall between the Conservatives and Labour. Even though they have “liberal” in their name they are really a mix of liberal and conservative.

Economy:

The economy of the United Kingdom is a highly developed social market and market-oriented economy. It is the sixth-largest national economy in the world measured by nominal gross domestic product (GDP), eighth-largest by purchasing power parity (PPP), and twenty fifth-highest by GDP per capita, constituting 3.3% of world GDP.

The United Kingdom is one of the most globalized economies, and comprises England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. In 2020, the UK was the fifth largest exporter in the world and the fifth-largest importer. It also had the third-largest inward foreign direct investment, and the fifth-largest outward foreign direct investment. In 2020, the UK's trade with the 27 member states of the European Union accounted for 49% of the country's exports and 52% of its imports.

GDP is projected to increase by 3.6% in 2022, before stagnating in 2023. Inflation will keep rising and peak at over 10% at the end of 2022 due to continuing labor and supply shortages and high energy prices, before gradually declining to 4.7% by the end of 2023. Private consumption is expected to slow as rising prices erode households’ income. Public investment will weaken in 2022 as supply bottlenecks hamper the implementation of planned investment, but is set to rise again in 2023 as these effects subside. A tight labor market will help to keep unemployment low.

The United Kingdom’s economic freedom score is 72.7, making its economy the 24th freest in the 2022 Index. The United Kingdom is ranked 17th among 45 countries in the Europe region, and its overall score is above the regional and world averages.

As was the case in many other highly developed countries over the past five years, the United Kingdom’s economic growth turned negative in 2020 before resuming in 2021. However, a five-year trend of robust economic freedom has stumbled a bit. With lower marks for fiscal health, business freedom, and labor freedom, the U.K. has recorded a 3.7-point overall loss of economic freedom since 2017 and has fallen from the upper half to the lower half of the “Mostly Free” category. Monetary freedom and trade freedom are strong, but excessive government spending has been a drag on fiscal health.

- ☒ Population: 67.2 million
- ☒ GDP (PPP): \$3.0 trillion
- ☒ Growth: -9.9%
- ☒ -0.8% 5-year compound annual growth
- ☒ Per capita: \$44,117
- ☒ Unemployment: 4.3%
- ☒ Inflation (CPI): 0.9%
- ☒ FDI Inflow: \$19.7 billion

Below is a list showcasing some of the United Kingdom's top trading partners in terms of export sales. That is, these are countries that imported the most UK shipments by dollar value during 2021. Also shown is each import country's percentage of total UK exports.

- ☒ United States: US\$59.9 billion (13% of total UK exports)
- ☒ Switzerland: \$39.5 billion (8.6%)
- ☒ Germany: \$38.8 billion (8.4%)
- ☒ Netherlands: \$34.3 billion (7.5%)
- ☒ France: \$25.6 billion (5.6%)
- ☒ Ireland: \$22.2 billion (4.8%)
- ☒ China: \$20.9 billion (4.5%)
- ☒ Belgium: \$19.7 billion (4.3%)
- ☒ Italy: \$12 billion (2.6%)
- ☒ Spain: \$10.6 billion (2.3%)

Applying a continental lens and based on 2020 data, 96% of exports by value from the United Kingdom were sold to importers located on the 5 continents below.

- ☒ Europe: US\$218 billion (55.1% of total UK exports)
- ☒ Asia: \$83 billion (21%)
- ☒ North America: \$64.5 billion (16.3%)
- ☒ Africa: \$8.4 billion (2.1%)
- ☒ Oceania: \$6.1 billion (1.5%)

Defense:

The UK spent £42.4bn on defense, which was a £2.5bn increase on the previous year. The UK is now counting its support for Ukraine as part of its defense spending, bringing the current total to 2.3% of GDP.

Britain's new projection would be above NATO's estimate that it would spend 2.12% of GDP on defense this year, and higher than an estimated 2.26% in 2021. As a result, the annual defense budget will be £6.2 billion higher in cash terms in 2024/25 compared to 2020/21.

However, the real value of this spending increase is smaller, particularly in the current context of rising inflation. When adjusted for inflation, defense spending over this period is expected to increase by £1.5 billion. Most of this additional funding has been allocated to capital budgets, whereas the Ministry of Defense's day-to-day budget is actually set to decline in real terms over this period.

For 2022, the United Kingdom is ranked 8 of 142 out of the countries considered for the annual GFP review.

Man Power:

Total Population: 67,081,000

Available Manpower: 30,857,260 (46.0%)

Fit-for-Service: 24,685,808 (36.8%)

Reaching Mil Age Annually: 737,891 (1.1%)

Tot Military Personnel (est.): 231,000 (0.3%)

Active Personnel: 194,000 (0.3%)

Reserve Personnel: 37,000 (0.1%)

Air Power:

Total Aircraft Strength: 693

Fighters/Interceptors: 119 (17.2%)

Dedicated Attack: 23 (3.3%)

Transports: 40 (5.8%)

Trainers: 247 (35.6%)

Special-Mission: 20 (2.9%)

Tanker Fleet: 9 (1.3%)

Helicopters: 235 (33.9%)

Attack Helicopters: 24 (3.5%)

Naval:

Total Assets: 75

Aircraft Carriers: 2

Helicopter Carriers: 0

Destroyers: 6

Frigates: 12

Corvettes: 0

Submarines: 10

Patrol Vessels: 26

Mine Warfare: 11

Land:

Tanks: 227

Armored Vehicles: 5,015

Self-Propelled Artillery: 89

Artillery: 126

Rocket Projectors: 44

Logistics:

Labor Force: 35,412,000

Merchant Marine Fleet: 1,249

Ports / Trade Terminals: 16

Roadway Coverage: 394,428

Railway Coverage: 16,837

Airports: 460

UK membership of International Organization:

- ☒ African Development Bank (AfDB) (nonregional member)
- ☒ African Union/United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID)
- ☒ Arctic Council (observer)
- ☒ Asian Development Bank (ADB) (nonregional member)
- ☒ Australia Group
- ☒ Bank for International Settlements (BIS)
- ☒ British-Irish Council (BIC)
- ☒ Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) (nonregional member)
- ☒ Commonwealth of Nations
- ☒ Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI)
- ☒ Council of Europe (CE)
- ☒ Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS)
- ☒ Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC)
- ☒ European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
- ☒ European Investment Bank (EIB)
- ☒ European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT)
- ☒ European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN)
- ☒ European Space Agency (ESA)
- ☒ North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
- ☒ Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA)
- ☒ Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG)
- ☒ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- ☒ Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
- ☒ Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
- ☒ Organization of American States (OAS) (observer)
- ☒ Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) (partner)
- ☒ Paris Club
- ☒ General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM)
- ☒ Group of Five (G5)
- ☒ Group of Eight (G8)
- ☒ Group of Ten (G10)
- ☒ Group of Twenty Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (G20)
- ☒ Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)
- ☒ International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- ☒ International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)
- ☒ International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)
- ☒ International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
- ☒ International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU)

- ☒ International Western European Union (WEU)
- ☒ World Confederation of Labour (WCL)
- ☒ World Customs Organization (WCO)
- ☒ World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU)
- ☒ World Health Organization (WHO)
- ☒ World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
- ☒ World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- ☒ World Organization of the Scout Movement
- ☒ World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)
- ☒ World Trade Organization (WTO)
- ☒ World Veterans Federationl Criminal Police Organization – INTERPOL

About Pakistan House

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Our mission is to help build a positive, secure and balanced world approach toward developing societies.

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