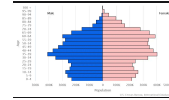


Belarus Country Summary



Introduction

Background

After seven decades as a constituent republic of the USSR, Belarus attained its independence in 1991. Government restrictions on political and civil freedoms, freedom of speech and the press, peaceful assembly, and religion have remained in place under President Alyaksandr LUKASHENKA.

Geography

Area

total: 207,600 sq km

land: 202,900 sq km

water: 4,700 sq km

Climate

cold winters, cool and moist summers; transitional between continental and maritime

Natural resources

timber, peat deposits, small quantities of oil and natural gas, granite, dolomitic limestone, marl, chalk, sand, gravel, clay

People and Society

Population

total: 9,501,451

male: 4,433,839

female: 5,067,612 (2024 est.)

Ethnic groups

Belarusian 83.7%, Russian 8.3%, Polish 3.1%, Ukrainian 1.7%, other 2.4%, unspecified 0.9% (2009 est.)

Languages

Russian (official) 71.4%, Belarusian (official) 26%, other 0.3% (includes small Polish- and Ukrainian-speaking minorities), unspecified 2.3% (2019 est.)

Religions

Orthodox 48.3%, Catholic 7.1%, other 3.5%, non-believers 41.1% (2011 est.)

Population growth rate

-0.42% (2024 est.)

Government

Government type

presidential republic in name, although in fact a dictatorship

Capital

name: Minsk

Executive branch

chief of state: President Alyaksandr LUKASHENKA (since 20 July 1994)

head of government: Prime Minister Roman GOLOVCHENKO (since 4 June 2020)

Legislative branch

description: bicameral National Assembly or Natsyyalny Skhod consists of:

Council of the Republic or Savet Respubliki (64 seats statutory, currently 58; 56 members indirectly elected by regional and Minsk city councils and 8 members appointed by the president; members serve 4-year terms)

House of Representatives or Palata Pradstawnikow (110 seats; members directly elected in single-seat constituencies by absolute majority vote in 2 rounds if needed; members serve 4-year terms)

Economy

Economic overview

declining Russian energy subsidies will end in 2024; growing public debt; strong currency pressures have led to higher inflation; recent price controls on basic food and drugs; public sector wage increases and fragile private sector threaten household income gains and economic growth

Real GDP (purchasing power parity)

\$176.183 billion (2022 est.)

\$184.867 billion (2021 est.)

\$180.466 billion (2020 est.)

Real GDP per capita

\$19,100 (2022 est.)

\$19,900 (2021 est.)

\$19,200 (2020 est.)

Agricultural products

milk, sugar beets, potatoes, wheat, triticale, barley, maize, rapeseed, rye, apples (2022)

Industries

metal-cutting machine tools, tractors, trucks, earthmovers, motorcycles, synthetic fibers, fertilizer, textiles, refrigerators, washing machines and other household appliances

Exports

\$46.846 billion (2022 est.)

\$49.435 billion (2021 est.)

\$37.183 billion (2020 est.)

Exports - partners

China 15%, Ukraine 12%, Poland 9%, Kazakhstan 8%, Lithuania 8% (2022)

Exports - commodities

fertilizers, refined petroleum, rapeseed oil, wood, beef (2022)

Imports

\$42.28 billion (2022 est.)

\$45.465 billion (2021 est.)

\$35.236 billion (2020 est.)

Imports - partners

China 26%, Poland 15%, Germany 12%, Lithuania 12%, Turkey 9% (2022)

Imports - commodities

cars, packaged medicine, fabric, plastic products, vehicle parts/accessories (2022)

Exchange rates

Belarusian rubles (BYB/BYR) per US dollar -

Exchange rates:

2.626 (2022 est.)

2.539 (2021 est.)

2.44 (2020 est.)

2.092 (2019 est.)

2.038 (2018 est.)

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