



IRAQ



INTRODUCTION

Formerly part of the Ottoman Empire, Iraq was declared a League of Nations mandate under UK administration in 1920 and attained independence in 1932 and was proclaimed a "republic" in 1958. The invasion of Kuwait in 1990 led to a period of instability as the country strove to install a representative government. In December 2017, then-Prime Minister Haydar al-ABADI declared victory against ISIS.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President Latif RASHID

Head of Government

Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-SUDANI

Government Type

federal parliamentary republic

Capital

Baghdad

Legislature

unicameral Council of Representatives of Iraq (COR) or Majlis an-Nuwwab al-Iraqiyy (329 seats)

Ambassador to US

Ambassador Nazar Issa Abdulhadi AL-KHIRULLAH

US Ambassador

Ambassador Alina L. ROMANOWSKI

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 438,317 sq km

Land: 437,637 sq km

Water: 950 sq km

Climate

mostly desert; mild to cool winters with dry, hot, cloudless summers; northern mountainous regions along Iranian and Turkish borders experience cold winters with occasionally heavy snows

Natural Resources

petroleum, natural gas, phosphates, sulfur

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

oil-dependent Middle Eastern economy; COVID-19 disruption and domestic economy fragility post-US presence; poverty increases; currency devaluation leading to inflation; import-dependent for most sectors; evaluating fiscal and monetary restructuring

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$390.2 billion (2021 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$9,000 (2021 est.)

Industries - petroleum, chemicals, textiles, leather, construction materials, food processing, fertilizer, metal fabrication/processing

Agricultural products – wheat, barley, dates, tomatoes, rice, maize, grapes, potatoes, watermelons

Exports \$78.26 billion (2021 est.)

crude petroleum, refined petroleum, gold, petroleum coke, natural gas

partners: China 26%, India 24%, South Korea 9%, US 8%, Italy 6%, Greece 6% (2019)

Imports \$50.71 billion (2021 est.)

refined petroleum, broadcasting equipment, cars, jewelry, cigarettes (2019)

partners: UAE 28%, Turkey 21%, China 19% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

41.3 million (2023 est.)

Population Growth

1.9% (2023 est.)

Ethnicity

Arab 75-80%, Kurdish 15-20%, other 5% (includes Turkmen, Yezidi, Shabak, Kaka'i, Bedouin, Romani, Assyrian, Circassian, Sabaeen-Mandaeen, Persian) (1987, latest government estimate)

Language

Arabic (official), Kurdish (official); Turkmen (a Turkish dialect) and Syriac (Neo-Aramaic) are recognized as official languages where native speakers of these languages are present

Religion

Muslim (official) 95-98% (Shia 61-64%, Sunni 29-34%), Christian 1% (includes Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant, Assyrian Church of the East), other 1-4% (2015 est.)