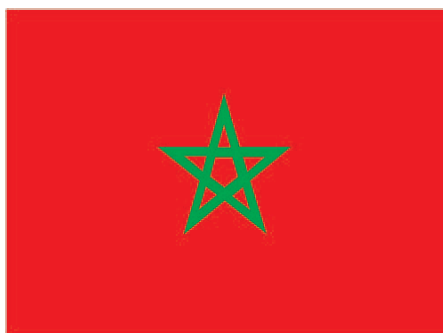




MOROCCO



INTRODUCTION

In 788, about a century after the Arab conquest of North Africa, a series of Moroccan Muslim dynasties began to rule in Morocco. In the 16th century, the Sa'adi monarchy, particularly under Ahmad al-MANSUR (1578-1603), repelled foreign invaders and inaugurated a golden age. The French imposed a protectorate over the country. A protracted independence struggle with France ended successfully in 1956.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

King MOHAMMED VI

Head of Government

Prime Minister Aziz AKHANNOUCH

Government Type

parliamentary constitutional monarchy

Capital

Rabat

Legislature

bicameral Parliament consists of Chamber of Advisors (120 seats) and Chamber of Representatives (395 seats)

Ambassador to US

Ambassador Lalla JOUMALA Alaoui

US Ambassador

Ambassador Puneet TALWAR

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 716,550 sq km

Land: 716,300 sq km

Water: 250 sq km

Climate

Mediterranean, becoming more extreme in the interior

Natural Resources

phosphates, iron ore, manganese, lead, zinc, fish, salt

ECONOMY

lower middle-income North African economy; ongoing recovery from recent drought; rebounding via tourism, manufacturing, and aeronautics industries; major US free trade agreement; developing energy exporter

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$303.3 billion (2021 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$8,100 (2021 est.)

Industries - automotive parts, phosphate mining and processing, aerospace, food processing, leather goods, textiles, construction, energy, tourism

Agricultural products - wheat, sugar beet, milk, potatoes, olives, tangerines/mandarins, tomatoes, oranges, barley, onions

Exports \$47.08 billion (2021 est.)

cars, fertilizers, insulated wiring, phosphoric acid, clothing and apparel (2021)

partners: Spain 20%, France 19%, India 5%, Brazil 5%, Italy 5% (2021)

Imports \$60.05 billion (2021 est.)

refined petroleum, cars and vehicle parts, natural gas, wheat, coal (2021)

partners: Spain 19%, France 11%, China 9%, US 7%, Germany 5%, Turkey 5%, Italy 5% (2021)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

37.1 million (2023 est.)

Population Growth

0.88% (2022 est.)

Ethnicity

Arab-Berber 99%, other 1%

Language

Arabic (official), Berber languages (Tamazight (official), Tachelhit, Tarifit), French

Religion

Muslim 99% (official; virtually all Sunni, <0.1% Shia), other 1% (includes Christian, Jewish, and Baha'i); note - Jewish about 3,000-3,500 (2010 est.)

Urbanization

urban population: 65.1% of total population (2023)

rate of urbanization: 1.88% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

as of May 2023