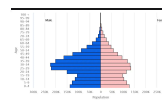


Kuwait Country Summary



Introduction

Background

Kuwait gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1961. Iraq attacked and overran Kuwait in 1990, but a US-led UN coalition liberated the country in 1991. The AL-SABAH family has ruled since 1991 and has reestablished an elected legislature that has become increasingly assertive.

Geography

Area

total : 17,818 sq km

land: 17,818 sq km

water: 0 sq km

Climate

dry desert; intensely hot summers; short, cool winters

Natural resources

petroleum, fish, shrimp, natural gas

People and Society

Population

total: 3,138,355

Ethnic groups

Kuwaiti 30.4%, other Arab 27.4%, Asian 40.3%, African 1%, other 0.9% (includes European, North American, South American, and Australian) (2018 est.)

Languages

Arabic (official), English widely spoken

Religions

Muslim (official) 74.6%, Christian 18.2%, other and unspecified 7.2% (2013 est.)

Population growth rate

1.1% (2024 est.)

Government

Government type

constitutional monarchy (emirate)

Capital

name: Kuwait City

Executive branch

chief of state: Amir Sheikh MISHAL al-Ahmad al-Sabah (since 16 December 2023)

head of government: Prime Minister AHMAD al-Abdullah al Sabah (since 15 May 2024)

Legislative branch

description: unicameral National Assembly or Majlis al-Umma (65 seats; 50 members directly elected from 5 multi-seat constituencies by simple majority vote and 15 ex-officio members (cabinet ministers) appointed by the amir; members serve 4-year terms)

Economy

Economic overview

small, high-income, oil-based Middle East economy; renewable energy proponent; regional finance and investment leader; maintains oldest sovereign wealth fund; emerging space and tourism industries; mid-way through 25-year development program

Real GDP (purchasing power parity)

\$219.06 billion (2023 est.)

\$224.057 billion (2022 est.)

\$211.099 billion (2021 est.)

Real GDP per capita

\$50,800 (2023 est.)

\$52,500 (2022 est.)

\$49,700 (2021 est.)

Agricultural products

tomatoes, dates, cucumbers/gherkins, eggs, milk, chicken, lamb/mutton, vegetables, potatoes, eggplants (2022)

Industries

petroleum, petrochemicals, cement, shipbuilding and repair, water desalination, food processing, construction materials

Exports

\$95.476 billion (2023 est.)

\$110.923 billion (2022 est.)

\$77.121 billion (2021 est.)

Exports - partners

China 24%, India 15%, South Korea 11%, Japan 9%, Taiwan 7% (2022)

Exports - commodities

crude petroleum, refined petroleum, hydrocarbons, natural gas, acyclic alcohols (2022)

Imports

\$63.43 billion (2023 est.)

\$55.909 billion (2022 est.)

\$48.954 billion (2021 est.)

Imports - partners

UAE 20%, China 16%, Saudi Arabia 9%, US 7%, Japan 4% (2022)

Imports - commodities

cars, gold, jewelry, garments, packaged medicine (2022)

Exchange rates

Kuwaiti dinars (KD) per US dollar -

Page last updated: Wednesday, July 24, 2024

