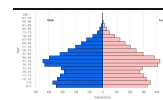


# Iran Country Summary



## Introduction

### Background

Known as Persia until 1935, Iran became an Islamic republic in 1979 after the ruling monarchy was overthrown. Conservative clerical forces established a theocratic system of government with ultimate political authority vested in a religious scholar known as the Supreme Leader. Relations between Iran and the West remain tense, due in part to concerns over its nuclear program.

### Geography

#### Area

**total** : 1,648,195 sq km

**land**: 1,531,595 sq km

**water**: 116,600 sq km

#### Climate

mostly arid or semiarid, subtropical along Caspian coast

#### Natural resources

petroleum, natural gas, coal, chromium, copper, iron ore, lead, manganese, zinc, sulfur

### People and Society

#### Population

**total**: 88,386,937

#### Ethnic groups

Persian, Azeri, Kurd, Lur, Baloch, Arab, Turkmen, and Turkic tribes

#### Languages

Persian Farsi (official), Azeri and other Turkic dialects, Kurdish, Gilaki and Mazandarani, Luri, Balochi, Arabic

#### Religions

Muslim (official) 98.5%, Christian 0.7%, Baha'i 0.3%, agnostic 0.3%, other (includes Zoroastrian, Jewish, Hindu) 0.2% (2020 est.)

#### Population growth rate

0.88% (2024 est.)

### Government

#### Government type

theocratic republic

#### Capital

**name**: Tehran

#### Executive branch

**chief of state**: Supreme Leader Ali Hoseini-KHAMENEI (since 4 June 1989)

**head of government**: President-elect Masoud PEZESHKIAN (assumes office on 30 July 2024)

#### Legislative branch

**description:** unicameral Islamic Consultative Assembly or Majles-e Shura-ye Eslami or Majles (290 seats; 285 members directly elected in single- and multi-seat constituencies by multiple non-transferable vote in 2 rounds, 1 seat each for Zoroastrians, Jews, Assyrian and Chaldean Christians, Armenians in the north of the country and Armenians in the south; members serve 4-year terms); note - all candidates to the Majles must be approved by the Council of Guardians, a 12-member group of which 6 are appointed by the supreme leader and 6 are jurists nominated by the judiciary and elected by the Majles

## **Economy**

### **Economic overview**

traditionally state-controlled economy but reforming state-owned financial entities; strong oil/gas, agricultural, and service sectors; recent massive inflation due to exchange rate depreciation, international sanctions, and investor uncertainty; increasing poverty

### **Real GDP (purchasing power parity)**

\$1.44 trillion (2023 est.)  
\$1.373 trillion (2022 est.)  
\$1.323 trillion (2021 est.)

### **Real GDP per capita**

\$16,200 (2023 est.)  
\$15,500 (2022 est.)  
\$15,000 (2021 est.)

### **Agricultural products**

wheat, sugarcane, milk, sugar beets, tomatoes, barley, potatoes, vegetables, oranges, chicken (2022)

### **Industries**

petroleum, petrochemicals, gas, fertilizer, caustic soda, textiles, cement and other construction materials, food processing (particularly sugar refining and vegetable oil production), ferrous and nonferrous metal fabrication, armaments

### **Exports**

\$110.882 billion (2022 est.)  
\$82.015 billion (2021 est.)  
\$46.568 billion (2020 est.)

### **Exports - partners**

China 36%, Turkey 20%, Kuwait 6%, Pakistan 5%, India 4% (2022)

### **Exports - commodities**

ethylene polymers, refined copper, acyclic alcohols, aluminum, natural gas (2022)

### **Imports**

\$102.47 billion (2022 est.)  
\$77.33 billion (2021 est.)  
\$58.461 billion (2020 est.)

### **Imports - partners**

China 28%, UAE 19%, Brazil 13%, Turkey 9%, India 6% (2022)

### **Imports - commodities**

broadcasting equipment, corn, soybeans, vehicle parts/accessories, rice (2022)

### **Exchange rates**

Iranian rials (IRR) per US dollar -

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