

NORTH KOREA



GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

Supreme People's Assembly President KIM Yong Nam (since 5 September 1998)

Head of Government

Premier PAK Pong Ju

Government Type

single-party state; official state ideology of "Juche" or "national self-reliance"

Capital

Pyongyang

Legislature

unicameral Supreme People's Assembly or Ch'oego Inmin Hoeui (687 seats)

Judiciary

Supreme Court or Central Court (consists of one judge and 2 "People's Assessors" or for some cases, 3 judges)

Ambassador to US

none; North Korea has a Permanent Mission to the UN in New York

US Ambassador

none; note - Swedish Embassy in Pyongyang represents the US as consular protecting power

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 120,538 sq km

Land: 120,408 sq km

Water: 130 sq km

Climate

temperate, with rainfall concentrated in summer; long, bitter winters

Natural Resources

coal, iron ore, limestone, magnesite, graphite, copper, zinc, lead, precious metals, hydropower

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

25.2 million (July 2017 est.)

Population Growth

0.53% (2017 est.)

Ethnicity

racially homogeneous; there is a small Chinese community and a few ethnic Japanese

Language

Korean

Religion

traditionally Buddhist and Confucianist, some Christian and syncretic Chondogyo (Religion of the Heavenly Way)

note: autonomous religious activities now almost nonexistent; government-sponsored religious groups exist to provide illusion of religious freedom

Urbanization

urban population: 61.9% of total population (2018)

rate of urbanization: 0.82% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

Literacy

100% (2015 est.)

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

one of the world's most centrally directed and least open economies; faces stagnation, underinvestment, and chronic shortages, largely as a result of large-scale missile and nuclear programs

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)

\$40.0 billion (2015 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)

\$1,700 (2015 est.)

Exports

\$2.985 billion (2016 est.)

partners: China 86.3% (2017)

Imports

\$3.752 billion (2016 est.)

partners: China 91.9% (2017)

