NORTH KOREA

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State
Supreme People's Assembly President CHOERyong Hae

Head of Government
State Affairs Commission Chairman KIM Jong Un (functions as chief executive)

Government Type
dictatorship, 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; Swedish Embassy in Pyongyang represents the US as consular protecting power

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 mismanagement, isolation, large-scale military spending, and international sanctions

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)
$40 billion (2015 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)
$1,700 (2015 est.)

Exports
$222 million (2018 est.)
partners: China 86.3% (2017)

Imports
$2.32 billion (2018 est.)
partners: China 91.9% (2017)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population
25.6 million (July 2020 est.)

Population Growth
0.51% (2020 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)

Urbanization
urban population: 62.4% of total population (2020)
rate of urbanization: .82% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

Literacy
100% (2015)

as of September 2020

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

as of September 2020