NORTH KOREA

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State
Supreme People's Assembly President CHOE Ryong Hae

Head of Government
State Affairs Commission Chairman KIM Jong Un

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; note - 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 large-scale missile and nuclear programs

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
25.4 million (July 2018 est.)

Population Growth
0.52% (2018 est.)

Ethnicity
racedly 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: 62.1% of total population (2019)
rate of urbanization: .82% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

Literacy
100% (2015)

as of December 2019