SYRIA

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
President Bashar al-ASAD
Head of Government
Acting Prime Minister Hussein ARNOUS
Government Type
presidential republic; highly authoritarian regime
Capital
Damascus
Legislature
unicameral People's Assembly (250 seats)
Judiciary
Court of Cassation (organized into civil, criminal, religious, and military divisions, each with 3 judges); Supreme Constitutional Court (consists of 7 members)
Ambassador to US
(vacant)
US Ambassador
(vacant); note – Czechia serves as a protecting power for US interests in Syria

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
Syria's economy has deeply deteriorated amid the ongoing conflict that began in 2011, declining by more than 70% from 2010 to 2017.
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)
$50.28 billion (2017 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)
$2,900 (2017 est.)
Exports
$1.85 billion (2017 est.)
partners: Lebanon 31.5%, Iraq 10.3%, Jordan 8.8%, China 7.8%, Turkey 7.5%, Spain 7.3% (2017)
Imports
$6.279 billion (2017 est.)
partners: Russia 32.4%, Turkey 16.7%, China 9.5% (2017)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
19.4 million (July 2020 est.)
Population Growth
4.25% (2020 est.)
Ethnicity
Arab ~50%, Alawite ~15%, Kurd ~10%, Levantine ~10%, other ~15% (includes Druze, Ismaili, Imami, Nusairi, Assyrian, Turkoman, Armenian)
Language
Arabic (official), Kurdish, Armenian, Aramaic, Circassian, French, English
Religion
Muslim 87% (official; includes Sunni 74% and Alawi, Ismaili, and Shia 13%), Christian 10% (includes Orthodox, Uniate, and Nestorian), Druze 3%, Jewish (few remaining in Damascus and Aleppo)
Urbanization
urban population: 55.5% of total population (2020)
rate of urbanization: 1.43% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)
Literacy
86.4% (2015)

GEOGRAPHY
Area
Total: 187,437 sq km
Land: 185,887 sq km
Water: 1,500 sq km
Climate
mostly desert; hot, dry, sunny summers (June to August) and mild, rainy winters (December to February) along coast; cold weather with snow or sleet periodically in Damascus
Natural Resources
petroleum, phosphates, chrome and manganese ores, asphalt, iron ore, rock salt, marble, gypsum, hydropower

as of August 2020