BELARUS

INTRODUCTION
After seven decades as a constituent republic of the USSR, Belarus attained its independence in 1991. Government restrictions on political and civil freedoms; freedom of speech and the press, peaceful assembly, and religion have remained in place.

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
President Aleksandr LUKASHENKO
Head of Government
Prime Minister Roman GOLOVCHENKO
Government Type
presidential republic, although in fact a dictatorship
Capital
Minsk
Legislature
bicameral National Assembly or Natsionalnoye Sobranie (64 seats); House of Representatives or Palata Predstaviteley (110 seats)

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
diminishing Russian energy subsidies will end in 2024; growing public debt; strong currency pressures have led to higher inflation; recent price controls on basic food and drugs; public sector wage increases and fragile private sector threaten household income gains and economic growth
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $180 billion (2020 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $19,100 (2020 est.)
Industries - metal-cutting machine tools, tractors, trucks, earthmovers, motorcycles, synthetic fibers, fertilizer, textiles, refrigerators, washing machines and other household appliances
Agricultural products - milk, potatoes, sugar beets, wheat, triticale, barley, maize, rye, rapeseed, poultry
Exports $37.04 billion (2020 est.)
refined petroleum, fertilizers, cheese, delivery trucks, crude petroleum (2019)
partners: Russia 42%, Ukraine 13%, UK 7% (2019)
Imports $35.16 billion (2020 est.)
crude petroleum, natural gas, cars and vehicle parts, packaged medicines, broadcasting equipment (2019)
partners: Russia 57%, China 7%, Poland 5%, Germany 5%, Ukraine 5% (2019)

GEOGRAPHY
Area
Total: 207,600 sq km
Land: 202,900 sq km
Water: 4,700 sq km
Climate
cold winters, cool and moist summers; transitional between continental and maritime
Natural Resources
timber, peat deposits, small quantities of oil and natural gas, granite, dolomitic limestone, marl, chalk, sand, gravel, clay

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
9.4 million (July 2021 est.)
Population Growth
-0.29% (2021 est.)
Ethnicity
Belarusian 83.7%, Russian 8.3%, Polish 3.1%, Ukrainian 1.7%, other 2.4%, unspecified 0.9% (2009 est.)
Language
Russian (official) 70.2%, Belarusian (official) 23.4%, other 3.1% (includes small Polish- and Ukrainian-speaking minorities), unspecified 3.3% (2009 est.)
Religion
Orthodox 48.3%, Catholic 7.1%, other 3.5%, non-believers 41.1% (2011 est.)

as of November 2021