KUWAIT

INTRODUCTION
Kuwait acquired independence from the United Kingdom in 1961. Kuwait was attacked and overrun by Iraq in August 1990 but liberated by a US-led UN coalition in February 1991. The AL-SABAH family has ruled since 1991 and reestablished an elected legislature that has become increasingly assertive.

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
Amir NAWAF al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah
Head of Government
Prime Minister JABIR AL-MUBARAK al-Hamad al-Sabah
Government Type
constitutional monarchy
Capital
Kuwait City
Legislature
unicameral National Assembly or Majlis al-Umma (65 seats)

GEORPHY
Area
Total: 17,818 sq km
Land: 17,818 sq km
Water: 0 sq km
Climate
dry desert; intensely hot summers; short, cool winters
Natural Resources
petroleum, fish, shrimp, natural gas

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
small, high income, oil-based Middle East economy; renewable energy proponent; regional finance and investment leader; maintains oldest sovereign wealth fund; emerging space and tourism industries; mid-way through 25-year development program
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $209.7 billion (2019 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $49,850 (2019 est.)
Industries - petroleum, petrochemicals, cement, shipbuilding and repair, water desalination, food processing, construction materials
Agricultural products - eggs, dates, tomatoes, cucumbers, poultry, milk, mutton, potatoes, vegetables, eggplants
Exports $84.82 billion (2018 est.)
crude and refined petroleum, aircraft, natural gas, industrial hydrocarbon products (2019)
partners: China 20%, South Korea 16%, India 15%, Japan 10%, Taiwan 6%, Vietnam 5% (2019)
Imports $54.56 billion (2018 est.)
cars, broadcasting equipment, natural gas, packaged medicines, jewelry (2019)
partners: China 14%, UAE 12%, US 10%, Saudi Arabia 6%, Japan 6%, Germany 5%, India 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
3.0 million (July 2021 est.)
Population Growth
1.2% (2021 est.)
Ethnicity
Kuwaiti 30.4%, other Arab 27.4%, Asian 40.3%, African 1%, other 0.9% (2018 est.)
Language
Arabic (official), English widely spoken
Religion
Muslim (official) 74.6%, Christian 18.2%, other and unspecified 7.2% (2013 est.)
Urbanization
urban population: 100% of total population (2021)
rate of urbanization: 1.35% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)
as of October 2021