



TUNISIA



INTRODUCTION

Tunisia has been the nexus of many different colonizations including those of the Phoenicians (as early as the 12 century B.C.), the Carthaginians, Romans, Vandals, Byzantines, various Arab and Berber kingdoms, and the Ottomans. In 1818, France established a protectorate. The French recognized Tunisia as an independent state in 1956.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President Kais SAIED

Head of Government

Prime Minister Najla Bouden ROMDHANE

Government Type

parliamentary republic

Capital

Tunis

Legislature

unicameral Assembly of the Representatives of the People or Majlis Nuwwab ash-Sha'b (Assemblée des représentants du peuple) (217 seats)

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 163,610 sq km
Land: 155,360 sq km
Water: 8,250 sq km

Climate

temperate in north with mild, rainy winters and hot, dry summers; desert in south

Natural Resources

petroleum, phosphates, iron ore, lead, zinc, salt

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

lower middle-income North African economy; drafting reforms for foreign lenders; high unemployment, especially for youth and women; hit hard by COVID-19; high public sector wages; high public debt; protectionist austerity measures; key EU trade partner
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$115 billion (2020 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$9,700 (2020 est.)

Industries - petroleum, mining (particularly phosphate, iron ore), tourism, textiles, footwear, agribusiness, beverages

Agricultural products - wheat, milk, tomatoes, barley, olives, watermelons, green chillies/peppers, potatoes, dates, green onions/shallots

Exports \$13.82 billion (2017 est.)

insulated wiring, clothing, apparel, crude petroleum, olive oil, vehicle parts (2019)

partners: France 29%, Italy 17%, Germany 13% (2019)

Imports \$19.09 billion (2017 est.)

refined petroleum, natural gas, low-voltage protection equipment, cars, insulated wiring (2019)

partners: France 17%, Italy 16%, Germany 8%, China 8%, Algeria 7% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

11.8 million (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth

0.75% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity

Arab 98%, European 1%, Jewish and other 1%

Language

Arabic (official, one of the languages of commerce), French (commerce), Berber (Tamazight)

Religion

Muslim (official; Sunni) 99%, other (includes Christian, Jewish, Shia Muslim, and Baha'i) <1%

Urbanization

urban population: 69.9% of total population (2021)

rate of urbanization: 1.34% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

