



# PARAGUAY



## INTRODUCTION

Paraguay achieved its independence from Spain in 1811. The 35-year military dictatorship of Alfredo STROESSNER ended in 1989, and Paraguay has held relatively free and regular presidential elections since the country's return to democracy.

## GOVERNMENT

### Chief of State

President Mario Abdo BENITEZ

### Head of Government

President Mario Abdo BENITEZ

### Government Type

presidential republic

### Capital

Asuncion

### Legislature

bicameral National Congress or Congreso Nacional consists of the Chamber of Senators or Camara de Senadores (45 seats) and the Chamber of Deputies or Camara de Diputados (80 seats)

## GEOGRAPHY

### Area

Total: 406,752 sq km

Land: 397,302 sq km

Water: 9,450 sq km

### Climate

subtropical to temperate; substantial rainfall in the eastern portions, becoming semiarid in the far west

### Natural Resources

hydropower, timber, iron ore, manganese, limestone

## ECONOMY

### Economic Overview

upper middle-income South American economy; COVID-19 hit while still recovering from 2019 Argentina-driven recession; global hydroelectricity leader; major corruption and money-laundering locale; highly agrarian economy; significant income inequality

**GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$87.98 billion (2020 est.)

**GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$12,300 (2020 est.)

**Industries** - sugar processing, cement, textiles, beverages, wood products, steel, base metals, electric power

**Agricultural products** - soybeans, sugarcane, maize, cassava, wheat, rice, beef, milk, oranges, oil palm fruit

**Exports** \$11.81 billion (2020 est.)

Soybeans/soybean products, electricity, beef, corn, insulated wiring (2019)

**partners:** Brazil 32%, Argentina 22%, Chile 8%, Russia 8% (2019)

**Imports** \$10.62 billion (2020 est.)

broadcasting equipment, cars, pesticides, refined petroleum, tires (2019)

**partners:** Brazil 24%, US 22%, China 17%, Argentina 10%, Chile 5% (2019)

## PEOPLE & SOCIETY

### Population

7.3 million (July 2021 est.)

### Population Growth

1.15% (2021 est.)

### Ethnicity

Mestizo (mixed Spanish and Amerindian) 95%, other 5%

### Language

Spanish (official) and Guarani (official) 46.3%, only Guarani 34%, only Spanish 15.2%, other (includes Portuguese, German and other indigenous languages) 4.1%, no response 0.4% (2012 est.)

### Religion

Roman Catholic 89.6%, Protestant 6.2%, other Christian 1.1%, other or unspecified 1.9%, none 1.1% (2002 est.)

