



IRAN



INTRODUCTION

Known as Persia until 1935, Iran became an Islamic republic in 1979 after the ruling monarchy was overthrown. Conservative clerical forces established a theocratic system of government with ultimate political authority vested in a learned religious scholar referred to commonly as the Supreme Leader. Iran holds a strategic location on the Persian Gulf and Strait of Hormuz, which are vital maritime pathways for crude oil transport.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

Supreme Leader Ali Hoseini-KHAMENEI

Head of Government

President Ebrahim RAISI

Government Type

theocratic republic

Capital

Tehran

Legislature

unicameral Islamic Consultative Assembly or Majles-e Shura-ye Eslami or Majles (290 seats)

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 1.65 million sq km
Land: 1.53 million sq km
Water: 116,600 sq km

Climate

mostly arid or semiarid, subtropical along Caspian coast

Natural Resources

petroleum, natural gas, coal, chromium, copper, iron ore, lead, manganese, zinc, sulfur

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

traditionally state-controlled economy but reforming state-owned financial entities; strong oil/gas, agricultural, and service sectors; recent massive inflation due to exchange rate depreciation, international sanctions, and investor uncertainty; increasing poverty

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$1.044 trillion (2020 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$12,400 (2020 est.)

Industries - petroleum, petrochemicals, gas, fertilizer, caustic soda, textiles, cement and other construction materials, food processing (particularly sugar refining and vegetable oil production), ferrous and nonferrous metal fabrication, armaments

Agricultural products - wheat, sugarcane, milk, sugar beet, tomatoes, barley, potatoes, oranges, poultry, apples

Exports \$101.4 billion (2017 est.)

crude petroleum, polymers, industrial alcohols, iron, pistachios (2019)

partners: China 48%, India 12%, South Korea 8%, Turkey 6%, UAE 5% (2019)

Imports \$76.39 billion (2017 est.)

rice, corn, broadcasting equipment, soybean products, beef (2019)

partners: China 28%, UAE 20%, India 11%, Turkey 7%, Brazil 6%, Germany 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

85.9 million (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth

1.03% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity

Persian, Azeri, Kurd, Lur, Baloch, Arab, Turkmen and Turkic tribes

Language

Persian Farsi (official), Azeri and other Turkic dialects, Kurdish, Gilaki and Mazandarani, Luri, Balochi, Arabic

Religion

Muslim (official) 99.4% (Shia 90-95%, Sunni 5-10%), other (includes Zoroastrian, Jewish, and Christian) 0.3%, unspecified 0.4% (2011 est.)

