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.

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 Mazandaranian, Luri, Balochi, Arabic
Religion
Muslim (official) 99.6% (Shia 90-95%, Sunni 5-10%), other (includes Zoroastrian, Jewish, and Christian) 0.3%, unspecified 0.2% (2016 est.)

as of December 2021