



# BELARUS



## INTRODUCTION

After seven decades as a constituent republic of the USSR, Belarus attained its independence in 1991. Government restrictions on political and civil freedoms; freedom of speech and the press, peaceful assembly, and religion have remained in place.

## GOVERNMENT

### Chief of State

President Aleksandr LUKASHENKO

### Head of Government

Prime Minister Roman GOLOVCHENKO

### Government Type

presidential republic, although in fact a dictatorship

### Capital

Minsk

### Legislature

bicameral National Assembly or Natsionalnoye Sobraniye (64 seats); House of Representatives or Palata Predstaviteley (110 seats)

## GEOGRAPHY

### Area

Total: 207,600 sq km  
Land: 202,900 sq km  
Water: 4,700 sq km

### Climate

cold winters, cool and moist summers; transitional between continental and maritime

### Natural Resources

timber, peat deposits, small quantities of oil and natural gas, granite, dolomitic limestone, marl, chalk, sand, gravel, clay

## ECONOMY

### Economic Overview

declining Russian energy subsidies will end in 2024; growing public debt; strong currency pressures have led to higher inflation; recent price controls on basic food and drugs; public sector wage increases and fragile private sector threaten household income gains and economic growth

**GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$180 billion (2020 est.)

**GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$19,100 (2020 est.)

**Industries** - metal-cutting machine tools, tractors, trucks, earthmovers, motorcycles, synthetic fibers, fertilizer, textiles, refrigerators, washing machines and other household appliances

**Agricultural products** - milk, potatoes, sugar beets, wheat, triticale, barley, maize, rye, rapeseed, poultry

**Exports** \$37.04 billion (2020 est.)

refined petroleum, fertilizers, cheese, delivery trucks, crude petroleum (2019)

**partners:** Russia 42%, Ukraine 13%, UK 7% (2019)

**Imports** \$35.16 billion (2020 est.)

crude petroleum, natural gas, cars and vehicle parts, packaged medicines, broadcasting equipment (2019)

**partners:** Russia 57%, China 7%, Poland 5%, Germany 5%, Ukraine 5% (2019)

## PEOPLE & SOCIETY

### Population

9.4 million (July 2021 est.)

### Population Growth

-0.29% (2021 est.)

### Ethnicity

Belarusian 83.7%, Russian 8.3%, Polish 3.1%, Ukrainian 1.7%, other 2.4%, unspecified 0.9% (2009 est.)

### Language

Russian (official) 70.2%, Belarusian (official) 23.4%, other 3.1% (includes small Polish- and Ukrainian-speaking minorities), unspecified 3.3% (2009 est.)

### Religion

Orthodox 48.3%, Catholic 7.1%, other 3.5%, non-believers 41.1% (2011 est.)

