



# KUWAIT



## INTRODUCTION

Kuwait acquired independence from the United Kingdom in 1961. Kuwait was attacked and overrun by Iraq in August 1990 but liberated by a US-led UN coalition in February 1991. The AL-SABAH family has ruled since 1991 and reestablished an elected legislature that has become increasingly assertive.

## GOVERNMENT

### Chief of State

Amir NAWAF al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah

### Head of Government

Prime Minister JABIR AL-MUBARAK al-Hamad al-Sabah

### Government Type

constitutional monarchy

### Capital

Kuwait City

### Legislature

unicameral National Assembly or Majlis al-Umma (65 seats)

## ECONOMY

### Economic Overview

small, high income, oil-based Middle East economy; renewable energy proponent; regional finance and investment leader; maintains oldest sovereign wealth fund; emerging space and tourism industries; mid-way through 25-year development program

**GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$209.7 billion (2019 est.)

**GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$49,850 (2019 est.)

**Industries** - petroleum, petrochemicals, cement, shipbuilding and repair, water desalination, food processing, construction materials

**Agricultural products** - eggs, dates, tomatoes, cucumbers, poultry, milk, mutton, potatoes, vegetables, eggplants

**Exports** \$84.82 billion (2018 est.)

crude and refined petroleum, aircraft, natural gas, industrial hydrocarbon products (2019)

**partners:** China 20%, South Korea 16%, India 15%, Japan 10%, Taiwan 6%, Vietnam 5% (2019)

**Imports** \$54.56 billion (2018 est.)

cars, broadcasting equipment, natural gas, packaged medicines, jewelry (2019)

**partners:** China 14%, UAE 12%, US 10%, Saudi Arabia 6%, Japan 6%, Germany 5%, India 5% (2019)

## GEOGRAPHY

### Area

Total: 17,818 sq km

Land: 17,818 sq km

Water: 0 sq km

### Climate

dry desert; intensely hot summers; short, cool winters

### Natural Resources

petroleum, fish, shrimp, natural gas

## PEOPLE & SOCIETY

### Population

3.0 million (July 2021 est.)

### Population Growth

1.2% (2021 est.)

### Ethnicity

Kuwaiti 30.4%, other Arab 27.4%, Asian 40.3%, African 1%, other 0.9% (2018 est.)

### Language

Arabic (official), English widely spoken

### Religion

Muslim (official) 74.6%, Christian 18.2%, other and unspecified 7.2% (2013 est.)

### Urbanization

urban population: 100% of total population (2021)

rate of urbanization: 1.35% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

