The World Factbook

Middle East :: Syria

Location:
Middle East, bordering the Mediterranean Sea, between Lebanon and Turkey
Geographic coordinates:
35 00 N ,38 00 E
Map references:
Middle East
Area:
total: 185,180 sq km
country comparison to the world: 89
land: 183,630 sq km
water: 1,550 sq km
note: includes 1,295 sq km of Israeli-occupied territory
Area - comparative:
slightly more than 1.5 times the size of Pennsylvania
Land boundaries:
total: 2,253 km
border countries: Iraq 605 km, Israel 76 km ,Jordan 375 km, Lebanon 375 km ,Turkey 822 km
Coastline:
193 km
Maritime claims:
territorial sea: 12 nm
contiguous zone: 24 nm
Climate:
mostly desert; hot, dry, sunny summers (June to August) and mild, rainy winters (December to February) along coast; cold weather with snow or sleet periodically in Damascus
Terrain:
primarily semiarid and desert plateau; narrow coastal plain; mountains in west
Elevation extremes:
lowest point: unnamed location near Lake Tiberias -200 m
highest point: Mount Hermon 2,814 m
Natural resources:
petroleum, phosphates, chrome and manganese ores, asphalt, iron ore, rock salt, marble, gypsum, hydropower
Land use:
arable land: 24.9%
permanent crops: 5.69%
other: 69.41% (2011)
Irrigated land:

13,410 sq km (2010)
Total renewable water resources:
16.8 cu km (2011)

People and Society :: Syria

Nationality:
noun: Syrian(s)
adjective: Syrian
Ethnic groups:
Arab 90.3%, Kurds, Armenians, and other 9.7%
Languages:
Arabic (official), Kurdish, Armenian, Aramaic, Circassian (widely understood); French, English (somewhat understood)
Religions:
Muslim 87% (official; includes Sunni 74% and Alawi, Ismaili, and Shia 13%), Christian (includes Orthodox, Uniate, and Nestorian) 10% (includes Orthodox, Uniate, and Nestorian), Druze 3%, Jewish (few remaining in Damascus and Aleppo)
Population:
17,951,639 (July 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 61
note: approximately 18,900 Israeli settlers live in the Golan Heights (2012)
Urbanization:
urban population: 56.1% of total population (2011)
rate of urbanization: 2.36% annual rate of change (2010-15 est.)
Major urban areas - population:
Aleppo 2.985 million; DAMASCUS (capital) 2.527 million; Hims 1.276 million; Hamah 854,000 (2009)

Government :: Syria

Country name:
conventional long form: Syrian Arab Republic
conventional short form: Syria
local long form: Al Jumhuriyah al Arabiyah as Suriyah
local short form: Suriyah
former: United Arab Republic (with Egypt)
Government type:
republic under an authoritarian regime
Capital:
name: Damascus
geographic coordinates: 33 30 N, 36 18 E
Administrative divisions:
14 provinces (muhafazat, singular - muhafazah); Al Hasakah, Al Ladhiqiyah (Latakia), Al Qunaytirah, Ar Raqqah, As Suwayda', Dar'a, Dayr az Zawr, Dimashq (Damascus), Halab, Hamah, Hims (Homs), Idlib, Rif Dimashq (Damascus Countryside), Tartus
Independence:
17 April 1946 (from League of Nations mandate under French administration)
National holiday:
Independence Day, 17 April (1946)
Executive branch:
chief of state: President Bashar al-ASAD (since 17 July 2000); Vice President Farouk al-SHARA (since 21 February 2006); Vice President Najah al-ATTAR (since 23 March 2006)
head of government: Prime Minister Wael al-HALQI (since 9 August 2012); Deputy Prime Ministers Fahd Jasim al-FURAYJ, Lt. Gen., Walid al-MUALEM
International organization participation:
ABEDA, AFESD, AMF, CAEU, FAO, G-24, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC (national committees), ICRM,

IDA, IDB, IFAD, IFC, IFRCS, IHO, ILO, IMF, IMO, Interpol, IOC, IPU, ISO, ITSO, ITU, MIGA, NAM,
OAPEC, OIC, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNRWA, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WFTU (NGOs), WHO,
WIPO, WMO, WTO (observer)

Economy :: Syria

GDP (purchasing power parity):
$107.6 billion (2011 est.)
country comparison to the world: 73
$110.1 billion (2010 est.)
$106.5 billion (2009 est.)
note: data are in 2011 US dollars
the war driven deterioration of the economy resulted in a disappearance of quality national level statistics in 2012-13
GDP (official exchange rate):
$64.7 billion (2011 est.)
GDP - real growth rate:
NA% (2012 est.)
-2.3% (2011 est.)
3.4% (2010 est.)
GDP - per capita (PPP):
$5,100 (2011 est.)
country comparison to the world: 159
$5,100 (2010 est.)
$5,200 (2010 est.)
note: data are in 2011 US dollars
Gross national saving:
5.4% of GDP (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 147
12.8% of GDP (2012 est.)
15% of GDP (2011 est.)
GDP - composition, by end use:
household consumption: 68.3%
government consumption: 19.7%
investment in fixed capital: 20.1%
investment in inventories: 9.3%
exports of goods and services: 11.3%
imports of goods and services: -28.6%
(2013 est.)
GDP - composition, by sector of origin:
agriculture: 17.6%
industry: 22.2%
services: 60.2% (2013 est.)
Agriculture - products:
wheat, barley, cotton, lentils, chickpeas, olives, sugar beets; beef, mutton, eggs, poultry, milk
Industries:
petroleum, textiles, food processing, beverages, tobacco, phosphate rock mining, cement, oil seeds crushing, car assembly
Industrial production growth rate:
-20.6% (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 193
Labor force:
5.014 million (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 75
Labor force - by occupation:

agriculture: 17%
industry: 16%
services: 67% (2008 est.)
Fiscal year:
calendar year
Exports:
$2.675 billion (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 134
$3.876 billion (2012 est.)
Exports - commodities:
crude oil, minerals, petroleum products, fruits and vegetables, cotton fiber, textiles, clothing, meat and live animals, wheat
Exports - partners:
Iraq 58.4%, Saudi Arabia 9.7%, Kuwait 6.4%, UAE 5.5%, Libya 4.1% (2012)
Imports:
$8.917 billion (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 105
$10.78 billion (2012 est.)
Imports - commodities:
machinery and transport equipment, electric power machinery, food and livestock, metal and metal products, chemicals and chemical products, plastics, yarn, paper
Imports - partners:
Saudi Arabia 22.8%, UAE 11.2%, Iran 8.3%, China 7.3%, Iraq 6.8% (2012)
Exchange rates:
Syrian pounds (SYP) per US dollar -
105.3 (2013 est.)
64.392 (2012 est.)
11.225 (2010 est.)
46.708 (2009)
46.5281 (2008)

Energy :: Syria

Electricity - production:
43.76 billion kWh (2010 est.)
country comparison to the world: 55
Electricity - consumption:
35.61 billion kWh (2010 est.)
country comparison to the world: 56
Electricity - exports:
1.043 billion kWh (2010 est.)
country comparison to the world: 55
Electricity - imports:
0 kWh (2012 est.)
country comparison to the world: 202
Electricity - installed generating capacity:
8.323 million kW (2010 est.)
country comparison to the world: 62
Electricity - from fossil fuels:
89.2% of total installed capacity (2010 est.)
country comparison to the world: 78
Electricity - from nuclear fuels:
0% of total installed capacity (2010 est.)
country comparison to the world: 182
Electricity - from hydroelectric plants:
10.8% of total installed capacity (2010 est.)

country comparison to the world: 112
Electricity - from other renewable sources:
0% of total installed capacity (2010 est.)
country comparison to the world: 125
Crude oil - production:
182,500 bbl/day (2012 est.)
country comparison to the world: 39
Crude oil - exports:
152,900 bbl/day (2010 est.)
country comparison to the world: 34
Crude oil - imports:
0 bbl/day (2010 est.)
country comparison to the world: 124
Crude oil - proved reserves:
2.5 billion bbl (1 January 2013 es.)
country comparison to the world: 33
Refined petroleum products - production:
253,600 bbl/day (2010 est.)
country comparison to the world: 49
Refined petroleum products - consumption:
258,800 bbl/day (2011 est.)
country comparison to the world: 49
Refined petroleum products - exports:
36,210 bbl/day (2010 est.)
country comparison to the world: 66
Refined petroleum products - imports:
104,800 bbl/day (2010 est.)
country comparison to the world: 50
Natural gas - production:
7.87 billion cu m (2011 est.)
country comparison to the world: 45
Natural gas - consumption:
9.63 billion cu m (2010 est.)
country comparison to the world: 48
Natural gas - exports:
0 cu m (2011 est.)
country comparison to the world: 187
Natural gas - imports:
250 million cu m (2011 est.)
country comparison to the world: 69
Natural gas - proved reserves:
240.7 billion cu m (1 January 2013 es.)
country comparison to the world: 45
Carbon dioxide emissions from consumption of energy:
63.14 million Mt (2011 est.)
country comparison to the world: 54
Communications :: Syria
Telephones - main lines in use:
4.425 million (2012)
country comparison to the world: 3 6
Telephones - mobile cellular:

12.928 million (2012)
country comparison to the world: 66

Transportation :: Syria

Airports:
90 (2013)
country comparison to the world: 62
Airports - with paved runways:
total: 29
over 3,047 m: 5
2,438 to 3,047 m: 16
914 to 1,523 m: 3
under 914 m: 5 (2013)
Airports - with unpaved runways:
total: 61
1,524 to 2,437 m: 1
914 to 1,523 m: 12
under 914 m:
48 (2013)
Heliports:
6 (2013)
Pipelines:
gas 3,170 km; oil 2,029 km (2013)
Railways:
total: 2,052 km
country comparison to the world: 72
standard gauge: 1,801 km 1.435-m gauge
narrow gauge: 251 km 1.050-m gauge (2008)
Roadways:
total: 69,873 km
country comparison to the world: 67
paved: 63,060 km
unpaved: 6,813 km (2010)
Waterways:
900 km (navigable but not economically significant) (2011)
country comparison to the world: 69
Merchant marine:
total: 19
country comparison to the world: 95
by type: bulk carrier 4, cargo 14, carrier 1
registered in other countries: 166 (Barbados 1, Belize 4, Bolivia 4, Cambodia 22, Comoros 5, Dominica 4, Georgia 24, Lebanon 2, Liberia 1, Malta 4, Moldova 5, North Korea 4, Panama 34, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 9, Sierra Leone 13, Tanzania 23, Togo 6, unknown 1) (2010)
Ports and terminals:
major seaport(s): Baniyas, Latakia, Tartus