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WRITTEN BY		August 10, 2024	

REVISION HISTORY

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

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Chapter 1

114

1.1 114.guide

Texified version of data for Iran.

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Iran

1.2 114.guide/Iran

Iran

Geography (Iran)
 Geography (Iran 2. usage)
 People (Iran)
 Government (Iran)
 Government (Iran 2. usage)
 Economy (Iran)
 Economy (Iran 2. usage)
 Communications (Iran)
 Defense Forces (Iran)

1.3 114.guide/Geography (Iran)

Geography (Iran)

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Location:

Middle East, between the Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea

Map references:

Asia, Middle East, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

1.648 million km²

land area:

1.636 million km²

comparative area:

slightly larger than Alaska

Land boundaries:

total 5,440 km, Afghanistan 936 km, Armenia 35 km, Azerbaijan (north) 432 km, Azerbaijan (northwest) 179 km, Iraq 1,458 km, Pakistan 909 km, Turkey 499 km, Turkmenistan 992 km

Coastline:

2,440 km

note:

Iran also borders the Caspian Sea (740 km)

Maritime claims:

continental shelf:

not specified

exclusive fishing zone:

50 nm in the Sea of Oman; continental shelf limit, continental shelf boundaries, or median lines in the Persian Gulf

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

Iran and Iraq restored diplomatic relations in 1990 but are still trying to work out written agreements settling outstanding disputes from their eight-year war concerning border demarcation, prisoners-of-war, and freedom of navigation and sovereignty over the Shatt al Arab waterway; Iran ↔ occupies

two islands in the Persian Gulf claimed by the UAE: Tunb as Sughra (Arabic) ↔ Jazireh-ye Tonb-e Kuchek (Persian) or Lesser Tunb, and Tunb al Kubra

(Arabic), Jazireh-ye Tonb-e Bozorg (Persian) or Greater Tunb; it jointly administers with the UAE an island in the Persian Gulf claimed by the UAE, Abu Musa (Arabic) or Jazireh-ye Abu Musa (Persian); in 1992 the dispute over Abu Musa and the Tunb Islands became more acute when Iran unilaterally tried to control the entry of third country nationals into the UAE portion of Abu Musa island, Tehran subsequently backed off in the face of significant diplomatic support for the UAE in the region; periodic disputes with Afghanistan over Helmand water rights,

Climate:
 mostly arid or semiarid, subtropical along Caspian coast

Terrain: rugged, mountainous rim; high, central basin with deserts, mountains; small, discontinuous plains along both coasts

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

Land use:
 arable land:
 8%
 permanent crops:
 0%
 meadows and pastures:
 27%
 forest and woodland:
 11%

1.4 114.guide/Geography (Iran 2. usage)

Geography (Iran 2. usage)

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other:
 54%
 Irrigated land:
 57,500 km2 (1989 est.)
 Environment:
 deforestation; overgrazing; desertification

1.5 114.guide/People (Iran)

People (Iran)

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Population:
 63,369,809 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:

3.49% (1993 est.)

Birth rate:
43 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Death rate:
8.06 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Net migration rate:
0 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Infant mortality rate:
62.1 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:
total population:
65.26 years
male:
64.37 years
female:
66.19 years (1993 est.)

Total fertility rate:
6.4 children born/woman (1993 est.)

Nationality:
noun:
Iranian(s)
adjective:
Iranian

Ethnic divisions:
Persian 51%, Azerbaijani 24%, Gilaki and Mazandarani 8%, Kurd 7%, Arab 3%,
Lur 2%, Baloch 2%, Turkmen 2%, other 1%

Religions:
Shi'a Muslim 95%, Sunni Muslim 4%, Zoroastrian, Jewish, Christian, and
Baha'i 1%

Languages:
Persian and Persian dialects 58%, Turkic and Turkic dialects 26%, Kurdish
9%, Luri 2%, Baloch 1%, Arabic 1%, Turkish 1%, other 2%

Literacy:
age 15 and over can read and write (1990)
total population:
54%
male:
64%
female:
43%

Labor force:
15.4 million
by occupation:
agriculture 33%, manufacturing 21%

note:
shortage of skilled labor (1988 est.)

1.6 114.guide/Government (Iran)

Government (Iran)

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Names:

conventional long form:
 Islamic Republic of Iran
 conventional short form:
 Iran
 local long form:
 Jomhuri-ye Eslami-ye Iran
 local short form:
 Iran
 Digraph:
 IR
 Type:
 theocratic republic
 Capital:
 Tehran
 Administrative divisions:
 24 provinces (ostanha, singular - ostan); Azarbayjan-e Bakhtari,
 Azarbayjan-e Khavari, Bakhtaran, Bushehr, Chahar Mahall va Bakhtiari,
 Esfahan, Fars, Gilan, Hamadan, Hormozgan, Ilam, Kerman, Khorasan, Khuzestan ↔
 Kohkiluyeh va Buyer Ahmadi, Kordestan, Lorestan, Markazi, Mazandaran,
 Semnan, Sistan va Baluchestan, Tehran, Yazd, Zanzan
 Independence:
 1 April 1979 (Islamic Republic of Iran proclaimed)
 Constitution:
 2-3 December 1979; revised 1989 to expand powers of the presidency and
 eliminate the prime ministership
 Legal system:
 the Constitution codifies Islamic principles of government
 National holiday:
 Islamic Republic Day, 1 April (1979)
 Political parties and leaders:
 there are at least 18 licensed parties; the three most important are -
 Tehran Militant Clergy Association, Mohammad Reza MAHDAVI-KANI; Militant
 Clerics Association, Mehdi MAHDAVI-KARUBI and Mohammad Asqar
 MUSAVI-KHOINIHA; Fedaiyin Islam Organization, Sadeq KHALKHALI
 Other political or pressure groups:
 groups that generally support the Islamic Republic include Hizballah,
 Hojjatiyeh Society, Mojahedin of the Islamic Revolution, Muslim Students
 Following the Line of the Imam; armed political groups that have been ↔
 almost
 completely repressed by the government include Mojahedin-e Khalq
 Organization (MEK), People's Fedayeen, Kurdish Democratic Party; the ↔
 Society
 for the Defense of Freedom
 Suffrage:
 15 years of age; universal
 Elections:
 President:
 last held July 1989 (next to be held 11 June 1993); results - Ali Akbar
 HASHEMI-RAFSANJANI was elected with only token opposition
 Islamic Consultative Assembly:
 last held 8 April 1992 (next to be held April 1996); results - percent of
 vote by party NA; seats - (270 seats total) number of seats by party NA
 Executive branch:
 supreme leader (velay-t-e faqih), president, Council of Ministers
 Legislative branch:
 unicameral Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majles-e-Shura-ye-Eslami)

Judicial branch:
Supreme Court

1.7 114.guide/Government (Iran 2. usage)

Government (Iran 2. usage)
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Leaders:

Supreme Leader and functional Chief of State:

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali HOSEINI-KHAMENEI (since 4 June 1989)

Head of Government:

President Ali Akbar HASHEMI-RAFSANJANI (since 3 August 1989)

Member of:

CCC, CP, ESCAP, ECO, FAO, G-19, G-24, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC, IDA, IDB ↔

IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO, INMARSAT, INTELSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, ISO, ITU, LORCS, NAM, OIC, OPEC, PCA, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO, UPU, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

Diplomatic representation in US:

chief of mission:

Iran has an Interests Section in the Pakistani Embassy in Washington, DC chancery:

Iranian Interests Section, 2209 Wisconsin Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20007

telephone:

(202) 965-4990

US diplomatic representation:

protecting power in Iran is Switzerland

Flag:

three equal horizontal bands of green (top), white, and red; the national emblem (a stylized representation of the word Allah) in red is centered in the white band; Allah Alkbar (God is Great) in white Arabic script is repeated 11 times along the bottom edge of the green band and 11 times ↔ along the top edge of the red band

1.8 114.guide/Economy (Iran)

Economy (Iran)
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Overview:

Iran's economy is a mixture of central planning, state ownership of oil and other large enterprises, village agriculture, and small-scale private trading and service ventures. After a decade of economic decline, Iran's real GDP grew by 10% in FY90 and 6% in FY91, according to Iranian ↔ Government

statistics. An oil windfall in 1990 combined with a substantial increase in imports contributed to Iran's recent economic growth. Iran has also begun implementing a number of economic reforms to reduce government intervention (including subsidies) and has allocated substantial resources to ←

development

projects in the hope of stimulating the economy. Lower oil revenues in 1991 – oil accounts for more than 90% of export revenues – together with a surge in imports greatly weakened Iran's international financial position. By mid-1992 Iran was unable to meet its obligations to foreign creditors. Subsequently the government has tried to boost oil exports, curb imports (especially of consumer goods), and renegotiate terms of its foreign debts.

National product:

GNP – exchange rate conversion – \$90 billion (FY92)

National product real growth rate:

6% (FY91)

National product per capita:

\$1,500 (FY91)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

23.7% (September 1991–September 1992)

Unemployment rate:

30% (1991 est.)

Budget:

revenues \$63 billion; expenditures \$80 billion, including capital expenditures of \$23 billion (FY90 est.)

Exports:

\$17.2 billion (f.o.b., FY91 est.)

commodities:

petroleum 90%, carpets, fruits, nuts, hides

partners:

Japan, Italy, France, Netherlands, Belgium/Luxembourg, Spain, and Germany

Imports:

\$21.0 billion (c.i.f., FY91 est.)

commodities:

machinery, military supplies, metal works, foodstuffs, pharmaceuticals, technical services, refined oil products

partners:

Germany, Japan, Italy, UK, France

External debt:

\$17 billion (FY91 est.)

Industrial production:

growth rate 12% (1990 est.); accounts for almost 30% of GDP, including petroleum

Electricity: 15,649,000 kW capacity; 43,600 million kWh produced, 710 kWh ←
per capita
(1992)

Industries:

petroleum, petrochemicals, textiles, cement and other building materials, food processing (particularly sugar refining and vegetable oil production), metal fabricating

Agriculture:

accounts for about 20% of GDP; principal products – wheat, rice, other grains, sugar beets, fruits, nuts, cotton, dairy products, wool, caviar; ←
not
self-sufficient in food

1.9 114.guide/Economy (Iran 2. usage)

Economy (Iran 2. usage)

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Illicit drugs:

illicit producer of opium poppy for the domestic and international drug trade; transshipment point for Southwest Asian heroin to Europe

Economic aid:

US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-80), \$1.0 billion; Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$1.675 billion; Communist countries (1970-89), \$976 million; note - aid fell sharply following the 1979 revolution

Currency:

1 Iranian rial (IR) = 10 tomans

Exchange rates:

Iranian rials (IR) per US\$1 - 67.095 (January 1993), 65.552 (1992), 67.505 (1991), 68.096 (1990), 72.015 (1989), 68.683 (1988); black-market rate ↔ 1,400

(January 1991); note - in March 1993 the Iranian government announced a new single-parity exchange rate system with a new official rate of 1,538 rials per dollar

Fiscal year:

21 March - 20 March

1.10 114.guide/Communications (Iran)

Communications (Iran)

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Railroads:

4,852 km total; 4,760 km 1.432-meter gauge, 92 km 1.676-meter gauge; 480 km under construction from Bafq to Bandar-e Abbas, rail construction from Bafq to Sirjan has been completed and is operational; section from Sirjan to Bandar-e Abbas still under construction

Highways:

140,200 km total; 42,694 km paved surfaces; 46,866 km gravel and crushed stone; 49,440 km improved earth; 1,200 km (est.) rural road network

Inland waterways:

904 km; the Shatt al Arab is usually navigable by maritime traffic for ↔ about

130 km; channel has been dredged to 3 meters and is in use

Pipelines:

crude oil 5,900 km; petroleum products 3,900 km; natural gas 4,550 km

Ports:

Abadan (largely destroyed in fighting during 1980-88 war), Bandar Beheshti, Bandar-e Abbas, Bandar-e Bushehr, Bandar-e Khomeyni, Bandar-e Torkeman (Caspian Sea port), Khorramshahr (repaired after being largely destroyed in fighting during 1980-88 war) has been in limited operation since November 1992

Merchant marine:

135 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 4,480,726 GRT/8,332,593 DWT; ↵
 includes
 39 cargo, 6 roll-on/roll-off cargo, 32 oil tanker, 4 chemical tanker, 3
 refrigerated cargo, 48 bulk, 2 combination bulk, 1 liquefied gas

Airports:
 total:
 219
 usable:
 194
 with permanent-surface runways:
 83
 with runways over 3,659 m:
 16
 with runways 2,440-3,659 m:
 20
 with runways 1,220-2,439 m:
 70

Telecommunications:
 microwave radio relay extends throughout country; system centered in Tehran ↵
 ;
 2,143,000 telephones (35 telephones per 1,000 persons); broadcast stations ↵
 -
 77 AM, 3 FM, 28 TV; satellite earth stations - 2 Atlantic Ocean INTELSAT ↵
 and
 1 Indian Ocean INTELSAT; HF radio and microwave radio relay to Turkey,
 Pakistan, Syria, Kuwait, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan; submarine fiber optic
 cable to UAE

1.11 114.guide/Defense Forces (Iran)

Defense Forces (Iran)

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Branches:
 Islamic Republic of Iran Ground Forces, Navy, Air and Air Defense Force,
 Revolutionary Guards (including Basij militia and own ground, air, and ↵
 naval
 forces), Law Enforcement Forces

Manpower availability:
 males age 15-49 13,812,367; fit for military service 8,218,286; reach
 military age (21) annually 575,392 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:
 hard currency expenditures on defense are 7-10% of total hard currency
 expenditures; rial expenditures on defense are 8-13% of total rial
 expenditures (1992 est.)

note:
 conversion of rial expenditures into US dollars using the prevailing
 exchange rate could produce misleading results