

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

الجمهورية العربية السورية

Formal Name: Syrian Arab Republic

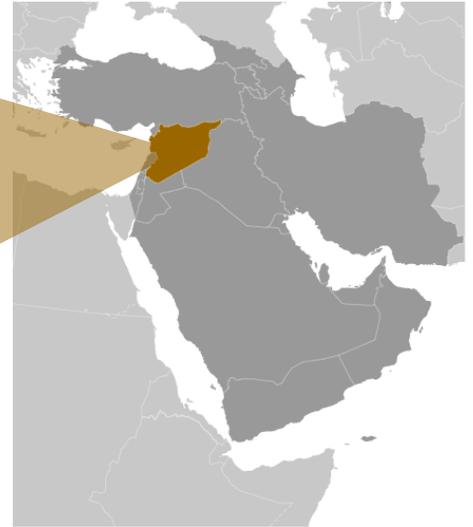
Short Name: Syria

Adjective: Syrian

Capital: Damascus

Government: Republic

LAS Member since: March 22nd, 1945



DEMOGRAPHICS

Ethnicity Groups: Arab 90.3%, Kurds, Armenians and other 9.7%

Religions: Sunni Muslim 74%, other Muslim 16%, Christian 10%, Druze 3%, other 7%

Languages: Arabic (official), Kurdish, Armenian, Aramaic, Circassian, French, English

Life Expectancy: 68.41 years

Median Age: 23.3 years

Sex Ratio: 1.06 male/female

Literacy Rate: 84.1%

ECONOMY

Labor Force: 5.014 million

Unemployment Rate: 17.8%

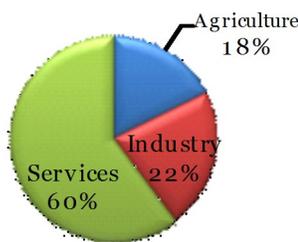
Poverty Rate: 11.9%

Inflation: 59.1%

Exports: \$2.6 billion (crude oil, minerals, petroleum products, fruits and vegetables)

Imports: \$8.9 billion (machinery and transport equipment, electric power machinery, food and livestock)

GDP



Independence Day:	April 17, 1946
Total Area:	185,180 km ²
Population:	17.1 million
Gross Domestic Product:	\$107.4 billion
Military Spending:	5.9% of GDP

Trade Balance



1500s	Damascus absorbed into Ottoman rule
1918	Arab troops led by Emir Feisal captured Damascus
1919	Election for a Syrian National Congress are held
1920	San Remo conference places Syria-Lebanon under a French mandate France proclaims a new state of Greater Lebanon
1936	France agrees to Syrian independence but maintains military and economic dominance
1946	Last French troops leave Syria
1954	Army officers lead a coup against al-Shishakli and return a civilian government to power
1963	Army officers seize power; Baathist Cabinet is appointed and al-Hafez becomes president
1966	Jadid leads an internal coup against the civilian Baath leadership
1967	Six Day War
1973	Syria and Egypt go to war with Israel
1974	Syria and Israel sign a disengagement agreement
1976	Syria army intervenes the Lebanese Civil War
1980	Muslim Brotherhood member tries to assassinate Assad
1987	Syria sends troops into Lebanon to enforce a ceasefire in Beirut
2000	Assad dies and is succeeded by his son, Bashar
2004	US imposes economic sanction on Syria over what it calls its support for terrorism
2005	Syria claims it has withdrawn all of its military forces from Lebanon, following alleged involvement in the February killing of former Lebanese PM Rafik Hariri.
2006	Thousands of people flee into Syria to escape the Israeli-Lebanese War Syria and Iraq restore diplomatic relations
2007	Syria imposes tough visa restrictions on Iraqis Israel carries out aerial strike on a nuclear facility in northern Syria
2008	Syria establishes diplomatic relations with Lebanon
2011	“Day of Dignity” protest held in Damascus; “Day of Rage” protest held in Deraa President Assad dismisses government and accuses protesters of being Israeli agents (March) State of Emergency is lifted (April) Army tanks enter cities in an effort to crush anti-regime protests (May) US and EU tighten sanctions on Syria (May) President Assad pledges to start a “national dialogue” on reform (June) Syria suspended from the Arab League (November)
2012	Russia and China block a UNSC resolution on Syria (February) UNSC endorses evnoy Kofi Annan’s peace plan (March) More than 100 are killed in Houla, an event that became known as the “Houla massacre” (May) A Turkish Air Force plane was shot down over Syrian territory, causing Turkey to change rules of engagement (June) A Free Syrian Army bombing kills three high level defense officials in Damascus (July) Many Syrian opposition forces unite to form National Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces (November)