



# Iraq

# The Republic of

MAL FACT SHEET

## SUMMARY

The Republic of Iraq is located in the Middle East, bordering the Persian Gulf, between Iran and Kuwait. It was formerly part of the Ottoman Empire, occupied by the United Kingdom during World War I, and was declared a League of Nations mandate under UK administration in 1920. Iraq attained its independence as a kingdom in 1932.

Chief of State: Abdul Latif Rashid (since 13 October 2022)

Capital: Baghdad

Other notable cities: Mosul, Basrah

Gov Type: Federal parliamentary republic

Population: 42,083,436 million

Colonial History: Iraq was part of the Ottoman Empire, occupied by the United Kingdom during World War I, and was declared a League of Nations mandate under UK administration in 1920. Iraq attained its independence as a kingdom in 1932. It was proclaimed a republic in 1958 after a coup overthrew the monarchy.

## GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Iraq is about 438,317 square kilometers in total area and has 950 square kilometers of water.

The climate is mostly desert; mild to cool winters with dry, hot, cloudless summers. Natural resources include petroleum, natural gas, phosphates, sulfur.

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# Economy and Politics

## DEMOGRAPHICS

Noun: Iraq(s)

Adjective: Iraqi

Ethnic Groups: Arab 75-80%, Kurdish 15-20%, other 5% (includes Turkmen, Yezidi, Shabak, Kaka'i, Bedouin, Romani, Assyrian, Circassian, Sabaeon-Mandaean, Persian)

Languages: Arabic (Official), Kurdish (official); Turkmen (a Turkish dialect) and Syriac (Neo-Aramaic) are recognized as official languages where native speakers of these languages are present

Religion: Muslim (official) 95-98% (Shia 61-64%, Sunni 29-34%), Christian 1% (includes Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant, Assyrian Church of the East), other 1-4%

Literacy: 85.6% (Male 91.2%, 79.9 Female %)

Population growth is at 1.99%

## ECONOMY AND GDP

Iraq's economy is described as an oil-dependent Middle Eastern economy. The country has faced several challenges including the COVID-19 disruption, domestic economy fragility post-US presence, poverty increases, currency devaluation leading to inflation, and import-dependency for most sectors.

Real GDP (Purchasing Power Parity): \$409.321 billion (2022 est.)

Real GDP Growth Rate: 7.01% (2022 est.)

Real GDP Per Capita: \$9,200 (2022 est.)

GDP (Official Exchange Rate): \$264.182 billion (2022 est.)

Inflation Rate (Consumer Prices): 4.99% (2022 est.)

GDP - composition, by sector of origin: agriculture: 3.3% (2017 est.), industry: 51% (2017 est.), services: 45.8% (2017 est.)

Unemployment Rate: 15.32% (2022 est.)

Youth Unemployment: 27.2% (2021 est.)

Population below poverty line: 22.5% (2019 est.)

## MAIN POLITICAL CONTENTIONS

Iraq's political landscape has been shaped by its strategic location in the Middle East, its shared borders with Iran, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria, and Turkey, and its own internal dynamics. The Republic of Iraq has had a series of strongmen ruling the country until 2003, the last being SADDAM Hussein, from 1979 to 2003.

Territorial disputes with Iran led to an inconclusive and costly war from 1980 to 1988. In 1990, Iraq seized Kuwait but was expelled by US-led UN coalition forces during the two-month-long Gulf War of 1991.

After Iraq's expulsion, the UN Security Council (UNSC) required Iraq to scrap all weapons of mass destruction and long-range missiles and to allow UN verification inspections. Continued Iraqi noncompliance with UNSC resolutions led to the Second Gulf War in 2003, when US-led forces ousted the SADDAM regime.

In 2005, Iraqis approved a constitution in a national referendum and elected a 275-member Council of Representatives (COR). The COR approved most of the cabinet ministers, marking the transition to Iraq's first constitutional government in nearly a half-century. Iraq's constitution also established the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), a semi-autonomous region that administers the governorates of Erbil, Dahuk, and As Sulaymaniyah. Between 2014 and 2017, Iraq fought a military campaign against the Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS) to recapture territory the group seized in 2014. In 2017, then-Prime Minister Haydar al-ABADI publicly declared victory against ISIS, although military operations against the group continue in rural areas.

Iraq has held four national legislative elections since 2006, most recently in 2021. The COR approved Mohammad Shia' al-SUDANI as prime minister in 2022.

# Iraq: A Timeline

22 March 1945: Iraq joined the Arab League

1958: The monarchy is overthrown in a left-wing military coup led by Abd-al-Karim Qasim. Iraq leaves the pro-British Baghdad Pact

1963: Prime Minister Qasim is ousted in a coup led by the pan-Arab Baath Party

1968: A Baathist led-coup puts Ahmad Hasan Al-Bakr in power

1979: Saddam Hussein takes over from President Al-Bakr

1990: Iraq invades and annexes Kuwait, prompting what becomes known as the first Gulf War.

1980-1988: Iran-Iraq war results in stalemate.

2005: Iraqis approve a constitution in a national referendum and elect a 275-member Council of Representatives (COR). This marks the transition to Iraq's first constitutional government in nearly a half-century. Iraq holds its first national legislative elections the year after

2003: US-led invasion topples Saddam Hussein's government, marks start of years of violent conflict with different groups competing for power

2017: Then-Prime Minister Haydar Al-Abadi publicly declares victory against ISIS, although military operations against the group continue in rural areas. Also in this year, Baghdad forcefully seizes disputed territories across central and northern Iraq from the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), after a non-binding Kurdish independence referendum.

2014 - 2017: Iraq fights a military campaign against the Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS) to recapture territory the group seized in 2014.

2021: Iraq holds its fourth national legislative elections.