



State of Libya

MAL FACT SHEET



SUMMARY

The State of Libya is located in Northern Africa, bordering the Mediterranean Sea, between Egypt, Tunisia, and Algeria. It is rich in cultural and religious diversity due to its location at the crossroads of three continents.

The country's 2011 civil war, which resulted in the toppling of the QADHAFI regime, was followed by years of social and political instability. The unrest that began in several Middle Eastern and North African countries in 2010 erupted in Libyan cities in 2011.

Libya's prosperity has significantly diminished since the beginning of the country's economic crisis in 2019, which has crippled its economy, shut down its previously lucrative banking sector, reduced the value of its currency, and caused many Libyans to emigrate in search of better prospects.

Chief of State: The position of the president is currently vacant. The head of government is Chairman, Presidential Council, Mohammed Al MENFI.

Capital: Tripoli

Other notable cities: Benghazi

Gov Type: In transition

Population: 7,361,263 (2024 est.)

Colonial History: Following World War I, Italy supplanted the Ottoman Turks in the area around Tripoli in 1911 and held it until 1943, when they were defeated in World War II. Libya then came under UN administration and achieved independence in 1951.

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Libya is about 1,759,540 square kilometers in total area and has 0 square kilometers of water but has 1,770 kilometers of coastline.

The climate is Mediterranean along the coast; dry, extreme desert interior.

The terrain is mostly barren, flat to undulating plains, plateaus, depressions.

Natural resources include petroleum, natural gas, gypsum.



DEMOGRAPHICS

Noun: Libyan(s)

Adjective: Libyan

Ethnic Groups: Berber and Arab 97%, other 3% (includes Egyptian, Greek, Indian, Italian, Maltese, Pakistani, Tunisian, and Turkish)

Languages: Arabic (Official), Italian, English (all widely understood in the major cities); Berber (Nafusi, Ghadamis, Suknah, Awjilah, Tamasheq)

Religion: Muslim (official; virtually all Sunni) 96.6%, Christian 2.7%, Buddhist <1%, Hindu <1%, Jewish <1%, folk religion <1%, other <1%, unaffiliated <1% (2020 est.)

Literacy: 91% (Male 96.7%, 85.6% Female)

Population growth is at 1.44%% (2024 est.)

ECONOMY AND GDP

Libya's economy is described as an upper middle-income, fossil fuel-based North African economy. The economy experienced a 31% contraction due to COVID-19 and the 2020 oil blockade. The central bank had to devalue the currency and public wages are over 60% of expenditures.

Real GDP (Purchasing Power Parity): \$134.861 billion (2022 est.)

Real GDP Growth Rate: -1.24% (2022 est.)

Real GDP Per Capita: \$19,800 (2022 est.)

GDP (Official Exchange Rate): \$45.752 billion (2022 est.)

Inflation Rate (Consumer Prices): 4.51% (2022 est.)

GDP - composition, by sector of origin: agriculture: 1.3% (2017 est.), industry: 52.3% (2017 est.), services: 46.4% (2017 est.)

Unemployment Rate: 19.3% (2022 est.)

Youth Unemployment: 50.5% (2021 est.)

Population below poverty line: around 40% (2024 est.)

MAIN POLITICAL CONTENTIONS

Libya has been through a series of political transitions since the fall of Colonel Muammar Al-QADHAFI in 2011. The country has seen the emergence of a National Transitional Council (NTC), UN authorization of air and naval intervention by the international community, and the toppling of the QADHAFI regime.

In 2012, the NTC handed power to an elected parliament, the General National Congress (GNC), which was replaced two years later with the House of Representatives (HoR).

In 2015, the UN brokered the Libyan Political Agreement (LPA) among a broad array of political parties and social groups, establishing an interim executive body.

However, hardliners continued to oppose and hamper the LPA implementation, leaving Libya with eastern and western-based rival governments. In 2021, the UN-facilitated Libyan Political Dialogue Forum selected a new prime minister for an interim government – the Government of National Unity (GNU) – and a new presidential council charged with preparing for elections and uniting the country's state institutions.

Libya: A Timeline

1953: Libya joins the Arab League two years after independence.

1969: Col. Muammar al-QADHAFI assumes leadership with a military coup.

1977: Col Gaddafi declares a "people's revolution", changing the country's official name from the Libyan Arab Republic to the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and setting up "revolutionary committees".

2011: The unrest that began in several Middle Eastern and North African countries in late 2010 erupted in Libyan cities in early 2011. This led to a civil war, international intervention, and the toppling of the QADHAFI regime. Libya was suspended from the Arab League on 22 February 2011 and was readmitted on 25 August 2011.

2012: The National Transitional Council (NTC) handed power to an elected parliament, the General National Congress (GNC).

2014: Libya Dawn, a coalition of Islamist and Misratan militias, seized control of Tripoli, forcing the internationally recognized government to relocate to Tobruk.

2015: The UN brokered the Libyan Political Agreement (LPA), establishing an interim Government of National Accord (GNA).

2016: The GNA arrived in Tripoli, but the Tobruk-based House of Representatives (HoR) refused to recognize its authority.

2019: The Libyan National Army (LNA), led by Khalifa Haftar and aligned with the HoR, launched an offensive to capture Tripoli, leading to a protracted conflict.

2020: A ceasefire was signed, and the UN initiated the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum.

2021: The UN-facilitated Libyan Political Dialogue Forum selected a new prime minister for an interim government - the Government of National Unity (GNU) - and a new presidential council charged with preparing for elections and uniting the country's state institutions.