

Republic of Yemen

MAL FACT SHEET



SUMMARY

The Republic of Yemen is located on the Arabian Peninsula bordering Saudi Arabia to the north and Oman to the east with the Red Sea on the west coast and the Gulf of Aden on the southern coast.

Chief of State: Presidential Leadership Council Rashad Muhammad

al-ALIMI, Dr. Capital: Sanaa

Other notable cities: Aden, Ta'izz

Gov Type: In Transition Population: 32.14 million

Colonial History: The Kingdom of Yemen (North Yemen) became independent after the collapse of the Ottoman Empire in 1918. North Yemen became the Yemen Arab Republic is 1962. The British controlled the port of Aden and Southern Yemen starting in 1839. The British withdrew in 1967 creating the independent People's Republic of Southern Yemen. The two countries were officially unified as the Republic of Yemen in 1990.

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

The Republic of Yemen is about 527,968 square kilometers in total area and has zero square kilometers of water but has 1,906 kilometers of coastline.

The climate is mostly desert. It is humid and hot on the west coast and temperate in the western mountains which sees seasonal monsoons. The east in extremely hot and dry and consists of only desert.

The Sarawat Mountains are located in the west stretching from Saudi Arabia almost all the way down to the coast in some places. The Rub' al-Khali, nicknamed the "Empty Quarter," is the fifth largest desert in the world and encompass the central and eastern region of Yemen.

Natural resources include petroleum, fish, rock salt, marble and small deposits of coal, gold, lead, nickel, and copper. There is also fertile soil in west.

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Executive Summary

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DEMOGRAPHICS

Noun: Yemeni(s) Adjective: Yemeni

Ethnic Groups: Predominantly Arab; Minorities include: Afro-Arab,

South Asian, and European

Languages: Arabic (Official), Socotri language is used on Socotra Island and Archipelago; Mahri is widely spoken in eastern Yemen Religion: 99.1% Muslim (Official; 65% Sunni, 35% Shia); 0.9% other

(Jewish, Baha'i, Hindu, and Christian) (2020 est.) Literacy: 70.1% (Male 85.1%, Female 55%)

Population growth is at at 1.78%.

ECONOMY AND GDP

Yemen's economy is described as low-income on the Arabian Peninsula. The civil war has devastated Yemen's infrastructure, trade, and economic institutions. Yemen is dependent on depleting oil and gas reserves. The country has large levels of poverty, food insecurity, and unemployment coupled with high inflation.

(Note: due to the war, there has been limited collection of new data)

Real GDP (Purchasing Power Parity): \$73.63 billion (2017), \$78.28

billion (2016), \$90.63 billion (2015)

Real GDP Growth Rate: 0.75% (2018), -5.07% (2017), -9.38%

(2016)

Real GDP Per Capita: \$2,500 (2017)

GDP (Official Exchange Rate): \$21.606 billion (2018)

Inflation Rate (Consumer Prices): 24.7% (2017), -12.6% (2016),

8.1% (2014)

GDP - Composition: agriculture: 20.3% (2017), industry: 11.8%

(2017), services: 67.9% (2017)

Unemployment Rate: 17.61% (2022), 18.65% (2021), 18.34%

(2020)

Youth Unemployment: 25.5% (2021)

MAIN POLITICAL CONTENTIONS

Yemen's political contentions in 2024 revolve around the ongoing civil war, humanitarian crisis, fragmentation of governance, regional rivalries, and international involvement.

Yemen has been in a state of civil war since 2014 when Houthi rebels, aligned with those loyal to former President. They seized control of the capital, Sana'a, and other parts of the country. This conflict escalated into a broader regional proxy war, with the Houthis supported by Iran and a Saudi-led coalition backing the internationally recognized government of President Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi.

The political landscape in Yemen is characterized by fragmentation. In addition to the Houthi-controlled areas in the north, southern Yemen has seen the separatist movements gain authority. The internationally recognized government, backed by Saudi Arabia, operates primarily from the southern port city of Aden, facing challenges in asserting control over the entire country.

Yemen's conflict has drawn in regional and international actors, complicating efforts to find a peaceful resolution. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates lead a coalition supporting the Yemeni government, while Iran's support for the Houthis has added to regional tensions. The United States and European countries have been involved diplomatically and militarily, providing support to the Saudi-led coalition and pushing for political negotiations.

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Yemen: A Timeline

5 May 1945 North Yemen joins the Arab League as a founding member 1962

Military takes control of north Yemen and establish the Yemen Arab Republia which leads to a civil war

1970s

Strong border conflicts between the Yemen Arab Republic and the Peoples Democratic Republic of Yemen (North and South Yemen)

May-July 1994

State of emergency declared by President Saleh. Southern officials and the VP are removed who had declared the secession of the south.

12 October 2000

al-Qaeda suicide attack in the port of Aden resulting in the death of seventeen US naval officers on the USS Cole.

February 2002

Yemen expels 100+ foreign Islamic scholars and clerics in efforts against al-Qaeda.

2004-2009 (Houthi Conflicts)

June-August 2004: Hundreds die as troops battle Hussein al-Houthi's Shia insurgency in the north. March-April 2005: 200+ die in a resurgence of fighting.

January-March 2007: Many are killed or injured in clashes between security forces and al-Houthi rebels in the north. Rebel leader Abdul-Malik al-Houthi later accepts a ceasefire.

August 2009: Yemeni army launches an offensive against Houthi rebels in the northern Saada.

March 2015

Islamic State carries out its first attacks in Yemen. Two suicide bombings target Shia mosques in Sanaa. 137 people are killed. Civil war breaks out as Saudi-led coalition launches air strikes against Houthi targets.

January 2018

Southern Yemeni separatists, backed by UAE, seize control of Aden.

January 2020

Fighting between the Saudi-led coalition and the Houthis picks up. Houthi forces carry out missile attacks on military training camps and in Saudi Arabia's southern provinces.

April 2022

Nationwide truce brokered by the United Nations.

2022-2024

Truce collapsed end of 2022, leading to resumed • hostilities in early 2023. The fighting was particularly in strategic areas like Marib and Taiz.

17 February 1948

Yahya Muhammad Hamid ed-Din (first King of the Kingdom of Yemen/ north Yemen) assassinated

1967

South Yemen/ Peoples Democratic Republic of Yemen becomes independent from Britain; South Yemen joins Arab League

22 May 1990

North and South Yemen officially united as The Republic of Yemen with Ali Abdallah Saleh as president

1995

Yemen and Eritrea fight over Hanish lands and for control of the Red Sea and maritime resources.

February 2001

Referendum showing support for extending presidential term and powers leads to violence and protests

October 2002

Al-Qaeda attacks and badly damages oil supertanker MV Limburg in Gulf of Aden, killing one and injuring 12 crew members, and costing Yemen in lost port revenues.

September 2008

•Al-Qaeda attack on US embassy in Sanaa kills 12.

November 2011: President Saleh flees and power goes to Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi after protests forming a unity government.
February 2012: Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi inaugurated as president after uncontested

elections, but is cannot counter al-Qaeda attacks in the capital.

2014: Presidential panel approves draft federal constitution to accommodate Houthi and southern grievances, but Houthis reject the deal and seize control of most of Sanaa in August.

June 2015

Leader of al-Qaeda in Arabian Peninsula, Nasser al-Wuhayshi, is killed in a US drone strike in Yemen.

November 2019

Separatists and government sign power-sharing agreement to end conflict in southern Yemen.

2021

The Houthis and Yemeni government continued to clash with battles in Marib. The Saudi-led coalition continued military operations against Houthis. Yemen experienced economic crippling and humanitarian suffering, with no significant progress towards peace and stability.

Present

Unresolved hostilities and political and civil unrest.

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