Introduction :: IRAQ

Background:

Formerly part of the Ottoman Empire, Iraq was 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, but in actuality, a series of strongmen ruled the country until 2003. The last was SADDAM Husayn from 1979 to 2003. Territorial disputes with Iran led to an inconclusive and costly eight-year war (1980-88). In August 1990, Iraq seized Kuwait but was expelled by US-led UN coalition forces during the Gulf War of January-February 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 March 2003 and the ouster of the SADDAM Husayn regime by US-led forces.

In October 2005, Iraqis approved a constitution in a national referendum and, pursuant to this document, elected a 275-member Council of Representatives (COR) in December 2005. The COR approved most cabinet ministers in May 2006, marking the transition to Iraq's first constitutional government in nearly a half century. Iraq held elections for provincial councils in all governorates in January 2009 and April 2013 and postponed the next provincial elections, originally planned for April 2017, until 2019. Iraq has held three national legislative elections since 2005, most recently in May 2018 when 329 legislators were elected to the COR. Adil ABD AL-MAHDI assumed the premiership in October 2018 as a consensus and independent candidate - the first prime minister who is not an active member of a major political bloc. His cabinet has been hailed as one of the most technocratic since 2005.

Between 2014 and 2017, Iraq was engaged in a military campaign against the Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS) to recapture territory lost in the western and northern portion of the country. Iraqi and allied forces recaptured Mosul, the country's second-largest city, in 2017 and drove ISIS out of its other urban
strongholds. In December 2017, then-Prime Minister Haydar al-ABADI publicly declared victory against ISIS while continuing operations against the group's residual presence in rural areas. Also in late 2017, ABADI responded to an independence referendum held by the Kurdish Regional Government by ordering Iraqi forces to take control of disputed territories across central and northern Iraq that were previously occupied and governed by Kurdish forces.

Geography :: IRAQ

Location:
Middle East, bordering the Persian Gulf, between Iran and Kuwait

Geographic coordinates:
33 00 N, 44 00 E

Map references:
Middle East

Area:
total: 438,317 sq km
land: 437,367 sq km
water: 950 sq km

Country comparison to the world: 60

Area - comparative:
slightly more than three times the size of New York state

Area comparison map: 

Land boundaries:
total: 3,809 km

Border countries (6): Iran 1599 km, Jordan 179 km, Kuwait 254 km, Saudi Arabia 811 km, Syria 599 km, Turkey 367 km

Coastline:
58 km

Maritime claims:
territorial sea: 12 nm
continental shelf: not specified

Climate:
mostly desert; mild to cool winters with dry, hot, cloudless summers; northern mountainous regions along Iranian and Turkish borders experience cold winters with occasionally heavy snows that melt in early spring, sometimes causing extensive flooding in central and southern Iraq

Terrain:
mostly broad plains; reedy marshes along Iranian border in south with large flooded areas; mountains along borders with Iran and Turkey

Elevation:
mean elevation: 312 m
lowest point: Persian Gulf 0 m

highest point: Cheekha Dar (Kurdish for "Black Tent") 3,611 m

Natural resources:
petroleum, natural gas, phosphates, sulfur

Land use:
agricultural land: 18.1% (2011 est.)
arable land: 8.4% (2011 est.) / permanent crops: 0.5% (2011 est.) / permanent pasture: 9.2% (2011 est.)
forest: 1.9% (2011 est.)
other: 80% (2011 est.)

Irrigated land:
35,250 sq km (2012)

Population distribution:
population is concentrated in the north, center, and eastern parts of the country, with many of the larger urban agglomerations found along extensive parts of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers; much of the western and southern areas are either lightly populated or uninhabited

Natural hazards:
dust storms; sandstorms; floods

Environment - current issues:
government water control projects drained most of the inhabited marsh areas east of An Nasiriyah by drying up or diverting the feeder streams and rivers; a once sizable population of Marsh Arabs, who inhabited these areas for thousands of years, has been displaced; furthermore, the destruction of the natural habitat poses serious threats to the area's wildlife populations; inadequate supplies of potable water; soil degradation (salination) and erosion; desertification; military and industrial infrastructure has released heavy metals and other hazardous substances into the air, soil, and groundwater; major sources of environmental damage are effluents from oil refineries, factory and sewage discharges into rivers, fertilizer and chemical contamination of the soil, and industrial air pollution in urban areas

Environment - international agreements:
party to: Biodiversity, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Ozone Layer Protection
signed, but not ratified: Environmental Modification

Geography - note:
strategic location on Shatt al Arab waterway and at the head of the Persian Gulf

People and Society :: IRAQ

Population:
40,194,216 (July 2018 est.)
country comparison to the world: 36

Nationality:
noun: Iraqi(s)
adjective: Iraqi

Ethnic groups:
Arab 75-80%, Kurdish 15-20%, other 5% (includes Turkmen, Yezidi, Shabak, Kakai, Bedouin, Romani, Assyrian, Circassian, Sabaean-Mandaean, Persian)

**note:** data is a 1987 government estimate; no more recent reliable numbers are available

**Languages:**

Arabic (official), Kurdish (official), Turkmen (a Turkish dialect), Syriac (Neo-Aramaic), and Armenian are official in areas where native speakers of these languages constitute a majority of the population

**Religions:**

Muslim (official) 95-98% (Shia 64-69%, Sunni 29-34%), Christian 1% (includes Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant, Assyrian Church of the East), other 1-4% (2015 est.)

**note:** while there has been voluntary relocation of many Christian families to northern Iraq, the overall Christian population has decreased at least 50% and perhaps as high as 90% since the fall of the SADDAM Husayn regime in 2003, according to US Embassy estimates, with many fleeing to Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon

**Age structure:**

- **0-14 years:** 39.01% (male 8,005,327 /female 7,674,802)
- **15-24 years:** 19.42% (male 3,976,085 /female 3,829,086)
- **25-54 years:** 33.97% (male 6,900,984 /female 6,752,797)
- **55-64 years:** 4.05% (male 788,602 /female 839,291)
- **65 years and over:** 3.55% (male 632,753 /female 794,489) (2018 est.)

**Dependency ratios:**

- **total dependency ratio:** 77.7 (2015 est.)
- **youth dependency ratio:** 72.3 (2015 est.)
- **elderly dependency ratio:** 5.5 (2015 est.)
- **potential support ratio:** 18.3 (2015 est.)

**Median age:**

- **total:** 20.2 years
- **male:** 20 years
- **female:** 20.5 years (2018 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 189

**Population growth rate:**

2.5% (2018 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 22

**Birth rate:**

30 births/1,000 population (2018 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 37

**Death rate:**

3.8 deaths/1,000 population (2018 est.)
country comparison to the world: 212

Net migration rate:
-1.1 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2018 est.)

country comparison to the world: 144

Population distribution:
population is concentrated in the north, center, and eastern parts of the country, with many of the larger urban agglomerations found along extensive parts of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers; much of the western and southern areas are either lightly populated or uninhabited

Urbanization:
urban population: 70.5% of total population (2018)
rate of urbanization: 3.06% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

Major urban areas - population:
6.643 million BAGHDAD (capital), 1.527 million Mosul, 1.299 million Basra, 981,000 Kirkuk, 821,000 Erbil, 820,000 Najaf (2018)

Sex ratio:
at birth: 1.05 male(s)/female
0-14 years: 1.04 male(s)/female
15-24 years: 1.04 male(s)/female
25-54 years: 1.02 male(s)/female
55-64 years: 0.94 male(s)/female
65 years and over: 0.8 male(s)/female
total population: 1.02 male(s)/female (2018 est.)

Maternal mortality rate:
50 deaths/100,000 live births (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: 96

Infant mortality rate:
total: 37.5 deaths/1,000 live births
male: 40.6 deaths/1,000 live births
female: 34.2 deaths/1,000 live births (2018 est.)

country comparison to the world: 47

Life expectancy at birth:
total population: 74.9 years
male: 72.6 years
female: 77.2 years (2018 est.)

country comparison to the world: 117

Total fertility rate:
3.94 children born/woman (2018 est.)
Contraceptive prevalence rate: 52.8% (2018)

Health expenditures: 5.5% of GDP (2014)

Physicians density: 0.82 physicians/1,000 population (2017)

Hospital bed density: 1.4 beds/1,000 population (2014)

Drinking water source:
improved:
urban: 93.8% of population
rural: 70.1% of population
total: 86.6% of population
unimproved:
urban: 6.2% of population
rural: 29.9% of population
total: 13.4% of population (2015 est.)

Sanitation facility access:
improved:
urban: 86.4% of population (2015 est.)
rural: 83.8% of population (2015 est.)
total: 85.6% of population (2015 est.)
unimproved:
urban: 13.6% of population (2015 est.)
rural: 16.2% of population (2015 est.)
total: 14.4% of population (2015 est.)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate: NA

HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS: NA

HIV/AIDS - deaths: NA

Major infectious diseases:
degree of risk: intermediate (2016)

food or waterborne diseases: bacterial diarrhea, hepatitis A, and typhoid fever (2016)

Obesity - adult prevalence rate:
30.4% (2016)

country comparison to the world: 23

Children under the age of 5 years underweight:
7.2% (2011)

country comparison to the world: 72

Education expenditures:
NA

Literacy:
definition: age 15 and over can read and write (2015 est.)
total population: 79.7%
male: 85.7%
female: 73.7% (2015 est.)

Unemployment, youth ages 15-24:
total: 25.6%
male: 22%
female: 63.3% (2017)
country comparison to the world: 47

Country name:
conventional long form: Republic of Iraq
conventional short form: Iraq
local long form: Jumhuriyat al-Iraq/Komar-i Eraq
local short form: Al Iraq/Eraq
former: Mesopotamia, Mandatory Iraq, Hashemite Kingdom of Iraq
etymology: the name probably derives from "Uruk" (Biblical "Erech"), the ancient Sumerian and Babylonian city on the Euphrates River

Government type:
federal parliamentary republic

Capital:
name: Baghdad
geographic coordinates: 33 20 N, 44 24 E
time difference: UTC+3 (8 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)
Administrative divisions:
18 governorates (muhafazat, singular - muhafazah (Arabic); parezgakan, singular - parezga (Kurdish)) and 1 region*: Al Anbar; Al Basrah; Al Muthanna; Al Qadisiyah (Ad Diwaniyah); An Najaf; Arbil (Erbil) (Arabic), Hewler (Kurdish); As Sulaymaniyyah (Arabic), Slemani (Kurdish); Babil; Baghdad; Dahuk (Arabic), Dihok (Kurdish); Dhi Qar; Diyala; Karbala'; Kirkuk; Kurdistan Regional Government*; Maysan; Ninawa; Salah ad Din; Wasit

Independence:
3 October 1932 (from League of Nations mandate under British administration); note - on 28 June 2004 the Coalition Provisional Authority transferred sovereignty to the Iraqi Interim Government

National holiday:
Independence Day, 3 October (1932); Republic Day, 14 July (1958)

Constitution:
history: several previous; latest adopted by referendum 15 October 2005
amendments: proposed by the president of the republic and the Council of Ministers collectively, or by one-fifth of the Council of Representatives members; passage requires at least a two-thirds majority vote by the Council of Representatives, approval by referendum, and ratification by the president; passage of amendments to articles on citizen rights and liberties requires a two-thirds majority vote of Council of Representatives members after two successive electoral terms, approval in a referendum, and ratification by the president (2016)

Legal system:
mixed legal system of civil and Islamic law

International law organization participation:
has not submitted an ICJ jurisdiction declaration; non-party state to the ICCt

Citizenship:
citizenship by birth: no
citizenship by descent only: at least one parent must be a citizen of Iraq
dual citizenship recognized: yes

residency requirement for naturalization: 10 years

Suffrage:
18 years of age; universal

Executive branch:
chief of state: President Barham SALIH (since 2 October 2018); vice presidents (vacant)
head of government: Prime Minister Adil ABD AL-MAHDI (since 24 October 2018)
cabinet: Council of Ministers proposed by the prime minister, approved by Council of Representatives
elections/appointments: president indirectly elected by Council of Representatives (COR) to serve a 4-year term (eligible for a second term); COR election last held on 12 May 2018 (next to be held in 2022); prime minister nominated by the largest COR bloc or by consensus and submission of COR minister nominees for majority COR approval; disapproval requires designation of a new prime minister candidate
election results:
COR vote in first round - Barham SALIH (PUK) 165, Fuad HUSAYN (KDP) 90; Barham SALIH elected president in second round - Barham SALIH 219, Fuad HUSAYN 22; note - the COR vote on 1 October 2018 failed due to a lack of quorum, and a new session was held on 2 October

Legislative branch:

description: unicumeral Council of Representatives or Majlis an-Nuwwab al-Iraqiy (329 seats; 320 members directly elected in multi-seat constituencies by open-list proportional representation vote and 9 seats at the national level reserved for minorities - 5 for Christians, 1 each for Sabaeans-Mandaeans, Yazidis, Shabaks, Fayli Kurds; 25% of seats allocated to women; members serve 4-year terms); note - Iraq's constitution calls for the establishment of an upper house, the Federation Council, but it has not been instituted

elections: last held on 12 May 2018 (next to be held in 2022)
election results: percent of vote by party/coalition - NA; seats by party/coalition - Al Sa'irun Alliance 54, Al Fatah Alliance 48, Al Nasr Alliance 42, KDP 25, State of Law Coalition 25, Wataniyah 21, National Wisdom Trend 19, PUK 18, Iraqi Decision Alliance 14, Anbar Our Identity 6, Goran Movement 5, New Generation 4, other 48; composition - men 245, women 84, percent of women 25.5%

Judicial branch:

highest courts: Federal Supreme Court or FSC (consists of 9 judges); note - court jurisdiction limited to constitutional issues and disputes between regions or governates and the central government; Court of Cassation (consists of a court president, 5 vice-presidents, and at least 24 judges)

judge selection and term of office: Federal Supreme Court and Court of Cassation judges selected by the president of the republic from nominees selected by the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC), a 25-member committee of judicial officials that manages the judiciary and prosecutors; FSC members appointed for life; Court of Cassation judges appointed by the SJC and confirmed by the Council of Representatives to serve until retirement nominally at age 63

subordinate courts: Courts of Appeal (governorate level); civil courts, including first instance, personal status, labor, and customs; criminal courts including felony, misdemeanor, investigative, major crimes, juvenile, and traffic; religious courts

Political parties and leaders:

Al Fatah Alliance [Hadi al-AMIRI]
Al Nasr Alliance [Haydar al-ABADI]
Al Sadiqun Bloc [Adnan al-DULAYMI]
Al Sa’irun Alliance [Muqtada al-SADR]
Badr Organization [Hadi al-AMIRI]
Da’wa Party [Nuri al-MALIKI]
Fadilah Party [Muhammad al-YAQUBI]
Goran Movement [Omar SAYYID ALI]
Iraqi Communist Party [Hamid Majid MUSA]
Iraq Decision Alliance [Khamis al-KHANJAR, Usama al-NJAYFI]
Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq or ISCI [Humam HAMMUDI]
Kurdistan Democratic Party or KDP [Masoud BARZANI]
National Wisdom Trend [Ammar al-HAKIM]
New Generation Movement [SHASWAR Abd al-Wahid Qadir]
Our Identity [Muhammad al-HALBUSI]
Patriotic Union of Kurdistan or PUK [KOSRAT Rasul Ali, acting]
State of Law Coalition [Nuri al-MALIKI]
Wataniyah coalition [Ayad ALLAWI]
numerous smaller religious, local, tribal, and minority parties

International organization participation:
Diplomatic representation in the US:

chief of mission: Ambassador Farid YASIN (since 18 January 2017)

chancery: 3421 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20007

telephone: [1] (202) 742-1600

FAX: [1] (202) 333-1129

consulate(s) general: Detroit, Los Angeles

Diplomatic representation from the US:

chief of mission: Ambassador Matthew TUELLER (since 9 June 2019)

embassy: Al-Kindi Street, International Zone, Baghdad; note - consulate in Al Basrah closed as of 28 September 2018

mailing address: APO AE 09316

telephone: 0760-030-3000

FAX: NA

Flag description:

three equal horizontal bands of red (top), white, and black; the Takbir (Arabic expression meaning "God is great") in green Arabic script is centered in the white band; the band colors derive from the Arab Liberation flag and represent oppression (black), overcome through bloody struggle (red), to be replaced by a bright future (white); the Council of Representatives approved this flag in 2008 as a compromise replacement for the Ba'thist SADDAM-era flag

note: similar to the flag of Syria, which has two stars but no script; Yemen, which has a plain white band; and that of Egypt, which has a golden Eagle of Saladin centered in the white band

National symbol(s):

golden eagle; national colors: red, white, black

National anthem:

name: "Mawtini" (My Homeland)

lyrics/music: Ibrahim TOUQAN/Mohammad FLAYFEL

note: adopted 2004; following the ouster of SADDAM Husayn, Iraq adopted "Mawtini," a popular folk song throughout the Arab world; also serves as an unofficial anthem of the Palestinian people

Economy - overview:

Iraq's GDP growth slowed to 1.1% in 2017, a marked decline compared to the previous two years as domestic consumption and investment fell because of civil violence and a sluggish oil market. The Iraqi Government
received its third tranche of funding from its 2016 Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) with the IMF in August 2017, which is intended to stabilize its finances by encouraging improved fiscal management, needed economic reform, and expenditure reduction. Additionally, in late 2017 Iraq received more than $1.4 billion in financing from international lenders, part of which was generated by issuing a $1 billion bond for reconstruction and rehabilitation in areas liberated from ISIL. Investment and key sector diversification are crucial components to Iraq's long-term economic development and require a strengthened business climate with enhanced legal and regulatory oversight to bolster private-sector engagement. The overall standard of living depends on global oil prices, the central government passage of major policy reforms, a stable security environment post-ISIS, and the resolution of civil discord with the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG).

Iraq's largely state-run economy is dominated by the oil sector, which provides roughly 85% of government revenue and 80% of foreign exchange earnings, and is a major determinant of the economy's fortunes. Iraq's contracts with major oil companies have the potential to further expand oil exports and revenues, but Iraq will need to make significant upgrades to its oil processing, pipeline, and export infrastructure to enable these deals to reach their economic potential.

In 2017, Iraqi oil exports from northern fields were disrupted following a KRG referendum that resulted in the Iraqi Government reasserting federal control over disputed oil fields and energy infrastructure in Kirkuk. The Iraqi government and the KRG dispute the role of federal and regional authorities in the development and export of natural resources. In 2007, the KRG passed an oil law to develop IKR oil and gas reserves independent of the federal government. The KRG has signed about 50 contracts with foreign energy companies to develop its reserves, some of which lie in territories taken by Baghdad in October 2017. The KRG is able to unilaterally export oil from the fields it retains control of through its own pipeline to Turkey, which Baghdad claims is illegal. In the absence of a national hydrocarbons law, the two sides have entered into five provisional oil- and revenue-sharing deals since 2009, all of which collapsed.

Iraq is making slow progress enacting laws and developing the institutions needed to implement economic policy, and political reforms are still needed to assuage investors' concerns regarding the uncertain business climate. The Government of Iraq is eager to attract additional foreign direct investment, but it faces a number of obstacles, including a tenuous political system and concerns about security and societal stability. Rampant corruption, outdated infrastructure, insufficient essential services, skilled labor shortages, and antiquated commercial laws stifle investment and continue to constrain growth of private, nonoil sectors. Under the Iraqi constitution, some competencies relevant to the overall investment climate are either shared by the federal government and the regions or are devolved entirely to local governments. Investment in the IKR operates within the framework of the Kurdistan Region Investment Law (Law 4 of 2006) and the Kurdistan Board of Investment, which is designed to provide incentives to help economic development in areas under the authority of the KRG.

Inflation has remained under control since 2006. However, Iraqi leaders remain hard-pressed to translate macroeconomic gains into an improved standard of living for the Iraqi populace. Unemployment remains a problem throughout the country despite a bloated public sector. Overregulation has made it difficult for Iraqi citizens and foreign investors to start new businesses. Corruption and lack of economic reforms - such as restructuring banks and developing the private sector - have inhibited the growth of the private sector.

**GDP (purchasing power parity):**

- $649.3 billion (2017 est.)
- $662.9 billion (2016 est.)
- $586.3 billion (2015 est.)

**note:** data are in 2017 dollars

**country comparison to the world:** 34

**GDP (official exchange rate):**

- $192.4 billion (2017 est.)

**GDP - real growth rate:**
GDP - per capita (PPP):

- $16,700 (2017 est.)
- $17,500 (2016 est.)
- $15,900 (2015 est.)

*note:* data are in 2017 dollars

Gross national saving:

- 19% of GDP (2017 est.)
- 13.1% of GDP (2016 est.)
- 18.4% of GDP (2015 est.)

GDP - composition, by end use:

- household consumption: 50.4% (2013 est.)
- government consumption: 22.9% (2016 est.)
- investment in fixed capital: 20.6% (2016 est.)
- investment in inventories: 0% (2016 est.)

exports of goods and services: 32.5% (2016 est.)

imports of goods and services: -40.9% (2016 est.)

GDP - composition, by sector of origin:

- agriculture: 3.3% (2017 est.)
- industry: 51% (2017 est.)
- services: 45.8% (2017 est.)

Agriculture - products:

  - wheat, barley, rice, vegetables, dates, cotton; cattle, sheep, poultry

Industries:

  - petroleum, chemicals, textiles, leather, construction materials, food processing, fertilizer, metal fabrication/processing

Industrial production growth rate:

- 0.7% (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 163

Labor force:

- 8.9 million (2010 est.)
Labor force - by occupation:
- Agriculture: 21.6%
- Industry: 18.7%
- Services: 59.8% (2008 est.)

Unemployment rate:
- 16% (2012 est.)
- 15% (2010 est.)

Household income or consumption by percentage share:
- Lowest 10%: 3.6%
- Highest 10%: 25.7% (2007 est.)

Budget:
- Revenues: 68.71 billion (2017 est.)
- Expenditures: 76.82 billion (2017 est.)
- Taxes and other revenues: 35.7% (of GDP) (2017 est.)

Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-):
- -4.2% (of GDP) (2017 est.)

Public debt:
- 59.7% of GDP (2017 est.)
- 66% of GDP (2016 est.)

Fiscal year:
- Calendar year

Inflation rate (consumer prices):
- 0.1% (2017 est.)
- 0.5% (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world: 70
Commercial bank prime lending rate:
12.7% (31 December 2017 est.)
12.7% (31 December 2016 est.)
country comparison to the world: 65
Stock of narrow money:
$60.1 billion (31 December 2017 est.)
$59.84 billion (31 December 2016 est.)
country comparison to the world: 50
Stock of broad money:
$60.1 billion (31 December 2017 est.)
$59.84 billion (31 December 2016 est.)
country comparison to the world: 50
Stock of domestic credit:
$34.61 billion (31 December 2017 est.)
$31.93 billion (31 December 2016 est.)
country comparison to the world: 76
Market value of publicly traded shares:
$4 billion (9 December 2011)
$2.6 billion (31 July 2010)
$2 billion (31 July 2009 est.)
country comparison to the world: 89
Current account balance:
$4.344 billion (2017 est.)
-$13.38 billion (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world: 31
Exports:
$61.4 billion (2017 est.)
$41.72 billion (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world: 46
Exports - partners:
India 21.2%, China 20.2%, US 15.8%, South Korea 9.4%, Greece 5.3%, Netherlands 4.8%, Italy 4.7% (2017)
Exports - commodities:
crude oil 99%, crude materials excluding fuels, food, live animals
Imports:
$39.47 billion (2017 est.)
$19.57 billion (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 61

Imports - commodities:
food, medicine, manufactures

Imports - partners:
Turkey 27.8%, China 25.7%, South Korea 4.7%, Russia 4.3% (2017)

Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:
$48.88 billion (31 December 2017 est.)
$45.36 billion (31 December 2016 est.)
country comparison to the world: 41

Debt - external:
$73.02 billion (31 December 2017 est.)
$64.16 billion (31 December 2016 est.)
country comparison to the world: 59

Stock of direct foreign investment - at home:
$26.63 billion (2015 est.)
$23.16 billion (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 74

Stock of direct foreign investment - abroad:
$2.109 billion (2015 est.)
$1.956 billion (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 82

Exchange rates:
Iraqi dinars (IQD) per US dollar -
1,184 (2017 est.)
1,182 (2016 est.)
1,182 (2015 est.)
1,167.63 (2014 est.)
1,213.72 (2013 est.)

Energy :: IRAQ

Electricity access:
electrification - total population: 100% (2016)

Electricity - production:
75.45 billion kWh (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world: 40

Electricity - consumption:
38.46 billion kWh (2016 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 57

**Electricity - exports:**
0 kWh (2016 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 150

**Electricity - imports:**
11.97 billion kWh (2016 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 20

**Electricity - installed generating capacity:**
27.09 million kW (2016 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 34

**Electricity - from fossil fuels:**
91% of total installed capacity (2016 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 55

**Electricity - from nuclear fuels:**
0% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 111

**Electricity - from hydroelectric plants:**
9% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 119

**Electricity - from other renewable sources:**
0% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 194

**Crude oil - production:**
4.454 million bbl/day (2017 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 5

**Crude oil - exports:**
3.092 million bbl/day (2015 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 3

**Crude oil - imports:**
0 bbl/day (2015 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 145

**Crude oil - proved reserves:**
148.8 billion bbl (1 January 2018 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 5

**Refined petroleum products - production:**
398,000 bbl/day (2015 est.)
Communications :: IRAQ

country comparison to the world: 37
Refined petroleum products - consumption:
826,000 bbl/day (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world: 26
Refined petroleum products - exports:
8,284 bbl/day (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 86
Refined petroleum products - imports:
255,100 bbl/day (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 28
Natural gas - production:
1.274 billion cu m (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world: 63
Natural gas - consumption:
2.633 billion cu m (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world: 76
Natural gas - exports:
0 cu m (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world: 124
Natural gas - imports:
1.359 billion cu m (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world: 56
Natural gas - proved reserves:
3.82 trillion cu m (1 January 2018 est.)
country comparison to the world: 11
Carbon dioxide emissions from consumption of energy:
117.9 million Mt (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world: 37
Communications :: IRAQ
Telephones - fixed lines:
  total subscriptions: 2,918,396 (2017 est.)
  subscriptions per 100 inhabitants: 7 (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world: 48
Telephones - mobile cellular:
  total subscriptions: 33,335,316 (2017 est.)
  subscriptions per 100 inhabitants: 85 (2017 est.)
Telephone system:

general assessment: the 2003 liberation of Iraq severely disrupted telecommunications throughout Iraq; widespread government efforts to rebuild domestic and international communications have slowed due to political unrest; 2018 showed signs of stability and installations of new fibre-optic cables and growth in mobile broadband subscribers; the most popular plans are pre-paid

domestic: the mobile cellular market continues to expand; 3G services offered by three major mobile operators; 4G offered by one operator in Iraqi Kurdistan Region; conflict has destroyed infrastructure in areas; 7 per 100 for fixed-line and 85 per 100 for mobile-cellular subscriptions

international: country code - 964; satellite earth stations - 4 (2 Intelsat - 1 Atlantic Ocean and 1 Indian Ocean, 1 Intersputnik - Atlantic Ocean region, and 1 Arabsat (inoperative)); local microwave radio relay connects border regions to Jordan, Kuwait, Syria, and Turkey; international terrestrial fiber-optic connections have been established with Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Kuwait, Jordan, and Iran; links to the Fiber-Optic Link Around the Globe (FLAG) and the Gulf Bridge International (GBI) submarine fiber-optic cables have been established

Broadcast media:

the number of private radio and TV stations has increased rapidly since 2003; government-owned TV and radio stations are operated by the publicly funded Iraqi Media Network; private broadcast media are mostly linked to political, ethnic, or religious groups; satellite TV is available to an estimated 70% of viewers and many of the broadcasters are based abroad; transmissions of multiple international radio broadcasters are accessible (2015)

Internet country code:

.iq

Internet users:

total: 8,098,401 (July 2016 est.)

percent of population: 21.2% (July 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 52

Transportation :: IRAQ

National air transport system:

number of registered air carriers: 4 (2015)

inventory of registered aircraft operated by air carriers: 39 (2015)

annual passenger traffic on registered air carriers: 484,803 (2015)

annual freight traffic on registered air carriers: 10,758,230 mt-km (2015)

Civil aircraft registration country code prefix:

YI (2016)

Airports:

102 (2013)

country comparison to the world: 55

Airports - with paved runways:

total: 72 (2017)

over 3,047 m: 20 (2017)
2,438 to 3,047 m: 34 (2017)
1,524 to 2,437 m: 4 (2017)
914 to 1,523 m: 7 (2017)
under 914 m: 7 (2017)

Airports - with unpaved runways:
total: 30 (2013)
over 3,047 m: 3 (2013)
2,438 to 3,047 m: 5 (2013)
1,524 to 2,437 m: 3 (2013)
914 to 1,523 m: 13 (2013)
under 914 m: 6 (2013)

Heliports:
16 (2013)

Pipelines:
2455 km gas, 913 km liquid petroleum gas, 5432 km oil, 1637 km refined products (2013)

Railways:
total: 2,272 km (2014)
standard gauge: 2,272 km 1.435-m gauge (2014)
country comparison to the world: 69

Roadways:
total: 59,623 km (2012)
paved: 59,623 km (includes Kurdistan Region) (2012)
country comparison to the world: 65

Waterways:
5,279 km (the Euphrates River (2,815 km), Tigris River (1,899 km), and Third River (565 km) are the principal waterways) (2012)
country comparison to the world: 22

Merchant marine:
total: 80
by type: general cargo 1, oil tanker 6, other 73 (2018)
country comparison to the world: 98

Ports and terminals:
river port(s): Al Basrah (Shatt al-'Arab); Khawr az Zubayr, Umm Qasr (Khawr az Zubayr waterway)

Military and Security :: IRAQ

Military expenditures:
3.63% of GDP (2016)
5.35% of GDP (2015)
2.95% of GDP (2014)
3.32% of GDP (2013)
1.9% of GDP (2012)

country comparison to the world: 18

Military branches:


Military service age and obligation:

18-40 years of age for voluntary military service; no conscription (2017)

Terrorism :: IRAQ

Terrorist groups - home based:

Ansar al-Islam (AAI):
aim(s): expel western interests from Iraq and, ultimately, establish an independent Iraqi state operating according to its interpretation of sharia
area(s) of operation: headquartered in northern Iraq with its largest presence in Kirkuk, Tikrit, and Mosul; active in the western and central regions of the country
note: majority of members are Iraqi Kurds or Iraqi Arabs who are Sunni Muslim (April 2018)

Jaysh Rijal al-Tariq al-Naqshabandi (JRTN):
aim(s): end external influence in Iraq and, ultimately, overthrow the Government of Iraq to install a secular Ba'athist state within the internationally recognized borders of Iraq
area(s) of operation: attacks separatist Kurdish groups, Iraqi Government military and security forces and facilities, and foreign military personnel (April 2018)

Kata'ib Hizballah (KH):
aim(s): counter US influence and, ultimately, overthrow the Iraqi Government to install a government based on Shia Muslim laws and precepts
area(s) of operation: headquartered in the Shia Muslim areas of Baghdad, with fighters active in Ninawa, Al Anbar, and Babil governorates (April 2018)

Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK):
aim(s): advance Kurdish autonomy and security goals in Iraq, Turkey, Iran, and Syria
area(s) of operation: operational in the north and east, with its stronghold in the Qandil Mountains; majority of members inside Iraq are Iraqi, Turkish, and Iranian Kurds, along with Kurds from Syria (April 2018)

Terrorist groups - foreign based:

Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps -- Qods Force (IRGC-QF):
aim(s): back Iraq’s pro-government Shia militias by supplying two battalions of IRGC forces to jointly engage in combat against ISIS; provide weapons and munitions to Shia militants targeting US forces
area(s) of operations: Baghdad, Basrah, Karbala, Mosul, Samarra, Tikrit

(June 2019)
Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS):
aim(s): replace the world order with a global Islamic state based in Iraq and Syria; expand its branches and networks in other countries; rule according to ISIS's strict interpretation of Islamic law
area(s) of operation: operational in the rural and desert areas of central and northern Iraq, primarily within and near Sunni populations, with some presence in major population areas (April 2018)

Transnational Issues :: IRAQ

Disputes - international:
Iraq's lack of a maritime boundary with Iran prompts jurisdiction disputes beyond the mouth of the Shatt al Arab in the Persian Gulf; Turkey has expressed concern over the autonomous status of Kurds in Iraq

Refugees and internally displaced persons:

refugees (country of origin): 15,405 (Turkey), 7,944 (West Bank and Gaza Strip), 7,026 (Iran) (2018); 252,983 (Syria) (2019)

IDPs: 2,619,236 (includes displacement between 2006 and 2008 due to ethno-sectarian violence and displacement in central and northern Iraq since January 2014) (2019)

stateless persons: 47,515 (2018); note - in the 1970s and 1980s under SADDAM Husayn's regime, thousands of Iraq's Faili Kurds, followers of Shia Islam, were stripped of their Iraqi citizenship, had their property seized by the government, and many were deported; some Faili Kurds had their citizenship reinstated under the 2,006 Iraqi Nationality Law, but others lack the documentation to prove their Iraqi origins; some Palestinian refugees persecuted by the SADDAM regime remain stateless

note: estimate revised to reflect the reduction of statelessness in line with Law 26 of 2006, which allows stateless persons to apply for nationality in certain circumstances; more accurate studies of statelessness in Iraq are pending (2015)