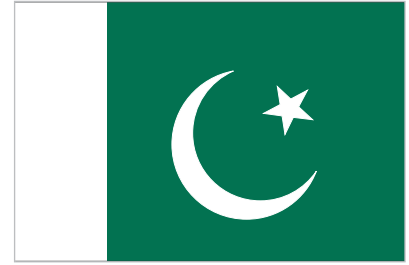




Fact Sheet:

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan



GENERAL INFORMATION

Capital City:	Islamabad
Population:	191.7 million (2015), estimated to increase to 350 million by 2050.
Area:	310,403 sq miles

Pakistan is the sixth most populous country in the world and was previously home to many ancient kingdoms ruled by people of different faiths and cultures. As a result of the Pakistan Movement led by Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Pakistan was created in 1947 as an independent nation for Muslims. Initially a dominion, Pakistan adopted a constitution in 1956, becoming an Islamic republic. A civil war in 1971 resulted in the secession of East Pakistan, which is now the country of Bangladesh.

The recent history of Pakistan has been characterized by periods of military rule, political instability, and conflicts with India. Although Pakistan is ethnically diverse, with a semi-industrialized economy and a well-integrated agriculture sector, the country continues to face challenging problems, including overpopulation, terrorism, poverty, illiteracy, and corruption.

Pakistan has had a history of feminist activism. Since 1947, the All Pakistani Women's Association (APWA) and Aurat Foundation have played strong roles in promoting awareness about women's rights. Although the overall status of women has improved, the social status of women in Pakistan varies considerably depending on social class. Rural areas are particularly prone to anti-female cultural and economic practices, resulting in very low levels of literacy and education. In 2014, the World Economic Forum ranked Pakistan as the second worst country in the world in gender equality.



Pakistan is divided into three major geographic areas: the northern highlands, the Indus River plain, and the Balochistan plateau. The northern highlands contain the Karakoram, Hindu Kush, and Pamir mountain ranges—which include some of the world's highest peaks, notably K2 (28,251 ft) and Nanga Parbat (26,660 ft).

Pakistan is slightly smaller than the size of Texas and Louisiana combined. It has 650 miles of coastline along the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Oman in the south, and is bordered by India to the east, Afghanistan to the west, Iran to the southwest, and China in the far northeast. It is separated from Tajikistan by Afghanistan's narrow Wakhan Corridor in the north, and also shares a maritime border with Oman.



THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN *continued*

GOVERNMENT

Pakistan is a democratic parliamentary federal republic with Islam as the state religion. A new constitution was adopted in 1973, which lays out the foundations of the current government. Pakistan has a multi-party parliamentary system with division of powers and responsibilities between branches of government. The first successful general election was held in May 2013, and Nawaz Sharif was elected prime minister, returning to the post for the third time.

The prime minister serves as the head of government and is responsible for appointing a cabinet consisting of ministers and advisors, as well as running the government operations, taking and authorizing executive decisions, appointments, and recommendations that require executive

confirmation. The president is elected by an electoral college, and is the ceremonial head of the state and the civilian commander-in-chief of the Pakistan Armed Forces; but military appointments and key confirmations in the armed forces are made by the prime minister.

The legislature consists of a 100-member Senate (upper house) and a 342-member National Assembly (lower house). Senate members are elected by provincial legislators, and all provinces have equal representation. Members of the National Assembly are elected. According to the constitution, the 70 seats reserved for women and religious minorities are allocated to the political parties according to their proportional representation.

PEOPLE

Education

Percent of the population considered literate—citizens over the age of 15 who are able to read and write

Males 67% (2011)

Females 42% (2011)

Ethnic Group Distribution

Punjabi 44%

Pathan 15%

Sindhi 14%

Saraiki 10%

Muhajir 8%

Balochi 4%

Others 5%

Religious Group Distribution

Islam 96.4% (Sunni Muslim 80-95%, Shia Muslim 5-20%)

Other 3.6% (Hinduism and Christianity)

Languages

More than 60 languages are spoken in Pakistan. Urdu is the national language. Although only about 8% of Pakistanis speak Urdu as their first language, it is understood by about 75% of the population. English is the official language of Pakistan—primarily used in official business, government, and legal contracts. The local dialect is known as Pakistani English.

Punjabi 44%

Pashto 16%

Sindhi 14%

Balochi 3%

**THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN** continued**Rural vs. Urban Populations (2010)**

Rural	63.12%
Urban	36.88%

Infant Mortality Rate

Number of deaths (per 1,000 live births) of children under the age of one. Note that due to differences in reporting, these numbers may not be comparable across countries. While the World Health Organization (WHO) recommendation is that all children who show signs of

life should be recorded as live births, in many countries this standard is not followed, artificially lowering their infant mortality rates relative to countries that follow those standards.

- 69 deaths per 1,000 live births (2013)

Life Expectancy and Poverty

- Life expectancy at birth was 64 years for males, 66 years for females. Pakistan is ranked 144 of 194 countries for life expectancy (2013).
- About 22.3% of the population lives below the national poverty line (2006).

THE ECONOMY

Pakistan's economic growth has been varied. The mid-2000s was a period of rapid economic reforms and the government increased development spending, which reduced poverty levels by 10%. Although Pakistan still faces

many challenges, the country is developing rapidly. The economy is semi-industrialized, with centers of growth along the Indus River.

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) in US\$: \$249.4 billion (2015)

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

- Pakistan imported US\$32.71 billion in petroleum and petroleum products, machinery, plastics, transportation equipment, edible oils, paper and paperboard, iron and steel, and tea (2010).
- Pakistan exported US\$20.29 billion in textiles, leather goods, sports goods, chemicals, manufactures, carpets and rugs, and other capital goods, food, textiles, and petroleum products (2010).

NATURAL RESOURCES

Natural gas, oil, salt, coal, copper, gold, gypsum, limestone, marble, and silica sand

SOURCES

- CIA World Factbook
- Khan Academy
- The World Bank
- Wikipedia.com
- United Nations
- United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- United Nations Population Division



THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN *continued*

- United Nations (International) Children's (Emergency) Fund (UNICEF)
- Population Reference Bureau
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- Rural Poverty Portal
- TradingEconomics.com
- Economywatch.com

All data was reported in 2012 unless otherwise noted.