



Fact Sheet:

The Republic of Tajikistan



GENERAL INFORMATION

Capital City:	Dushanbe
Population:	8.2 million (2013); 70% of the Tajikistan population is under the age of 30.
Area:	55,251 sq miles

Tajikistan was previously home to many ancient cultures, including the city of Sarazm of the Neolithic and Bronze Ages. It has been ruled by people of different faiths and cultures, most recently the Russian Empire. As a result of the breakup of the Soviet Union, Tajikistan became an independent nation in 1991. A civil war was fought almost immediately after independence, lasting from 1992 to 1997, during which more than 100,000 Tajikistan citizens died and hundreds of thousands were displaced. Since the end of the war, newly established political stability and foreign aid have allowed the country's economy to grow.

Most of Tajikistan's 8 million people belong to the Tajik ethnic group, who speak Tajik, a dialect of Modern Persian, although many people also speak Russian. Mountains cover more than 90% of the country. It has a transitional economy that is dependent on aluminum and cotton production.

Freedom of the press is officially guaranteed by the government, but independent press outlets remain restricted, as does a substantial amount of web content. According to the Institute for War & Peace Reporting, access is blocked to many local and foreign websites, and journalists are often obstructed from reporting on controversial events. In practice, no public criticism of the regime is tolerated, and all direct protest is severely suppressed and does not receive coverage in the local media.





THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN *continued*

Tajikistan is a landlocked country about the size of Iowa and is bordered by Afghanistan to the south, Uzbekistan to the west, Kyrgyzstan to the north, and China to the east.

Pakistan also lies to the south separated by the Wakhan Corridor.

GOVERNMENT

Tajikistan is officially a republic and holds elections for the presidency and Parliament. It is, however, a dominant-party system, where the People's Democratic Party of Tajikistan routinely has a vast majority in Parliament. Emomali Rahmon has held the office of president since November 1994. The prime minister is Kokhir Rasulzoda, the first deputy prime minister is Matlubkhon Davlatov, and the two deputy prime ministers are Murodali Alimardon and Ruqiya Qurbanova.

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 99.8% (2010)

Females 99.6% (2010)

Ethnic Group Distribution

Tajik 80%

Uzbek 15%

Russian 1%

Other 3%

Religious Group Distribution

Islam 98% (Sunni Muslim 87-95%, Shia Muslim 3%, Non-denominational Muslim 7%)

Other 2% (Russian Orthodox, Protestant Catholic, Zoroastrianism, Buddhism)

Languages

Tajik 80%

Russian, Uzbek 20%

Rural vs. Urban Populations (2010)

Rural 73.4%

Urban 26.6%

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.

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



THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN *continued*

Life Expectancy and Poverty

- Life expectancy at birth was 67 years for males, 69 years for females. Tajikistan is ranked 129 of 194 countries for life expectancy (2013).
- About 53% of the population lives below the national poverty line (2009).

THE ECONOMY

Tajikistan was the poorest republic of the Soviet Union and is the poorest country in Central Asia, as well as in the former Soviet Union. Forty-seven percent of Tajikistan's GDP comes from immigrant remittances (mostly from Tajiks working in Russia). The current economic situation remains fragile, largely owing to corruption, unsuccessful economic reforms, and economic mismanagement. With revenue precariously dependent upon remittances from migrant workers and exports of aluminum and cotton, the economy is highly vulnerable. International aid remains an essential source of support for the economy.

On August 21, 2001, the Red Cross announced that a famine was striking Tajikistan, and called for international aid for Tajikistan and Uzbekistan; however, access to food remains a serious problem.

The primary sources of income in Tajikistan are aluminum production, cotton growing, and remittances from migrant workers. Cotton accounts for 60% of agricultural output, supporting 75% of the rural population and using 45% of irrigated land. The aluminum industry is represented by the state-owned Tajik Aluminum Company, which is the biggest aluminum plant in Central Asia and one of the largest in the world.

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

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS (tradingeconomics.com)

- Tajikistan imported US\$278.7 million in alumina, electricity, natural gas, petroleum, grain, and flour (2015).
- Tajikistan exported US\$74.5 million in aluminum, cotton, and electricity (2015).

NATURAL RESOURCES

Natural gas, petroleum, coal, cotton, aluminum

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
- United Nations (International) Children's (Emergency) Fund (UNICEF)



THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN continued

- Population Reference Bureau
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- Rural Poverty Portal
- TradingEconomics.com
- Economywatch.com

All data was reported in 2012 unless otherwise noted.