

IRAN: Basic Facts

Name derives from the Avestan term "aryanam" meaning "Land of the Noble [Ones]"

- **Population:** about 88 million (2023 est.). Growth rate: 0.93%, 24% below age 15; 77% urban; 89% literate
- **Life expectancy at birth:** total population: 75 years, male: 74 years, female: 77 years (2023 est.)
- **Ethnic groups:** Persian 61%, Azeri 16%, Kurd 10%, Lur 6%, Balouch 2%, Arab 2%, Turkmen, other 3%
- **Religions:** Shi'a Muslim 90%, Sunni Muslim 8%, Zoroastrian, Jewish, Christian, and Baha'i 2%
- **Languages:** Persian and Persian dialects 60%, Azeri and Turkic dialects 18%, Kurdish 10%, Luri 6%, Balouchi 2%, Arabic 2%, other 2%
- **GDP per capita (PPP):** \$18,075 (2022 est.). [Afghanistan \$1,674; China \$21,476; Turkey \$37,274; U.S. \$76,399]. Iran's economy is the 19th largest in the world. [All data are from the World Bank.]
- **Area:** 1.648 million sq km = 636,128 sq miles; 31 provinces; capital, Tehran
- **History:** **Pre-Islamic Era: (ancient times to 651 AD):** Ancient times to 559 BC: early communities/kingdoms. Empire: 559 BC [330-150 BC, Hellenic period] to 651 AD
Islamic Era (651 AD to present): Constitutional Revolution 1905-11, CIA coup 1953, Islamic Republic 1979
- **Executive branch:**
 - chief of state: Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Hoseini-KHAMENEI (since 4 June 1989),
 - head of government: President Ebrahim Ra'isi (since 3 August 2021),
 - cabinet: Council of Ministers selected by the president with legislative approval; the Supreme Leader has some control over appointments to the more sensitive ministries,
 - elections: leader of the Islamic Revolution appointed for life by the 88-member Assembly of Experts (8-year terms, last election 26 February, 2016); president elected by popular vote for a four-year term,
 - Presidential election results (6/18/2021): Ebrahim Ra'isi elected president; percent of vote – Ra'isi, 72.35%; Rezaee, 13.81%; Hemmati, 9.81%; Ghazizadeh-Hashemi, 4.04%.
- **Legislative branch:**
 - unicameral Islamic Consultative Assembly or Majles-e-Shura-ye-Eslami (290 seats; of which 5 set-asides: Zoroastrians, and Jews 1 each; Christians 3; members elected by popular vote to serve four-year terms),
 - elections: last held March 1 2024; runoffs to be held in May 2024.
- **Judicial branch:**
 - Supreme Court - above a special clerical court, a revolutionary court, and a special administrative court.



