

Basic Facts About Afghanistan

Afghanistan Facts at a Glance (As of July, 2007)

Geography

Area:	648,000 sq. km. (252,000 sq. mi.); slightly smaller than Texas.
Terrain:	Landlocked; mostly mountains and desert.
Climate:	Dry, with cold winters and hot summers.
Cities:	Population
Kabul	2,142,300 (Capital, 2002)
Kandahar	339,200 (2002)
Herat	177,000 (1988 UN est.; current figures are probably significantly higher)
Mazar-e-Sharif	239,800 (2002)
Jalalabad	58,000 (1988 UN est.; current figures are probably significantly higher)
Kunduz	57,000 (1988 UN est.; current figures are probably significantly higher)

People

Nationality:	Noun and Adjective: Afghan(s)	
Population:	31.889.923. (July 2007).	
Annual Population Growth Rate:	2.63% (2007 est.)	
Main Ethnic Groups:	Pashtun	42%
	Tajik	27%
	Hazara	9%
	Uzbek	9%
	Minor Ethnic Groups	13%
	Turkmen	
	Aimaq	
	Baluch	
	Nuristani	
	Kizilbash	
Religions:	80% Sunni Muslim	
	19% Shi'a Muslim	
	1% Other	

Main Languages:	Dari (Afghan Persian) Pashto
Education:	Approximately 4 million children, of whom some 30% are girls, enrolled in school during 2003. Literacy: 28% Overall (2007 est.) 43% Male 13% Female (real figures may be lower given breakdown of education system and flight of educated Afghans)
Health:	Infant mortality rate: 157.4 /1,000 (2000) Life expectancy: 43.6 yrs. (male) (2000 est.) 43.9 yrs. (female)
Work Force:	Mostly in rural agriculture; number cannot be estimated due to conflict

Economy

GDP (official exchange rate):	\$8.8 Billion (2006 est.)												
GDP per capita (PPP):	\$800 (2004 est.)												
Inflation rate (consumer prices)	16.3% (2005 est)												
Export partners (2006):	<table> <tr> <td>India</td> <td>22.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pakistan</td> <td>21.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>US</td> <td>14.7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UK</td> <td>6.3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Denmark</td> <td>5.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Finland</td> <td>4.3%</td> </tr> </table>	India	22.1%	Pakistan	21.1%	US	14.7%	UK	6.3%	Denmark	5.5%	Finland	4.3%
India	22.1%												
Pakistan	21.1%												
US	14.7%												
UK	6.3%												
Denmark	5.5%												
Finland	4.3%												
Export commodities:	opium, fruits and nuts, handwoven carpets, wool, cotton, hides and pelts, precious and semi-precious gems												
Import partners (2006):	<table> <tr> <td>Pakistan</td> <td>38.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>US</td> <td>12.34%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Germany</td> <td>7.4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>India</td> <td>5.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Turkmenistan</td> <td>4.0%</td> </tr> </table>	Pakistan	38.8%	US	12.34%	Germany	7.4%	India	5.2%	Turkmenistan	4.0%		
Pakistan	38.8%												
US	12.34%												
Germany	7.4%												
India	5.2%												
Turkmenistan	4.0%												
Import commodities	Capital goods, food, textiles, petroleum products												
Currency:	Afghanis												
Average exchange rate	afs 46 = US \$1 (2006)												

Sources:
CIA World Factbook 2007, State Department Country Background Notes (May 2007)

For more information about the historical, political, and economic background of Afghanistan, please visit the following useful websites:

- [CIA World Factbook](#)-The World Bank Factbook is produced by CIA's Directorate of Intelligence. The Factbook is a comprehensive resource of facts and statistics on more than 250 countries and other entities.
- [Library of Congress Country Study of Afghanistan](#)-A historical study of Afghanistan based on research completed in 1997.
- [The Survival Guide to Kabul](#) - This report offers general tips for foreigners in Kabul and includes information about the city, hotels, guest houses, and restaurants.
- [U.S. Department of State Focus on Afghanistan](#)-Contains updated information, key reports, fact sheets and press releases relating to Afghanistan.

[Contact Us](#) | [Terms & Privacy](#) | [International Trade Administration](#) | [Department of Commerce](#) | [USA.gov](#)

This site contains links to non-Federal Government Web sites. Linking to these sites do not imply endorsement of any products, services, organizations, companies, information providers or content by the U.S. Department of Commerce.

This page last updated on August 6, 2007.