

## Afghanistan

**Official name:** Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (Jomhūri-ye Eslāmi-ye Afghānestān [Dari]; Da Afghanistan Eslami Jamhuriyat (Pashto)).

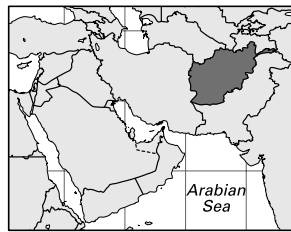
**Form of government:** Islamic republic<sup>1</sup> with two legislative bodies (House of Elders [102]; House of the People [249]).

**Head of state and government:** President.  
**Capital:** Kabul.

**Official languages:** Dari; Pashto<sup>2</sup>.

**Official religion:** Islam.

**Monetary unit:** 1 (new) afghani (Af) = 100 puls (puli); valuation (Sept. 1, 2005)  
1 U.S.\$ = Af 43.00; 1 £ = Af 79.17<sup>3</sup>.



### Population (2003–04 estimate)

Province	population ('000)	Province	population ('000)	Province	population ('000)
Badakhshān	725.7	Kābol (Kabul)	3,445.0	Paktikā	357.3
Bādghīs	305.6	Kandahār	913.9	Parvān <sup>4</sup>	737.2
Bāghlān	726.6	Kāpīsā	364.9	Samangān	318.5
Balkh	949.6	Khowst	304.6	Sar-e Pol	474.8
Bāmiān	391.7	Konar	328.1	Takhar	761.4
Farāb	343.4	Kondūz	833.2	Uruzgān	636.0
Fāryāb	794.1	Laghmān	378.1	Vardak	448.7
Ghazni	914.8	Lowgar	315.4	Zābol	249.1
Ghowr	492.4	Nangarhār	1,105.7	<b>Other</b>	
Helmand	756.4	Nimrūz	151.5	nomadic pop.	1,500.0
Herāt	1,208.0	Nūrestān	111.0	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22,191.5</b>
Jowzjān	447.5	Paktiā	401.3		

### Demography

**Area:** 249,347 sq mi, 645,807 sq km.

**Population (2005):** 23,867,000<sup>5</sup>.

**Density (2005):** persons per sq mi 95.7, persons per sq km 37.0.

**Urban-rural (2003):** urban 22.4%; rural 77.6%.

**Sex distribution (2004):** male 51.19%; female 48.81%.

**Age breakdown (2004):** under 15, 44.7%; 15–29, 26.8%; 30–44, 15.9%; 45–59, 8.5%; 60–74, 3.5%; 75 and over, 0.6%.

**Population projection (2010):** 28,926,000; (2020) 38,981,000.

**Ethnolinguistic composition (2000):** Pashtun c. 49%; Tajik c. 18%; Hazāra c. 9%; Uzbek c. 8%; Chahar Aimak c. 4%; Turkmen c. 3%; other c. 9%.

**Religious affiliation (2000):** Sunnī Muslim 89.2%; Shī'ī Muslim 8.9%; Zoroastrian 1.4%; Hindu 0.4%; other 0.1%.

**Major cities (2003–04):** Kabul 2,799,300<sup>6</sup>; Kandahār (Qandahār) 323,900; Herāt 254,800; Mazār-e Sharif 187,700; Jalālābād 97,900.

### Vital statistics

**Birth rate per 1,000 population (2004):** 47.3 (world avg. 21.1).

**Death rate per 1,000 population (2004):** 21.1 (world avg. 9.0).

**Total fertility rate (avg. births per childbearing woman; 2004):** 6.8.

**Life expectancy at birth (2004):** male 42.3 years; female 42.7 years.

### National economy

**Budget (2003–04).** Revenue: U.S.\$208,000,000<sup>7</sup> (tax revenue 63.0%, of which import duties 53.4%; nontax revenue 37.0%). Expenditures: U.S.\$2,826,000,000 (development expenditure 84.0%; current expenditure 16.0%).

**Gross domestic product (2003):** U.S.\$7,000,000,000<sup>8</sup> (U.S.\$340 per capita).

### Structure of gross domestic product and labour force

	2003		1992–93	
	in value U.S.\$'000,000	% of total value	labour force	% of labour force
Agriculture (legal)	2,310	33.0	4,276,100	67.2
Opium (illegal)	2,450	35.0		
Mining	—	—	298,900	4.7
Manufacturing	630	9.0		
Public utilities	560	8.0	139,900	2.2
Transp. and commun.	—	—		
Construction	210	3.0	81,400	1.3
Trade	420	6.0	420,600	6.6
Pub. administration	210	3.0	929,300	14.6
Services	210	3.0		
Other	—	—	214,300	3.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>6,360,500</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Public debt (external, outstanding; 2000):** U.S.\$5,319,000,000.

**Production (metric tons except as noted).** Agriculture, forestry, fishing (2003): wheat 4,361,000, grapes 558,000, rice 434,000, barley 410,000, corn (maize) 310,000, sugarcane 83,000, opium poppy (2004) 4,200<sup>9</sup>; livestock (number of live animals) 8,700,000 sheep, 7,200,000 goats, 3,600,000 cattle; roundwood 1,415,474 cu m; fish catch (2001) 800. Mining and quarrying:

salt (2000) 13,000; gemstones (2004) n.a. Manufacturing (by production value in [old] Af '000,000; 1988–89): food products 4,019; leather and fur products 2,678; textiles 1,760; printing and publishing 1,070; industrial chemicals 1,053. Energy production (consumption): electricity (kW-hr; 2003) 805,000,000 (721,000,000); coal (metric tons; 2002) 1,000 (1,000); petroleum products (metric tons; 2002) none (115,000); natural gas (cu m; 2002) 108,915,000 (108,915,000).

**Household income and expenditure (2003).** Average household size 8.0; sources of income: wages and salaries 49%, self-employed 47%, other 4%. **Population economically active (1994)**<sup>10</sup>: total 5,557,000; activity rate of total population 29.4% (participation rates: female 9.0%; unemployed [2004] c. 30%).

### Price index (March 2001 = 100)

	2001	2002	2003	2004
Consumer price index <sup>11</sup>	100.0	143.4	218.4	241.3

**Tourism (1997):** receipts U.S.\$1,000,000; expenditures U.S.\$1,000,000.

**Land use as % of total land area (2000):** in temporary crops 12.1%, in permanent crops 0.2%, in pasture 46.0%; overall forest area 2.1%.

### Foreign trade<sup>12</sup>

#### Balance of trade (current prices)

	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04
U.S.\$'000,000	-1,628	-2,352	-1,957
% of total	92.3%	92.2%	87.2%

**Imports (2003–04):** U.S.\$2,101,000,000 (machinery and equipment 22.8%, fabrics, clothing, and footwear 16.2%, food 14.7%, chemicals 10.5%). **Major import sources:** China 18.2%; Japan 14.2%; Pakistan 8.6%; India 5.8%.

**Exports (2003–04):** U.S.\$144,000,000 (dried fruits 41.0%, skins 20.1%, carpets and handicrafts 14.6%). **Major export destinations:** Pakistan 68.9%; India 7.6%; Russia 5.6%.

### Transport and communications

**Transport.** Railroads (2002): 25 km. Roads (2001): total length 20,720 km (paved 12%). Vehicles (2003–04): passenger cars 176,723; trucks and buses 116,278. Air transport: passenger-km (2000) 143,000,000; (2000) metric ton-km cargo 21,000,000; airports (2002) 2.

### Communications

Medium	date	unit	number	units per 1,000 persons
Daily newspapers	2000	circulation	129,000	5.0
Radio	2000	receivers	2,950,000	114
Television	2000	receivers	362,000	14
Telephones	2003	main lines	36,700	1.8
Cellular telephones	2003	subscribers	135,000	6.5
Internet	2003	users	700	0.03

### Education and health

**Educational attainment:** n.a. **Literacy (2003)**<sup>10</sup>: total population age 15 and over literate 29%; males 43%; females 14%.

### Education (2003)

	schools	teachers	students	student/teacher ratio
Primary	4,876 <sup>13</sup>	58,312 <sup>13</sup>	3,900,000	52.9 <sup>13</sup>
Secondary	1,994 <sup>13</sup>	34,271 <sup>13</sup>	400,000	18.1 <sup>13</sup>
Higher <sup>14</sup>	1	462	13,000	28.1

**Health (2002):** physicians 3,617 (1 per 5,675 persons); hospital beds 12,668 (1 per 1,620 persons); infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births (2004) 166.0.

**Food (2003):** daily per capita caloric intake 2,802 ([1999] vegetable products 79%, animal products 21%); 114% of FAO recommended minimum.

### Military

**Total active duty personnel (August 2004):** 13,000 (army 100%); size of planned army is 65,000, size of planned air force 8,000<sup>15</sup>. **Military expenditure as percentage of GDP (2003):** c. 9%; per capita expenditure c. U.S.\$28.

<sup>1</sup>From promulgation of new constitution on Jan. 26, 2004. <sup>2</sup>Six additional locally official languages per the 2004 constitution are Uzbek, Turkmen, Balochi, Kafiri (Nuristani), Pashai, and Pamiri. <sup>3</sup>The afghani was re-denominated on Oct. 7, 2002, from that date 100 (old) afghani equaled 1 (new) afghani. <sup>4</sup>Includes Panjsher province created May 2004. <sup>5</sup>Excludes Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran and other Afghans abroad; includes 1.5 million nomads. <sup>6</sup>Urban agglomeration. <sup>7</sup>Domestic revenue only; excludes heavy reliance on foreign assistance. <sup>8</sup>1/3 of which is illegal opiate receipts. <sup>9</sup>Represents 87% of world production. <sup>10</sup>Based on settled population only. <sup>11</sup>March 21 to March 20 fiscal year. <sup>12</sup>Per Afghan authorities; exports are f.o.b. and imports are c.i.f. <sup>13</sup>2002. <sup>14</sup>University of Kabul only. <sup>15</sup>Foreign troops (March 2005): 8,000-member, NATO-controlled International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and the 17,000-member, non-ISAF U.S. troops searching for al-Qaeda and Taliban fighters.

### Internet resources for further information:

- Central Statistics Office <http://www.aims.org.af/cso/index.htm>