

Libya



Background

Col. Muammar Abu Minyar al-QADHAFI took power in 1969. He has espoused his own political system - a combination of socialism and Islam - which he calls the Third International Theory. UN sanctions which were imposed in 1992 isolated the al-QADHAFI regime politically. Those sanctions were suspended in April 1999. Recently, al-QADHAFI started to improve his relations with European countries.

Geography

Location: Northern Africa, bordering the Mediterranean Sea, between Egypt and Tunisia

Area: total: 1,759,540 sq km
land: 1,759,540
water: 0 sq km

Coastline: 1,770 km

Climate: Mediterranean along coast; dry, extreme desert interior

Terrain: mostly barren, flat to undulating plains, plateaus, depressions.

Natural resources: petroleum, natural gas, gypsum

Geography - note: more than 90% of the country is desert or semidesert

People

Population: 5,499,074

note: includes 166,510 non-nationals.

Population growth rate: 2.39%

Languages: Arabic, Italian, English, all are widely understood in the major cities

Government

Country name: *conventional long form:* Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

Government type: Jamahiriya

Capital: Tripoli

Independence: 24 December 1951 (from Italy)

Executive branch: *chief of state:* Revolutionary Leader Col. Muammar Abu Minyar al-QADHAFI

International organization participation: ABEDA, AfDB, AFESD, AL, AMF, AMU, CAEU, ECA, FAO, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICRM, IDA, IDB, IFAD, IFC, IFRCS, ILO, IMF, IMO, Interpol, IOC, IOM (observer), ISO, ITU, NAM, OAPEC, OAU, OIC, OPEC, PCA, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WCO, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO.

Economy

Economy - overview: The socialist-oriented economy depends primarily upon revenues from the oil sector, which contribute practically all export earnings and about one-quarter of GDP. These oil revenues and a small population give Libya one of the highest per capita GDPs in Africa, but little of this income flows down to the lower orders of society. Import restrictions and inefficient resource allocations have led to periodic shortages of basic goods and foodstuffs. The nonoil manufacturing and construction sectors, which account for about 20% of GDP, have expanded from processing mostly agricultural products to include the production of petrochemicals, iron, steel, and aluminum. Climatic conditions and poor soils severely limit agricultural output, and Libya imports about 75% of its food. Higher oil prices in the last three years led to an increase in export revenues, which has improved macroeconomic balances but has done little to stimulate broad-based economic growth. Libya is making slow progress toward economic liberalization and the upgrading of economic infrastructure, but truly market-based reforms will be slow in coming.

GDP: purchasing power parity - \$41 billion

GDP - real growth rate: 1.2%

GDP - per capita: purchasing power parity - \$7,600

GDP - composition by sector : agriculture: 9%
industry : 45%
services : 46%

Inflation rate (consumer prices): 1% %

Budget: revenues: \$13.7 billion

expenditures: \$8.6 billion, including capital expenditures of \$NA.

Agriculture - products: wheat, barley, olives, dates, citrus, vegetables, peanuts, soybeans; cattle.

Industries: petroleum, food processing, textiles, handicrafts, cement.

Oil - production: 1.429 million bbl/day.

Oil - consumption: 216,000 bbl/day

Exports: \$ 11.8 billion f.o.b

Exports - commodities: crude oil, refined petroleum products.

Exports - partners: Italy 39.6%, Germany 15.5%, Spain 14%, Turkey 6.3%, France, Switzerland, Tunisia.

Imports: \$ 6.3 billion f.o.b.

Imports - commodities: machinery, transport equipment, food, manufactured goods.

Imports - partners: Italy 28.5%, Germany 12.1%, UK 6.6%, Tunisia 6.0%, France, South Korea.

Currency: Libyan dinar (LYD)

Exchange rates: Libyan dinars per US dollar - 1.2 (2003).

Transportation

Railways: 0 km

Highways: total: 24,484 km

paved: 6,798 km

unpaved: 17,686 km

Pipelines: crude oil 4,383 km; petroleum products 443 km (includes liquefied petroleum gas or LPG 256 km); natural gas 1,947 km.

Ports and harbors: Al Khums, Banghazi, Darnah, Marsa al Burayqah, Misratah, Ra's Lanuf, Tobruk, Tripoli, Zuwarah.

Merchant marine: *total:* 21 ships (1,000 GRT or over) 130,081 GRT/115,480 DWT
ships by type: cargo 9, liquefied gas 3, petroleum tanker 1, roll on/roll off 4, short-sea passenger 4
note: includes some foreign-owned ships registered here as a flag of convenience: Algeria 1, Kuwait 1, UAE 1.

Airports: 136

Heliports: 1