

Algeria



Introduction Algeria

Background: After more than a century of rule by France, Algerians fought through much of the 1950s to achieve independence in 1962. Algeria's primary political party, the National Liberation Front (FLN), has dominated politics ever since. Many Algerians in the subsequent generation were not satisfied, however, and moved to counter the FLN's centrality in Algerian politics. The surprising first round success of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) in the December 1991 balloting spurred the Algerian army to intervene and postpone the second round of elections to prevent what the secular elite feared would be an extremist-led government from assuming power. The army began a crack down on the FIS that spurred FIS supporters to begin attacking government targets. The government later allowed elections featuring pro-government and moderate religious-based parties, but did not appease the activists who progressively widened their attacks. The fighting escalated into an insurgency, which saw intense fighting between 1992-98 and which resulted in over 100,000 deaths - many attributed to indiscriminate massacres of villagers by extremists. The government gained the upper hand by the late-1990s and FIS's armed wing, the Islamic Salvation Army, disbanded in January 2000. However, small numbers of armed militants persist in confronting government forces and conducting ambushes and occasional

attacks on villages. The army placed Abdelaziz BOUTEFLIKA in the presidency in 1999 in a fraudulent election but claimed neutrality in his 2004 landslide reelection victory. Longstanding problems continue to face BOUTEFLIKA in his second term, including the ethnic minority Berbers' ongoing autonomy campaign, large-scale unemployment, a shortage of housing, unreliable electrical and water supplies, government inefficiencies and corruption, and the continuing - although significantly degraded - activities of extremist militants. Algeria must also diversify its petroleum-based economy, which has yielded a large cash reserve but which has not been used to redress Algeria's many social and infrastructure problems.

Geography	Algeria
Location:	Northern Africa, bordering the Mediterranean Sea, between Morocco and Tunisia
Geographic coordinates:	28 00 N, 3 00 E
Map references:	Africa
Area:	<i>total:</i> 2,381,740 sq km <i>land:</i> 2,381,740 sq km <i>water:</i> 0 sq km
Area - comparative:	slightly less than 3.5 times the size of Texas
Land boundaries:	<i>total:</i> 6,343 km <i>border countries:</i> Libya 982 km, Mali 1,376 km, Mauritania 463 km, Morocco 1,559 km, Niger 956 km, Tunisia 965 km, Western Sahara 42 km
Coastline:	998 km
Maritime claims:	<i>territorial sea:</i> 12 nm <i>exclusive fishing zone:</i> 32-52 nm
Climate:	arid to semiarid; mild, wet winters with hot, dry summers along coast; drier with cold winters and hot summers on high plateau; sirocco is a hot, dust/sand-laden wind especially common in summer
Terrain:	mostly high plateau and desert; some mountains; narrow, discontinuous coastal plain
Elevation extremes:	<i>lowest point:</i> Chott Melrhir -40 m <i>highest point:</i> Tahat 3,003 m
Natural	petroleum, natural gas, iron ore, phosphates, uranium, lead,

resources:	zinc
Land use:	<i>arable land:</i> 3.17% <i>permanent crops:</i> 0.28% <i>other:</i> 96.55% (2005)
Irrigated land:	5,690 sq km (2003)
Natural hazards:	mountainous areas subject to severe earthquakes; mudslides and floods in rainy season
Environment - current issues:	soil erosion from overgrazing and other poor farming practices; desertification; dumping of raw sewage, petroleum refining wastes, and other industrial effluents is leading to the pollution of rivers and coastal waters; Mediterranean Sea, in particular, becoming polluted from oil wastes, soil erosion, and fertilizer runoff; inadequate supplies of potable water
Environment - international agreements:	<i>party to:</i> Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Environmental Modification, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Wetlands <i>signed, but not ratified:</i> none of the selected agreements
Geography - note:	second-largest country in Africa (after Sudan)

People	Algeria
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Population: 32,930,091 (July 2006 est.)

Age structure: *0-14 years:* 28.1% (male 4,722,076/female 4,539,713)
15-64 years: 67.1% (male 11,133,802/female 10,964,502)
65 years and over: 4.8% (male 735,444/female 834,554) (2006 est.)

Median age: *total:* 24.9 years
male: 24.7 years
female: 25.1 years (2006 est.)

Population growth rate: 1.22% (2006 est.)

Birth rate: 17.14 births/1,000 population (2006 est.)

Death rate: 4.61 deaths/1,000 population (2006 est.)

Net migration rate: -0.35 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2006 est.)

Sex ratio: *at birth:* 1.05 male(s)/female
under 15 years: 1.04 male(s)/female
15-64 years: 1.02 male(s)/female

65 years and over: 0.88 male(s)/female
total population: 1.02 male(s)/female (2006 est.)

Infant mortality rate: *total: 29.87 deaths/1,000 live births*
male: 33.62 deaths/1,000 live births
female: 25.94 deaths/1,000 live births (2006 est.)

Life expectancy at birth: *total population: 73.26 years*
male: 71.68 years
female: 74.92 years (2006 est.)

Total fertility rate: 1.89 children born/woman (2006 est.)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate: 0.1% ; note - no country specific models provided (2001 est.)

HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS: 9,100 (2003 est.)

HIV/AIDS - deaths: less than 500 (2003 est.)

Major infectious diseases: *degree of risk: intermediate*
food or waterborne diseases: bacterial diarrhea, hepatitis A, and typhoid fever
vectorborne disease: cutaneous leishmaniasis is a high risk in some locations (2005)

Nationality: *noun: Algerian(s)*
adjective: Algerian

Ethnic groups: Arab-Berber 99%, European less than 1%
note: almost all Algerians are Berber in origin, not Arab; the minority who identify themselves as Berber live mostly in the mountainous region of Kabylie east of Algiers; the Berbers are also Muslim but identify with their Berber rather than Arab cultural heritage; Berbers have long agitated, sometimes violently, for autonomy; the government is unlikely to grant autonomy but has offered to begin sponsoring teaching Berber language in schools

Religions: Sunni Muslim (state religion) 99%, Christian and Jewish 1%

Languages: Arabic (official), French, Berber dialects

Literacy: *definition: age 15 and over can read and write*
total population: 70%
male: 78.8%
female: 61% (2003 est.)

Government	Algeria
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Country name: *conventional long form:* People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
conventional short form: Algeria
local long form: Al Jumhuriyah al Jaza'iriyah ad Dimuqratiyah ash Sha'biyah
local short form: Al Jaza'ir

Government type: republic

Capital: *name:* Algiers
geographic coordinates: 36 47 N, 2 03 E
time difference: UTC+1 (6 hours ahead of Washington, DC during Standard Time)

Administrative divisions: 48 provinces (wilayat, singular - wilaya); Adrar, Ain Defla, Ain Temouchent, Alger, Annaba, Batna, Bechar, Bejaia, Biskra, Blida, Bordj Bou Arreridj, Bouira, Boumerdes, Chlef, Constantine, Djelfa, El Bayadh, El Oued, El Tarf, Ghardaia, Guelma, Illizi, Jijel, Khenchela, Laghouat, Mascara, Medea, Mila, Mostaganem, M'Sila, Naama, Oran, Ouargla, Oum el Bouaghi, Relizane, Saida, Setif, Sidi Bel Abbes, Skikda, Souk Ahras, Tamanghasset, Tebessa, Tiaret, Tindouf, Tipaza, Tissemsilt, Tizi Ouzou, Tlemcen

Independence: 5 July 1962 (from France)

National holiday: Revolution Day, 1 November (1954)

Constitution: 8 September 1963; revised 19 November 1976, effective 22 November 1976; revised 3 November 1988, 23 February 1989, and 28 November 1996

Legal system: socialist, based on French and Islamic law; judicial review of legislative acts in ad hoc Constitutional Council composed of various public officials, including several Supreme Court justices; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction

Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal

Executive branch: *chief of state:* President Abdelaziz BOUTEFLIKA (since 28 April 1999)
head of government: Prime Minister Abdelaziz BELKHADEM
cabinet: Cabinet of Ministers appointed by the president
elections: president elected by popular vote for a five-year term (eligible for a second term); election last held 8 April 2004 (next to be held in April 2009); prime minister appointed by the president

election results: Abdelaziz BOUTEFLIKA reelected president for second term; percent of vote - Abdelaziz BOUTEFLIKA 85%, Ali BENFLIS 6.4%, Abdellah DJABALLAH 5%

Legislative branch: bicameral Parliament consisting of the National People's Assembly or Al-Majlis Ech-Chaabi Al-Watani (389 seats - formerly 380 seats; members elected by popular vote to serve five-year terms) and the Council of Nations (Senate) (144 seats; one-third of the members appointed by the president, two-thirds elected by indirect vote; members serve six-year terms; the constitution requires half the council to be renewed every three years)
elections: National People's Assembly - last held 30 May 2002 (next to be held in 2007); Council of Nations (Senate) - last held 30 December 2003 (next to be held in 2006)
election results: National People's Assembly - percent of vote by party - NA; seats by party - FLN 199, RND 47, Islah 43, MSP 38, PT 21, FNA 8, EnNahda 1, PRA 1, MEN 1, independents 30; Council of Nations - percent of vote by party - NA; seats by party NA

Judicial branch: Supreme Court

Political parties and leaders: Algerian National Front or FNA [Moussa TOUATI]; National Democratic Rally (Rassemblement National Democratique) or RND [Ahmed OUYAHIA, secretary general]; Islamic Salvation Front or FIS (outlawed April 1992) [Ali BELHADJ, Dr. Abassi MADANI, Rabeh KEBIR]; National Entente Movement or MEN [Ali BOUKHAZNA]; National Liberation Front or FLN [Abdelaziz BELKHADEM, secretary general]; National Reform Movement or Islah (formerly MRN) [Abdellah DJABALLAH]; National Renewal Party or PRA [Yacine TERKMANE]; Progressive Republican Party [Khadir DRISS]; Rally for Culture and Democracy or RCD [Said SADI]; Renaissance Movement or EnNahda Movement [Fatah RABEI]; Socialist Forces Front or FFS [Hocine Ait AHMED, secretary general]; Social Liberal Party or PSL [Ahmed KHELIL]; Society of Peace Movement or MSP [Boudjerra SOLTANI]; Workers Party or PT [Louisa HANOUN]
note: a law banning political parties based on religion was enacted in March 1997

Political pressure groups and leaders: The Algerian Human Rights League or LADH or LADDH [Yahia Ali ABDENOUR]; SOS Disparus [Nacera DUTOUR]; Somoud [Ali MERABET]

International ABEDA, AfDB, AFESD, AMF, AMU, AU, BIS, FAO, G-

organization participation: 15, G-24, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC, ICCt (signatory), ICRM, IDA, IDB, IFAD, IFC, IFRCS, IHO, ILO, IMF, IMO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO, ITU, ITUC, LAS, MIGA, MONUC, NAM, OAPEC, OAS (observer), OIC, ONUB, OPCW, OPEC, OSCE (partner), UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNMEE, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO (observer)

Diplomatic representation in the US: *chief of mission:* Ambassador Amine KHERBI
chancery: 2118 Kalorama Road NW, Washington, DC 20008
telephone: [1] (202) 265-2800
FAX: [1] (202) 667-2174

Diplomatic representation from the US: *chief of mission:* Ambassador Robert S. FORD
embassy: 04 Chemin Cheikh Bachir Ibrahimi El-Biar 16030, Algiers
mailing address: B. P. 408, Alger-Gare, 16030 Algiers
telephone: [213] (021) 69-12-55
FAX: [213] (021) 69-39-79

Flag description: two equal vertical bands of green (hoist side) and white; a red, five-pointed star within a red crescent centered over the two-color boundary; the crescent, star, and color green are traditional symbols of Islam (the state religion)

Economy	Algeria
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Economy - overview: The hydrocarbons sector is the backbone of the economy, accounting for roughly 60% of budget revenues, 30% of GDP, and over 95% of export earnings. Algeria has the seventh-largest reserves of natural gas in the world and is the second-largest gas exporter; it ranks 14th in oil reserves. Sustained high oil prices in recent years, along with macroeconomic policy reforms supported by the IMF, have helped improve Algeria's financial and macroeconomic indicators. Algeria is running substantial trade surpluses and building up record foreign exchange reserves. Algeria has decreased its external debt to less than 10% of GDP after repaying its Paris Club and London Club debt in 2006. Real GDP has risen due to higher oil output and increased government spending. The government's continued efforts to diversify the economy by attracting foreign and domestic investment outside the energy sector, however, has had little success in reducing high unemployment and improving living standards. Structural reform within the economy, such as development of the banking sector and the construction of infrastructure, moves ahead slowly hampered by corruption and

bureaucratic resistance.

GDP (purchasing power parity):	\$253.4 billion (2006 est.)
GDP (official exchange rate):	\$92.22 billion (2006 est.)
GDP - real growth rate:	5.6% (2006 est.)
GDP - per capita (PPP):	\$7,700 (2006 est.)
GDP - composition by sector:	<i>agriculture: 9.4%</i> <i>industry: 58.1%</i> <i>services: 32.5% (2006 est.)</i>
Labor force:	9.31 million (2006 est.)
Labor force - by occupation:	agriculture 14%, industry 14%, construction and public works 10%, trade 13.4%, government 32%, other 10% (2003 est.)
Unemployment rate:	15.7% (2006 est.)
Population below poverty line:	25% (2005 est.)
Household income or consumption by percentage share:	<i>lowest 10%: 2.8%</i> <i>highest 10%: 26.8% (1995)</i>
Distribution of family income - Gini index:	35.3 (1995)
Inflation rate (consumer prices):	3% (2006 est.)
Investment (gross fixed):	23.4% of GDP (2006 est.)
Budget:	<i>revenues: \$59.26 billion</i> <i>expenditures: \$49.14 billion; including capital expenditures of \$5.8 billion (2006 est.)</i>
Public debt:	18.6% of GDP (2006 est.)
Agriculture - products:	wheat, barley, oats, grapes, olives, citrus, fruits; sheep, cattle

Industries: petroleum, natural gas, light industries, mining, electrical, petrochemical, food processing

Industrial production growth rate: 10% (2006 est.)

Electricity - production: 29.39 billion kWh (2004 est.)

Electricity - production by source: *fossil fuel:* 99.7%
hydro: 0.3%
nuclear: 0%
other: 0% (2001)

Electricity - consumption: 27.4 billion kWh (2004 est.)

Electricity - exports: 230 million kWh (2004 est.)

Electricity - imports: 300 million kWh (2004 est.)

Oil - production: 1.373 million bbl/day (2005 est.)

Oil - consumption: 233,000 bbl/day (2004 est.)

Oil - exports: 1.127 million bbl/day (2004 est.)

Oil - imports: 0 bbl/day (2004 est.)

Oil - proved reserves: 11 billion bbl (2006 est.)

Natural gas - production: 80.15 billion cu m (2004 est.)

Natural gas - consumption: 19.28 billion cu m (2004 est.)

Natural gas - exports: 60.87 billion cu m (2004 est.)

Natural gas - imports: 0 cu m (2004 est.)

Natural gas - proved reserves: 4.545 trillion cu m (1 January 2005 est.)

Current account balance: \$25.8 billion (2006 est.)

Exports: \$55.6 billion f.o.b. (2006 est.)

Exports - petroleum, natural gas, and petroleum products 97%

commodities:

Exports - partners: US 22.6%, Italy 16%, Spain 10.5%, France 10%, Canada 7.9%, Brazil 6.5%, Belgium 4.3%, Germany 4.2% (2005)

Imports: \$27.6 billion f.o.b. (2006 est.)

Imports - commodities: capital goods, foodstuffs, consumer goods

Imports - partners: France 28.1%, Italy 7.8%, Spain 7.2%, China 6.6%, Germany 6.3%, US 5.5% (2005)

Reserves of foreign exchange and gold: \$71.96 billion (2006 est.)

Debt - external: \$5 billion (2006 est.)

Economic aid - recipient: \$313 million (2004 est.)

Currency (code): Algerian dinar (DZD)

Currency code: DZD

Exchange rates: Algerian dinars per US dollar - 73.2 (2006), 73.276 (2005), 72.061 (2004), 77.395 (2003), 79.682 (2002)

Fiscal year: calendar year

Communications	Algeria
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Telephones - main lines in use:	2.572 million (2005)
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Telephones - mobile cellular:	13.661 million (2005)
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Telephone system:	<i>general assessment:</i> telephone density in Algeria is very low, not exceeding five telephones per 100 persons; the number of fixed main lines increased in the last few years to nearly 2.6 million, but only about two-thirds of these have subscribers; much of the infrastructure is outdated and inefficient <i>domestic:</i> good service in north but sparse in south; domestic satellite system with 12 earth stations (20 additional domestic earth stations are planned) <i>international:</i> country code - 213; submarine cables - 5; microwave radio relay to Italy, France, Spain, Morocco, and Tunisia; coaxial cable to Morocco and Tunisia; participant in Medarabtel; satellite earth stations - 51 (Intelsat, Intersputnik,
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and Arabsat) (2005)

Radio broadcast stations: AM 25, FM 1, shortwave 8 (1999)

Radios: 7.1 million (1997)

Television broadcast stations: 46 (plus 216 repeaters) (1995)

Televisions: 3.1 million (1997)

Internet country code: .dz

Internet hosts: 1,202 (2006)

Internet Service Providers (ISPs): 2 (2000)

Internet users: 1.92 million (2005)

Transportation **Algeria**

Airports: 142 (2006)

Airports - with paved runways: *total: 52*
over 3,047 m: 10
2,438 to 3,047 m: 27
1,524 to 2,437 m: 10
914 to 1,523 m: 4
under 914 m: 1 (2006)

Airports - with unpaved runways: *total: 90*
2,438 to 3,047 m: 2
1,524 to 2,437 m: 26
914 to 1,523 m: 39
under 914 m: 23 (2006)

Heliports: 1 (2006)

Pipelines: condensate 1,344 km; gas 85,946 km; liquid petroleum gas 2,213 km; oil 6,496 km (2005)

Railways: *total: 3,973 km*
standard gauge: 2,888 km 1.435-m gauge (283 km electrified)
narrow gauge: 1,085 km 1.055-m gauge (2005)

Roadways: *total:* 108,302 km
paved: 76,028 km
unpaved: 32,274 km (2004)

Merchant marine: *total:* 41 ships (1000 GRT or over) 744,406 GRT/766,764 DWT
by type: bulk carrier 7, cargo 10, chemical tanker 2, liquefied gas 9, passenger/cargo 4, petroleum tanker 5, roll on/roll off 3, specialized tanker 1
foreign-owned: 13 (UK 13) (2006)

Ports and terminals: Algiers, Annaba, Arzew, Bejaia, Djendjene, Jijel, Mostaganem, Oran, Skikda

Military	Algeria
Military branches:	National Popular Army (ANP; includes Land Forces), Algerian National Navy (MRA), Air Force (QJJ), Territorial Air Defense Force (2005)
Military service age and obligation:	19-30 years of age for compulsory military service; conscript service obligation - 18 months (6 months basic training, 12 months civil projects) (2006)
Manpower available for military service:	<i>males age 19-49:</i> 8,033,049 <i>females age 19-49:</i> 7,926,351 (2005 est.)
Manpower fit for military service:	<i>males age 19-49:</i> 6,590,079 <i>females age 19-49:</i> 6,711,285 (2005 est.)
Manpower reaching military service age annually:	<i>males age 18-49:</i> 374,639 <i>females age 19-49:</i> 369,021 (2005 est.)
Military expenditures - dollar figure:	\$3 billion (2005 est.)
Military expenditures - percent of GDP:	3.2% (2005 est.)

Transnational Issues	Algeria
Disputes - international:	Algeria supports the exiled Sahrawi Polisario Front and rejects Moroccan administration of Western Sahara; most of the approximately 102,000 Western Saharan Sahrawi

refugees are sheltered in camps in Tindouf, Algeria; Algeria's border with Morocco remains an irritant to bilateral relations, each nation accusing the other of harboring militants and arms smuggling; in an attempt to improve relations, Morocco, in mid-2004, unilaterally lifted the requirement that Algerians visiting Morocco possess entry visas - a gesture not reciprocated by Algeria; Algeria remains concerned about armed bandits operating throughout the Sahel who sometimes destabilize southern Algerian towns; dormant disputes include Libyan claims of about 32,000 sq km still reflected on its maps of southeastern Algeria and the FLN's assertions of a claim to Chirac Pastures in southeastern Morocco

Refugees and internally displaced persons: *refugees (country of origin):* 90,000 (Western Saharan Sahrawi, mostly living in Algerian-sponsored camps in the southwestern Algerian town of Tindouf)
IDPs: 400,000-600,000 (conflict between government forces, Islamic insurgents) (2006)

Trafficking in persons: *current situation:* Algeria is a transit and destination country for men, women, and children from sub-Saharan Africa and Asia trafficked for forced labor and sexual exploitation; many victims willingly migrate to Algeria en route to European countries with the help of smugglers, where they are often forced into prostitution, labor, and begging to pay off their smuggling debt; armed militants reportedly traffic women for sexual exploitation and involuntary servitude, and children may be trafficked for forced labor as domestic servants or street vendors
tier rating: Tier 2 Watch List - Algeria took no steps to assess the scope of trafficking in the country and reported no investigations or prosecutions for trafficking offenses this year