

CIA World Factbook–Style Country Report

Republic of Haiti







Region: Caribbean (Greater Antilles)

Capital: Port-au-Prince

Largest City: Port-au-Prince

Area: 27,750 sq km

Population: ~11.8 million (2026 est.)

Official Languages: Haitian Creole, French

Currency: Haitian Gourde (HTG)

Time Zone: UTC-5 (no daylight saving time)

Flag

National Flag: *(See above.)*

Map

Location: Western one-third of the island of Hispaniola, sharing its eastern border with the Dominican Republic. It is bordered by the Caribbean Sea to the south and the Atlantic Ocean to the north.

Executive Summary

Haiti remains the Western Hemisphere's most fragile state. Political instability, widespread gang violence, economic collapse, weak institutions, and recurring natural disasters continue to undermine governance. Armed criminal organizations now exercise effective control over significant portions of Port-au-Prince and key transportation corridors, severely limiting the government's authority.

International efforts led by a multinational security support mission have slowed—but not reversed—the deterioration. Humanitarian needs remain severe, while economic recovery is constrained by insecurity, infrastructure destruction, and institutional weakness.

Geography

Category	Data
Location	Caribbean
Coastline	1,771 km
Highest Point	Pic la Selle (2,680 m)
Terrain	Mountainous with narrow coastal plains
Climate	Tropical
Natural Hazards	Hurricanes, earthquakes, flooding, landslides, drought

Population

Category	Assessment
Population	~11.8 million

Category	Assessment
----------	------------

Urban Population	~58%
------------------	------

Population Growth	Slow
-------------------	------

Median Age	~24 years
------------	-----------

Life Expectancy	~65 years
-----------------	-----------

Large-scale emigration continues toward the United States, Dominican Republic, Canada, and South America.

Ethnic Composition

- Predominantly African descent
- Small mixed-race minority
- Small expatriate communities

Religion

- Roman Catholic
- Protestant
- Vodou (widely practiced alongside Christianity)

Government

Category	Status
----------	--------

Government Type	Transitional government
-----------------	-------------------------

Head of State	Transitional Presidential Council
---------------	-----------------------------------

Head of Government	Prime Minister
--------------------	----------------

Legislature	Transitional arrangements
-------------	---------------------------

Category	Status
----------	--------

Constitution	1987 (amended)
--------------	----------------

National elections remain a principal objective but have repeatedly been delayed by insecurity.

Administrative Divisions

Haiti consists of **10 departments**:

- Artibonite
 - Centre
 - Grand'Anse
 - Nippes
 - Nord
 - Nord-Est
 - Nord-Ouest
 - Ouest
 - Sud
 - Sud-Est
-

Economy

Overview

Haiti possesses the smallest economy in the Americas and remains heavily dependent on international assistance and remittances.

GDP

- Approximately US\$22 billion (PPP estimate)

GDP Composition

- Agriculture

- Light manufacturing
 - Textiles
 - Services
 - Informal economy
-

Major Industries

- Apparel assembly
 - Agriculture
 - Construction
 - Food processing
 - Cement
 - Handicrafts
-

Agriculture

Major products include:

- Coffee
 - Mangoes
 - Sugar cane
 - Rice
 - Beans
 - Maize
 - Bananas
 - Livestock
-

Infrastructure

Transportation

Road infrastructure is generally poor.

Major port:

- Port-au-Prince

International airports:

- Toussaint Louverture International Airport
 - Cap-Haïtien International Airport
-

Energy

Electricity generation remains insufficient.

Challenges include:

- Fuel shortages
- Aging infrastructure
- Theft
- Limited rural access

Many communities rely on generators or solar systems.

Communications

Mobile phone use is widespread despite weak infrastructure.

Internet access continues to expand but remains limited outside urban centers.

Natural Resources

- Bauxite (limited)
- Copper
- Gold (undeveloped)
- Marble
- Hydropower potential

- Fertile valleys
-

Military & Security

Armed Forces

Forces Armées d'Haïti (FAd'H)

The military is relatively small and primarily focused on:

- Internal security support
- Border assistance
- Disaster response

Most internal security responsibilities fall to the:

- Haitian National Police (HNP)
-

International Security Assistance

International partners continue supporting security operations through:

- Multinational Security Support Mission
 - Training programs
 - Intelligence sharing
 - Police modernization
-

Intelligence Assessment

Internal Security

Threat Level: CRITICAL

Major challenges:

- Powerful criminal gangs
- Kidnapping
- Extortion

- Arms trafficking
- Prison instability
- Weak judicial institutions

Large portions of metropolitan Port-au-Prince remain contested or effectively controlled by armed gangs.

External Security

Haiti faces no major conventional military threat from neighboring states.

Primary external security concerns include:

- Maritime trafficking
 - Illegal migration
 - Organized crime
 - Human trafficking
-

Economy Intelligence Assessment

Indicator	Assessment
Inflation	High
Food Security	Critical
Currency Stability	Weak
Foreign Investment	Very Low
Infrastructure	Poor
Fiscal Stability	Fragile

Humanitarian Situation

Current concerns include:

- Internal displacement
- Food insecurity
- Cholera outbreaks
- Limited healthcare access
- Education disruption
- Housing shortages

International humanitarian organizations remain essential to basic service delivery.

Foreign Relations

Major partners include:

- United States
 - Canada
 - France
 - Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
 - United Nations
 - Organization of American States
-

Strategic Outlook (2026–2031)

Possible developments include:

- Gradual restoration of government authority if security operations succeed.
- Continued humanitarian dependence absent institutional reform.
- Slow economic recovery contingent upon improved security.
- Persistent migration pressures.
- Increased international engagement in governance and police capacity building.

Without sustained improvements in security, political legitimacy, and economic governance, Haiti is likely to remain among the most fragile states in the Western Hemisphere.

ATLAS Intelligence Assessment

Category	Assessment
Political Stability	Very High Risk
Internal Security	Critical
Economic Stability	Very High Risk
Humanitarian Situation	Critical
Organized Crime	Critical
Natural Disaster Risk	Very High
Regional Military Threat	Low
Overall National Stability	Critical Risk

Overall Assessment

Haiti's principal security challenge is internal rather than external. The convergence of gang dominance, institutional weakness, chronic poverty, and recurring natural disasters has created a self-reinforcing cycle of instability. While international assistance has prevented a complete collapse of state functions, durable recovery will require long-term improvements in governance, public security, judicial effectiveness, and economic opportunity. From an intelligence perspective, Haiti should be monitored as a persistent humanitarian and security concern with the potential for regional spillover through migration, transnational crime, and illicit trafficking.