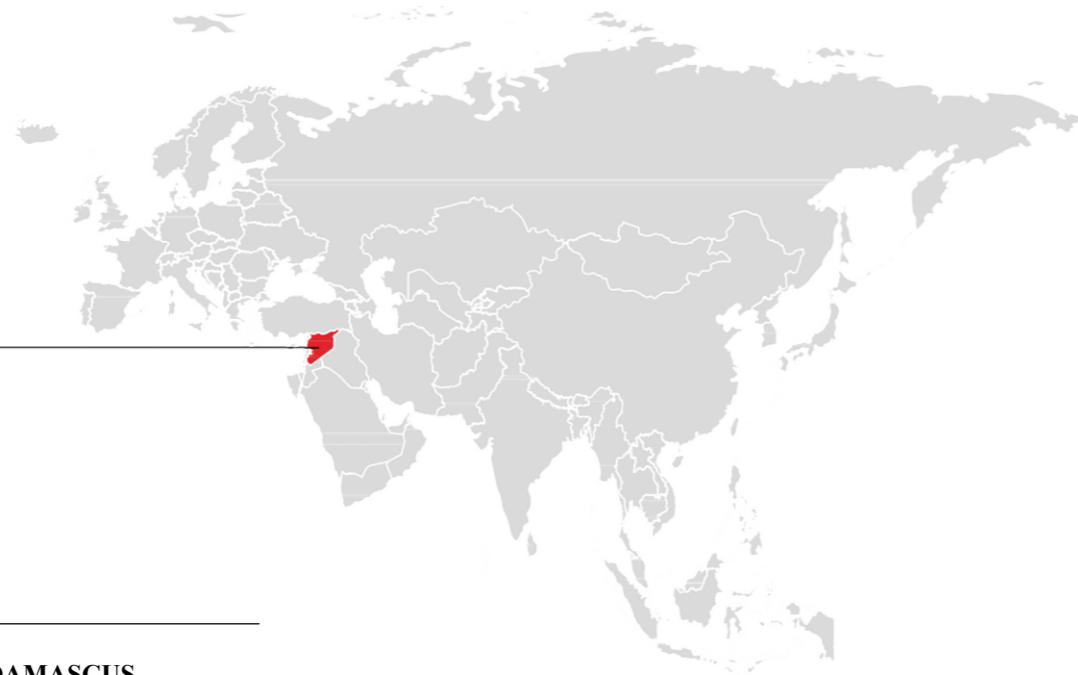


# Syria



## KEY CONTACTS

### EMBASSY OF ITALY IN DAMASCUS

*The activities of the Italian Embassy in Syria are temporarily suspended.*

Web: [ambdamasco.esteri.it](http://ambdamasco.esteri.it)



## Government

**Chief of State:** President Bashar al-ASAD

**Head of Government:** Prime Minister Imad Muhammad Prime Minister Hussein ARNOUS

**Government Type:** Presidential Republic; Highly Authoritarian Regime

**Capital:** Damascus

**Legislature:** Unicameral People's Assembly (250 seats)

**Judiciary:** Court of Cassation (organized into civil, criminal, religious, and military divisions, each with 3 judges); Supreme Constitutional Court (consists of 7 members)

## Geography

### Area

**Total:** 187,437 sq km

**Land:** 85,887 sq km

**Water:** 1,500 sq km

**Climate:** Mostly desert; hot, dry, sunny summers (June to August) and mild, rainy winters (December to February) along coast; cold weather with snow or sleet periodically in Damascus

**Natural Resources:** Petroleum, phosphates, chrome and manganese ores, asphalt, iron ore, rock salt, marble, gypsum, hydropower

## People & Society

**Population:** 19,398,448 (July 2021 est.)

**Population Growth:** 4.25% (2021 est.)

**Ethnicity:** Arab ~50%, Alawite ~15%, Kurd ~10%, Levantine ~10%, other ~15% (includes Druze, Ismaili, Imami, Nusairi, Assyrian, Turkoman, Armenian)

**Language:** Arabic (official), English widely spoken business, designated the "language of interethnic communication" 94.4% (understand spoken language) (2009 est.)

**Religion:** Muslim 87% (official; includes Sunni 74% and Alawi, Ismaili, and Shia 13%), Christian 10% (includes Orthodox, Uniate, and Nestorian), Druze 3%, Jewish (few remaining in Damascus and Aleppo)

### Urbanization:

**Urban Population:** 55.5% of total population (2020)

**Rate of Urbanization:** 1.43% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

**Literacy:** 86.4% (2015)

**Italian presence:** 308

## Economy

**Economic Overview:** Syria's economy has deeply deteriorated amid the ongoing conflict that began in 2011, declining by more than 70% from 2010 to 2017.

**GDP (Purchasing Power Parity):**

\$50.28 billion (2017 est.)

**GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity):**

\$2,900 (2017 est.)

### Exports

\$1.85 billion (2017 est.)

**Partners:** Lebanon 31.5%, Iraq 10.3%, Jordan 8.8%, China 7.8%, Turkey 7.5%, Spain 7.3% (2017)

### Imports

\$6.279 billion (2017 est.)

**Partners:** Russia 32.4%, Turkey 16.7%, China 9.5% (2017)