

# FACT SHEET

## IRAN: *facts and figures*

Bryan Gold

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As tensions between the United States and Iran continue to increase, it is more important than ever to understand the basic facts and figures of Iran's nuclear program, economy, society, and foreign affairs.

This simple fact sheet will aid and inform policy-makers on the current conflict by shedding some light on the complex challenges facing the United States, and by doing so - improve the quality of debate within policy-making circles.

### Population - 78.8 Million

- 8<sup>th</sup> largest in the world
- Approximately ¼ of the population of the US
- Roughly the population of *Arizona, California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Nebraska, and Kansas* - combined (July 2011 est.)

### Religion:

- Shi'a 89%
- Sunni 9%
- Zoroastrian, Jewish, Christian, and Baha'i 2%

### Population of Tehran - 7.19 Million

- Roughly twice the size of Los Angeles

### Total Area - 636,295 sq. mi

- Slightly larger than Alaska
- Slightly larger than the combined areas of the Western United States, Arizona, California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, and Idaho



### Borders - 7 States

- Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iraq, Pakistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan

### Coastline - 2,440 km

- Roughly the length of California

### Languages Spoken:

- Persian 53%
- Azeri Turkic and Turkic dialects 18%
- Kurdish 10%
- Gilaki and Mazandarani 7%
- Luri 6%
- Balochi 2%
- Arabic 2%

**Unemployment Rate - 11.5%**

- *(2011 Iranian government estimate)*

**Drug Use - 2%**

- Roughly 55% of the heroin produced in Afghanistan transits Iran
- Approximately 2 million Iranians are addicted to drugs (2.8% of the population over 15)  
*(2011 est.)*

**GDP - \$331 Billion**

- 18<sup>th</sup> largest in the world
- Slightly larger than Venezuela  
*(2011 est.)*

**GDP Per Capita Income - \$12,200**

- Roughly half of Saudi Arabia's GDP per capita income  
*(purchasing power parity, 2011 est.)*

**Inflation Rate - 22.5%**

*(2011 est.)*

**Oil Exports - 2.523 million bbl/day**

- 3rd largest exporter behind Russia and Saudi Arabia  
*(2009 est.)*

**Oil Imports - 115,000-120,000 bbl/day of gasoline**

*(2009 est.)*

**Natural Gas Exports - 7.87 billion meters<sup>3</sup>**

- 25th largest exporter  
*(2010 est.)*

**Export Commodities:**

- Petroleum 80%
- Chemical and petrochemical products, fruits and nuts, carpets

**Export Partners:**

- China 19%
- India 14.8%
- Japan 11.6%
- Other: Turkey 8%, South Korea 6.7%, Italy 6.2%, Spain 4.7%  
*(2010)*

**Exchange Rate per USD - 10,800 Rial's per \$1 USD**

*(2011 est.)*

**Internet Users - 8.214 million**

- Roughly 10% of the total population



**Military Expenditure - 2.5% of GDP**  
(2006)

**Defense Budget - 113 trillion Rial**

- Roughly \$9.2 billion USD  
(2011)

**Defense Capabilities:**

- 523,000 active troops
  - 350,000 Army, 125,000 IRGC, 18,000 Navy, 30,000 Air Force
- 40,000 paramilitary
- 350,000 reserve
- Does not include Basij militia
  - 90,000 active; 300,000 reserve
  - 1 million can be mobilized, 2005 est.

(2011)



**Resources:** CIA World Factbook, US Department of State, PBS, IISS Military Balance 2011, World Bank



*Strait of Hormuz*

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The American Security Project (ASP) is a non-partisan initiative to educate the American public about the changing nature of national security in the 21st century.

Gone are the days when a nation's strength could be measured by bombers and battleships. Security in this new era requires a New American Arsenal harnessing all of America's strengths: the force of our diplomacy; the might of our military; the vigor of our economy; and the power of our ideals.

We believe that America must lead other nations in the pursuit of our common goals and shared security. We must confront international challenges with all the tools at our disposal. We must address emerging problems before they become security crises. And to do this, we must forge a new bipartisan consensus at home.

ASP brings together prominent American leaders, current and former members of Congress, retired military officers, and former government officials. Staff direct research on a broad range of issues and engages and empowers the American public by taking its findings directly to them.

We live in a time when the threats to our security are as complex and diverse as terrorism, the spread of weapons of mass destruction, climate change, failed and failing states, disease, and pandemics. The same-old solutions and partisan bickering won't do. America needs an honest dialogue about security that is as robust as it is realistic.

ASP exists to promote that dialogue, to forge consensus, and to spur constructive action so that America meets the challenges to its security while seizing the opportunities the new century offers.



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