

Tunisia country profile

Official Title: Republic of Tunisia

Capital: Tunis

Main Sea/Air ports: Ports:

Bizerte; Gabès; Sfax; Sousse; Tunis - La Goulette and Rades

Airports:

Tunis - Carthage; Djerba - Melita; Monastir - Skanès; Sfax - El Maou;

Tozeur - Nefta; Tabarka

Area: 163,610 sq km

Population: 9.6 million (2000 est.)

Head of State: President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali

Official Language: Arabic

Other Languages: French

Currency: Tunisian Dinar (TD = 1,000 Milliemes)

Time Zone: GMT +1

National/Religious Holidays: National:

1 January (New Year's Day), 20 March (Independence), 21 March (Youth Day), 9 April (Martyrs' Day), 1 May (Labour Day), 25 July (Republic Day), 13 August (Women's Day), 7 November (Accession of President Ben Ali).

Religious:

Eid Al-Fitr (2 days), Eid Al-Adha (2 days), Islamic New Year, The Prophet's Birthday.

Working Hours: Government and Business: (Mon-Thu) 0830-1300, 1500-1745; (Fri and Sat) 0830-1330 (mornings only in summer).

Banking: (Mon-Thu) 0800-1100, 1400-1600; (Fri) 0800-1100, 1300-1500 (mornings only in summer)

Shops: There are no standard opening hours although the bigger department stores are usually open 0830-1200 and 1500-1800 in winter and 0800-1200 and 1600-1900 in summer.

GDP: \$16.6 billion (2000 est.)

Main Exports: Food and live animals (fish, crustaceans, molluscs) mineral fuels and lubricants (petroleum, petroleum products etc.), animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes, chemicals and related products (inorganic chemicals, manufactured fertilisers), basic manufactures (leather, textiles, iron and steel etc.), machinery and transport equipment, miscellaneous manufactured articles.

Main Imports: Food and live animals (cereals and cereal preparations, wheat and muslin), crude materials (inedible) except fuels, mineral fuels and lubricants etc (petroleum, petroleum products, gas (natural and manufactured)), chemicals and related products (medicinal and pharmaceutical products, artificial resins, plastics etc.), basic manufactures (textiles, iron and steel etc.), machinery and transport equipment, miscellaneous manufactured articles.