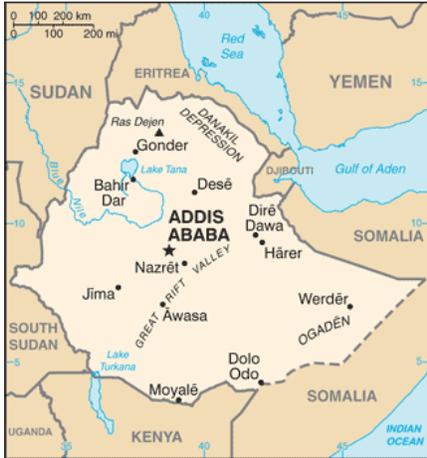


# ETHIOPIA - ኢትዮጵያ



**Official Name:** Federal Dem. Republic of Ethiopia  
**Area:** 426,400 sq. miles (28<sup>th</sup>) **Population:** 113m (13<sup>th</sup>)  
**Official Language:** Amharic  
**Religion:** Christianity 63%; Islam 34%, Other 3%  
**GDP (PPP):** \$200b **Per Capita** \$2,200  
**Exports to US:** \$445m; **Imports from US:** \$1.3b  
**Human Development Index:** .470 (173 out of 188) *low*  
**Life Expectancy:** Male 56 Female 60  
**Govt:** Federal Parliamentary Constitutional Republic  
**President:** Sahle Work Zewde; **PM:** Abiy Ahmed Ali

**HQs in Addis Ababa:** UN Economic Commission for Africa, African Union and its African Standby Force

With the exception of a short-lived Italian occupation from 1936-41, Ethiopia has always been independent. In 1974, a socialist military junta, the Derg, deposed Emperor Haile Selassie (who had ruled since 1930). A constitution was adopted in 1994, and Ethiopia's first multiparty elections were held in 1995.

Abiy Ahmed took office in April 2018 as Ethiopia's first ethnic Oromo Prime Minister. Under him, Ethiopia has undergone a positive democratic reformation. In June 2018, Abiy Ahmed announced Ethiopia would accept the border ruling of 2000, prompting rapprochement between Ethiopia and Eritrea. For this he won the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize. In November 2019, PM Abiy Ahmed merged Ethiopia's nearly 30-year ethnic-based ruling coalition into a single unity party called the Prosperity Party to reflect the positive attitude which he is promoting in Ethiopia.

Ethiopia is a land of mountains and plateaus divided by the Great Rift Valley. Its major cities are 7,000 feet above sea level. With the headwaters of the Nile River, it has the largest water resources in Africa and 85% of its power is hydroelectric.

Ethiopia has one of the fastest growing economies. This growth was driven by government investment in infrastructure, as well as sustained progress in the agricultural and service sectors. More than 70% of Ethiopia's population is still employed in the agricultural sector, but services have surpassed agriculture as the principal source of GDP. The gap between the rich and the poor in Ethiopia is the lowest in Africa and one of the lowest in the world. Yet despite progress toward eliminating extreme poverty, Ethiopia remains one of the poorest countries in the world, due both to rapid population growth and a low starting base.

The government is heavily engaged in the economy. Key sectors are state-owned. Under Ethiopia's constitution, the state owns all land and provides long-term leases to tenants. Ethiopia has attracted roughly \$8.5 billion in foreign direct investment (FDI), mostly from China, Turkey, India and the EU; US FDI is \$567 million.

Ethiopia is an important partner of the United States in the Global War on Terrorism. The Pentagon needs Ethiopia and its intelligence service to counter the influence of Al-Qaeda fighters in the neighboring Somalia.