

Country profile

Iraq



Iraq at a Glance

Capital:	Baghdad
Official language:	Arabic
Population:	39,192,111 (July 2017 est.)
Government:	Federal Parliamentary Republic
Establishment	3 October 1932 (from League of Nations mandate under British administration); note - on 28 June 2004 the Coalition Provisional Authority transferred sovereignty to the Iraqi Interim Government
National or Regional Currency:	Iraqi dinar (IQD)
Area:	total: 438,317 sq km ; land: 437,367 sq km ; water: 950 sq km

Location: Middle East, bordering the Persian Gulf, between Iran and Kuwait

Geographic Coordinates: 33 00 N, 44 00 E

Map References: Middle East

Area - Comparative: slightly more than three times the size of New York state

Terrain: mostly broad plains; reedy marshes along Iranian border in south with large flooded areas; mountains along borders with Iran and Turkey



Elevation Extremes(M): lowest point: Persian Gulf 0 m ; highest point: Cheekha Dar (Kurdish for "Black Tent"); 3,611 m

Land Boundaries(Km): total: 3,809 km ; border countries: Iran 1,599 km, Jordan 179 km, Kuwait 254 km, Saudi Arabia 811 km, Syria 599 km, Turkey 367 km

Coastline: 58 km

Maritime Claims: territorial sea: 12 nm ; continental shelf: not specified

Geography - Note: strategic location on Shatt al Arab waterway and at the head of the Persian Gulf¹

History

Formerly part of the Ottoman Empire, Iraq was occupied by the United Kingdom during the course of World War I; in 1920, it was declared a League of Nations mandate under UK administration. In stages over the next dozen years, Iraq attained its independence as a kingdom in 1932. A "republic" was proclaimed in 1958, but in actuality a series of strongmen ruled the country until 2003. The last was SADDAM Husayn from 1979 to 2003. Territorial disputes with Iran led to an inconclusive and costly eight-year war (1980-88). In August 1990, Iraq seized Kuwait but was expelled by US-led UN coalition forces during the Gulf War of January-February 1991. Following Kuwait's liberation, the UN Security Council (UNSC) required Iraq to scrap all weapons of mass destruction and long-range missiles and to allow UN verification inspections. Continued Iraqi noncompliance with UNSC resolutions over a period of 12 years led to the US-led invasion of Iraq in March 2003 and the ouster of the SADDAM Husayn regime. US forces remained in Iraq under a UNSC mandate through 2009 and under a bilateral security agreement thereafter, helping to provide security and to train and mentor Iraqi security forces.

In October 2005, Iraqis approved a constitution in a national referendum and, pursuant to this document, elected a 275-member Council of Representatives (COR) in December 2005. The COR approved most cabinet ministers in May 2006, marking the transition to Iraq's first constitutional government in nearly a half century. Nearly nine years after the start of the Second Gulf War in Iraq, US military operations there ended in mid-December 2011. In January 2009 and April 2013, Iraq held elections for provincial councils in all governorates except for the three comprising the Kurdistan Regional Government and Kirkuk Governorate. Iraq held a national legislative election in March 2010 - choosing 325 legislators in an expanded COR - and, after nine months of deadlock, the COR approved the new government in December 2010. In April 2014, Iraq held a national legislative election and expanded the COR to 328 legislators. Prime Minister Nuri al-MALIKI dropped his bid for a third term in office, enabling new Prime Minister Haydar al-ABADI, a Shia Muslim from Baghdad, to win legislative approval of his new cabinet in September 2014. Since

¹ <http://www.economywatch.com/economic-statistics/iraq/Geography/>

2014, Iraq has been engaged in a military campaign against ISIS to recapture territory lost in the western and northern portion of the country.²

Government

Country name:	Republic of Iraq
Government type:	federal parliamentary republic
Capital:	Baghdad
Administrative divisions:	18 governorates (muhafazat, singular - muhafazah (Arabic); parezgakan, singular - parezga (Kurdish)) and 1 region*; Al Anbar; Al Basrah; Al Muthanna; Al Qadisiyah (Ad Diwaniyah); An Najaf; Arbil (Erbil) (Arabic), Hewler (Kurdish); As Sulaymaniyah (Arabic), Slemani (Kurdish); Babil; Baghdad; Dahuk (Arabic), Dihok (Kurdish); Dhi Qar; Diyala; Karbala'; Kirkuk; Kurdistan Regional Government*; Maysan; Ninawa; Salah ad Din; Wasit
Independence:	3 October 1932 (from League of Nations mandate under British administration); note - on 28 June 2004 the Coalition Provisional Authority transferred sovereignty to the Iraqi Interim Government
National holiday:	Independence Day, 3 October (1932); Republic Day, 14 July (1958)
Constitution:	history: several previous; latest adopted by referendum 15 October 2005
Legal system:	mixed legal system of civil and Islamic law
Suffrage:	18 years of age; universal
Executive branch:	chief of state: President Fuad MASUM (since 24 July 2014); Vice Presidents Ayad ALLAWI (since 9 September 2014), Nuri al-MALIKI (since 8 September 2014), Usama al-NUJAYFI (since 9 September 2014) head of government: Prime Minister Haydar al-ABADI (since 8 September 2014) cabinet: Council of Ministers proposed by the prime minister, approved by Council of Representatives elections/appointments: president indirectly elected by Council of Representatives (COR) to serve a 4-year term (eligible for a second term); election last held on 30 April 2014 (next to be held in April 2018); prime minister nominated by the majority COR bloc and submission of COR minister nominees for majority COR approval; disapproval requires designation of a new prime minister candidate election results: Fuad MASUM elected president; Council of Representatives vote - Fuad MASUM (PUK) 211, Barham SALIH (PUK) 17
Legislative branch:	description: unicameral Council of Representatives or Majlis an-Nuwwab al-Iraqiyy (328 seats; 320 members directly elected in multi-seat constituencies by proportional representation vote and 8 seats reserved for minorities; members serve 4-year terms); note - Iraq's constitution calls for the establishment of an upper house, the Federation Council, but it has not been instituted elections: last held on 30 April 2014 (next to be held in May 2018) election results: percent of vote by party/coalition - NA; seats by party/coalition -

² <https://www.indexmundi.com/iraq/background.html>

	State of Law Coalition 95, Ahrar Bloc/Sadrist Trend 34, ISCI/Muwatin 31, United for Reform Coalition/Muttahidun 28, KDP 25, PUK 21, Nationalism Coalition/Wataniyah 21, other Sunni coalitions/parties 19, Al-Arabiyah Coalition 10, Goran 9, other Shia parties/coalitions 8, Fadilah 6, National Reform Trend 6, Diyala is Our Identity 5, Iraq Coalition 5, KIU 4, other 5
Judicial branch:	<p>highest court(s): Federal Supreme Court or FSC (consists of 9 judges); note - court jurisdiction limited to constitutional issues and disputes between regions or governorates and the central government; Court of Cassation (consists of a court president, 5 vice-presidents, and at least 24 judges)</p> <p>judge selection and term of office: Federal Supreme Court and Court of Cassation judges selected by the president of the republic from nominees selected by the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC), a 25-member committee of judicial officials that manage the judiciary and prosecutors; FSC members appointed for life; Court of Cassation judges appointed by the SJC and confirmed by the Council of Representatives to serve until retirement nominally at age 63</p> <p>subordinate courts: Courts of Appeal (governorate level); civil courts including first instance, personal status, labor, and customs; criminal courts including felony, misdemeanor, investigative, major crimes, juvenile, and traffic; religious courts³</p>

International Human Development Trend

Human Development Index

Year	value
2010	0.649
2012	0.659
2014	0.666
2015	0.668
2016	0.672
2017	0.685

Source: http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2018_human_development_statistical_update.pdf

Human Development Indicators

Health

Indicator	value
Expenditure on health, public (% of GDP)(%)2015	3.4
Under-five mortality (per 1,000 live birth) 2016	31.2
Life expectancy at birth 2017	70.0

Source: http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2018_human_development_statistical_update.pdf

³ https://www.indexmundi.com/iraq/government_profile.html

Education

Indicator	Value
Expected Years of Schooling (of children) 2017	11.0
Adult literacy rate, both sexes (% aged 15 and above)	43.7
Mean years of schooling (of adults) (years)	6.8

Source: http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2018_human_development_statistical_update.pdf

Economy - overview:

Iraq's GDP grew by 11% in 2016, the best performance in the past decade, but declined in 2017 as domestic consumption fell. During 2016, security and financial stability throughout Iraq began to improve as Iraqi Security Forces made gains against the ongoing insurgency and oil prices slowly rose. The Iraqi Government entered into a Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) with the IMF in July 2016, which helped stabilize its finances by encouraging improved fiscal management, needed economic reform, and expenditure reduction. Iraq passed its first SBA review in December 2016, and additional progress on the program is critical to its long-term fiscal health. Diversification efforts – a key component to Iraq's long-term economic development – require a strengthened investment climate to bolster private-sector engagement. Sustained improvements in the overall standard of living depend heavily on global oil prices, the central government passage of major policy reforms, and progress in the conflict with ISIL.

Iraq's largely state-run economy is dominated by the oil sector, which provides more than 90% of government revenue and 80% of foreign exchange earnings, and is a major determinant of the economy's fortunes. Oil exports in 2016 averaged 3.3 million barrels per day from southern Iraq, up from 2015. Moreover, the slow recovery of global oil prices improved export revenues throughout 2016, although monthly revenue remained below 2015 levels. Iraq's contracts with major oil companies have the potential to further expand oil exports and revenues, but Iraq will need to make significant upgrades to its oil processing, pipeline, and export infrastructure to enable these deals to reach their economic potential.

Iraqi oil exports from northern fields are hampered by fundamental disagreements between the Iraqi Government and autonomous Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) in Iraq's Kurdistan region (IKR) on the roles of federal and regional authorities in the development and export of natural resources. In 2007, the KRG passed an oil law to develop IKR oil and gas reserves independent of the federal government. The KRG has signed about 50 contracts with foreign energy companies to develop its reserves, some of which lie in territories whose status is in dispute between Baghdad and Erbil. Some of the companies have left or returned blocks, citing lack of commercial prospects. In 2014, the KRG began exporting its oil unilaterally through its own pipeline to Turkey, which Baghdad claims is illegal. In the absence of a national hydrocarbons law, the two sides have entered into four provisional oil- and revenue-sharing deals since 2009, all of which collapsed. In September 2016, the two sides began implementing a fifth ad hoc agreement to split oil exports from Baghdad-controlled fields in Kirkuk.

Iraq is making slow progress enacting laws and developing the institutions needed to implement economic policy, and political reforms are still needed to assuage investors' concerns regarding the uncertain business climate. The Government of Iraq is eager to attract additional foreign direct investment, but it faces a number of obstacles, including a tenuous political system and concerns about security and societal stability. Rampant corruption, outdated infrastructure, insufficient essential services, skilled labor shortages, and antiquated commercial laws stifle investment and continue to constrain growth of private, nonoil sectors. Under the Iraqi constitution, some competencies relevant to the overall investment climate are either shared by the federal government and the regions or are devolved entirely to local governments. Investment in the IKR operates within the framework of the Kurdistan Region Investment Law (Law 4 of 2006) and the Kurdistan Board of Investment, which is designed to provide incentives to help economic development in areas under the authority of the KRG.

Inflation has remained under control since 2006. However, Iraqi leaders remain hard-pressed to translate macroeconomic gains into an improved standard of living for the Iraqi populace. Unemployment remains a problem throughout the country despite a bloated public sector. Encouraging private enterprise through deregulation would make it easier for Iraqi citizens and foreign investors to start new businesses. Rooting out corruption and implementing reforms - such as restructuring banks and developing the private sector - would be important steps in this direction.⁴

Economic Outlook

GDP	Last	Previous	Range	Unit	Reference	Frequency
GDP	198	171	1.7:235	USD Billion	Dec/17	Yearly
GDP Annual Growth Rate	-0.5	11	-56.4:54.16	%	Dec/17	Yearly
GDP PER CAPITA	5546	5751	1428:5751	USD	Dec/17	Yearly
GDP PER CAPITA PPP	15664	16242	4033:16242	USD	Dec/17	Yearly
Labor	Last	Previous	Range	Unit	Reference	Frequency
POPULATION	38.3	37.2	7.29:38.3	Million	Dec/17	Yearly
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	14.8	15.1	14.8:28.1	%	Dec/17	Yearly
Prices	Last	Previous	Range	Unit	Reference	Frequency
INFLATION RATE	0.4	0.6	-6.37:76.55	%	Feb/19	Monthly
Money	Last	Previous	Range	Unit	Reference	Frequency
INTEREST RATE	4	4	4:20	%	Mar/19	Daily
Trade	Last	Previous	Range	Unit	Reference	Frequency
BALANCE OF TRADE	18793	7090	-3492:47550	USD Billion	Dec/17	Monthly
CURRENT ACCOUNT	13954	2158	-15410:32344	USD Million	Dec/17	Yearly

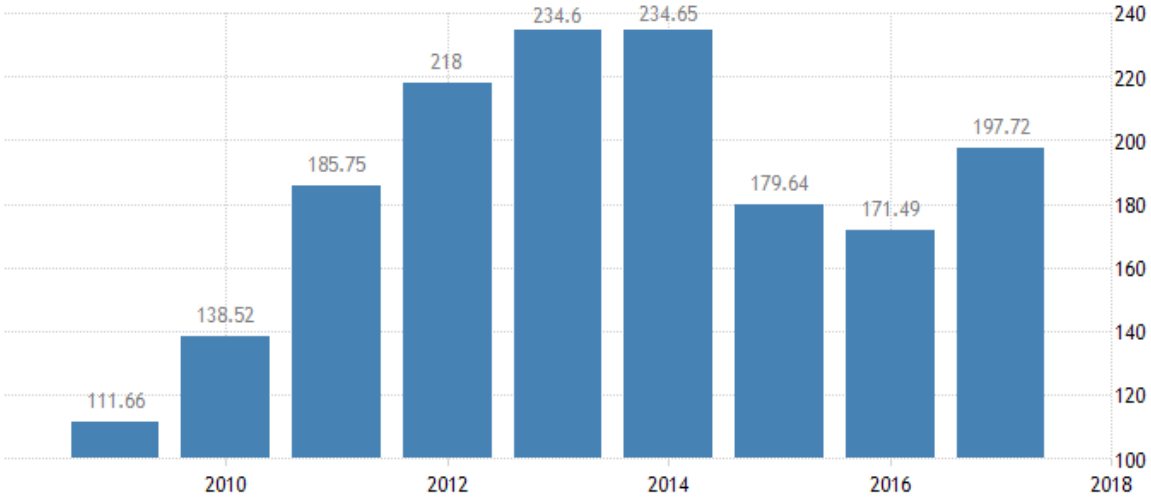
⁴ https://www.indexmundi.com/iraq/economy_overview.html

CURRENT ACCOUNT TO GDP	2.3	-7.8	-24:12.7	%	Dec/17	Yearly
EXPORTS	57559	41298	1720:94209	USD Million	Dec/17	Yearly
IMPORTS	38766	34208	2682:59349	USD Million	Dec/17	Yearly
Government	Last	Previous	Range	Unit	Reference	Frequency
GOVERNMENT DEBT TO GDP	59.7	66	32:344	%	Dec/17	Yearly
GOVERNMENT BUDGET	6.2	-1.6	-34.9:10.7	% of GDP	Dec/18	Yearly
CREDIT RATING	25					Monthly

Source: <https://tradingeconomics.com/iraq/indicators>

GDP

The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Iraq was worth 197.72 billion US dollars in 2017. The GDP value of Iraq represents 0.32 percent of the world economy. GDP in Iraq averaged 59.65 USD Billion from 1960 until 2017, reaching an all time high of 234.65 USD Billion in 2014 and a record low of 1.70 USD Billion in 1960.⁵

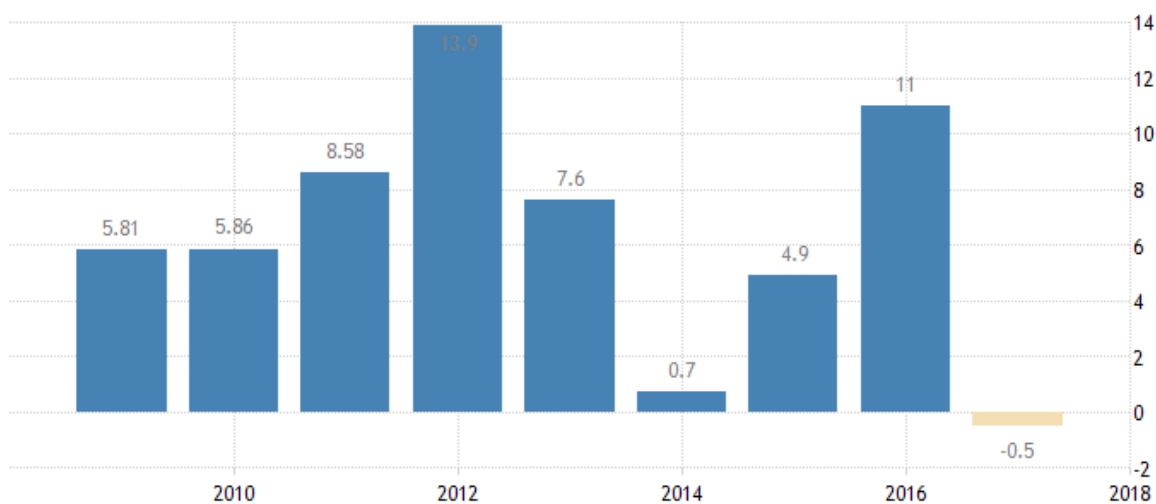


SOURCE: TRADINGECONOMICS.COM | WORLD BANK

GDP Annual Growth Rate

⁵ <https://tradingeconomics.com/iraq/gdp>

The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Iraq contracted 0.50 percent in 2017 from the previous year. GDP Annual Growth Rate in Iraq averaged 7.71 percent from 1991 until 2017, reaching an all time high of 54.16 percent in 2004 and a record low of -56.40 percent in 1991.⁶



SOURCE: TRADINGECONOMICS.COM | CENTRAL BANK OF IRAQ

GDP per Capita

The Gross Domestic Product per capita in Iraq was last recorded at 5545.90 US dollars in 2017. The GDP per Capita in Iraq is equivalent to 44 percent of the world's average. GDP per capita in Iraq averaged 3195.73 USD from 1968 until 2017, reaching an all time high of 5750.60 USD in 2016 and a record low of 1427.90 USD in 1991.⁷



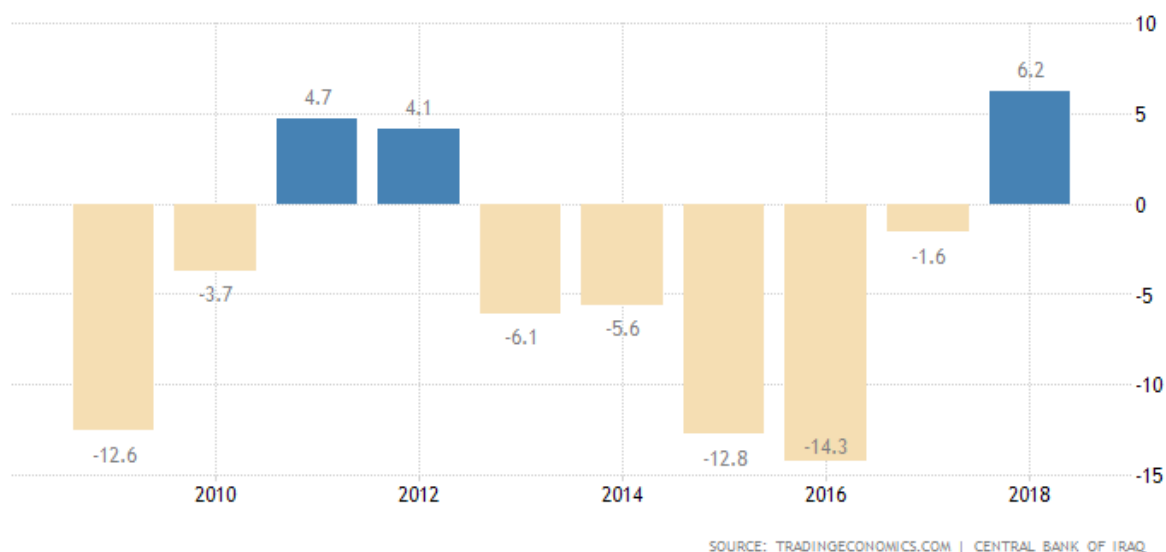
SOURCE: TRADINGECONOMICS.COM | WORLD BANK

⁶ <https://tradingeconomics.com/iraq/gdp-growth-annual>

⁷ <https://tradingeconomics.com/iraq/gdp-per-capita>

Government Budget

Iraq recorded a Government Budget surplus equal to 6.20 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product in 2018. Government Budget in Iraq averaged -3.70 percent of GDP from 2004 until 2018, reaching an all time high of 10.70 percent of GDP in 2006 and a record low of -34.90 percent of GDP in 2004.⁸



Foreign Trade Evaluation

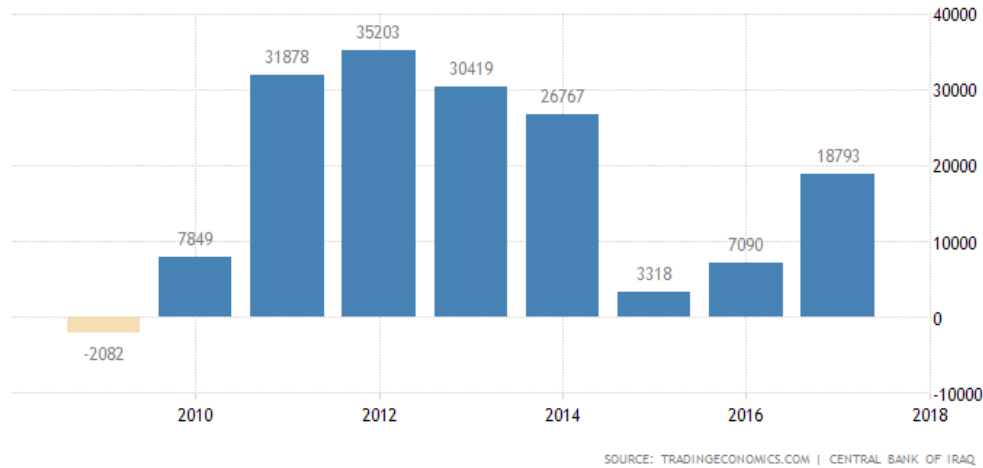
Trade	Last	Previous	Highest	Lowest	Unit
Balance of Trade	18793.00	7090.00	47880.00	-3492.00	USD Million
Current Account	13954.50	2157.80	32344.00	-15410.00	USD Million
Current Account to GDP	2.30	-7.80	12.70	-24.00	percent
Exports	57559.00	41298.00	94209.00	172.40	USD Million
Imports	38766.00	34208.00	59349.00	2681.90	USD Million

Source: <https://tradingeconomics.com/iraq/balance-of-trade>

⁸ <https://tradingeconomics.com/iraq/government-budget>

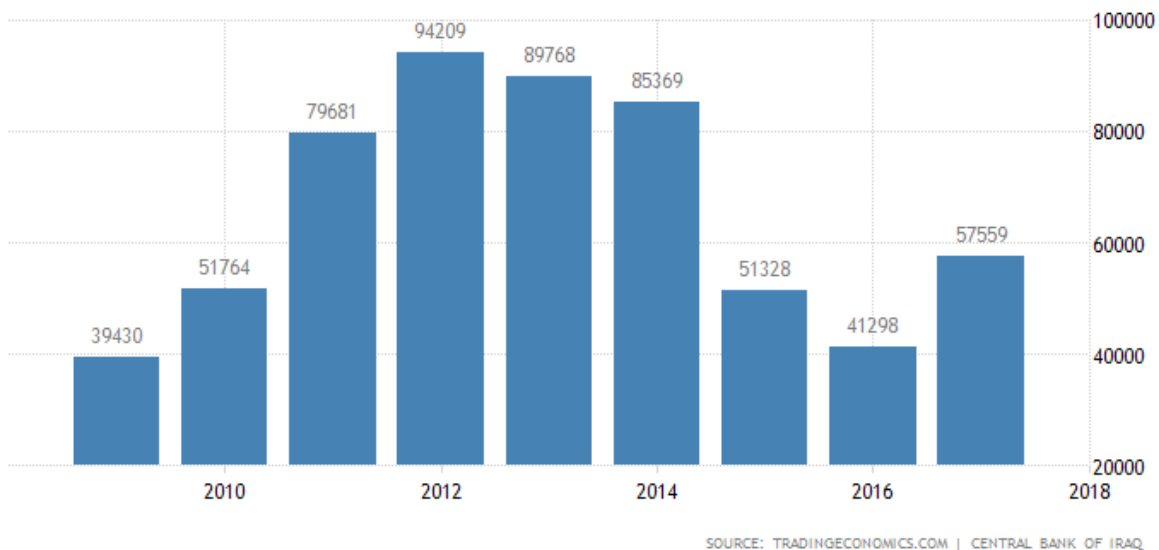
Balance of Trade

Iraq recorded a trade surplus of 18793 USD Million in 2017. Balance of Trade in Iraq averaged 9648.83 USD Million from 1988 until 2017, reaching an all time high of 47550 USD Million in 2008 and a record low of -3492 USD Million in 2004.⁹



Exports and Imports

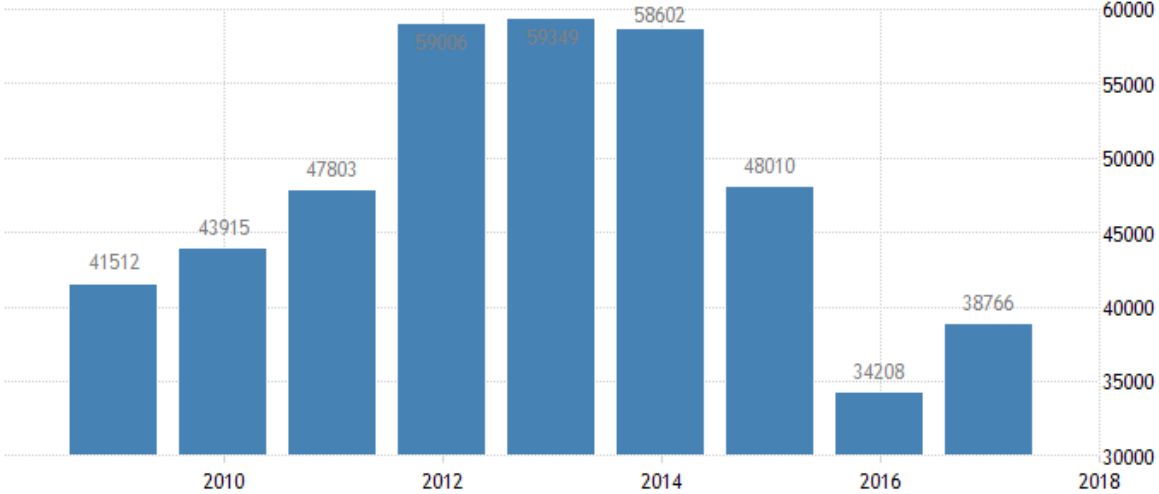
Exports in Iraq increased to 57559 USD Million in 2017 from 41298 USD Million in 2016. Exports in Iraq averaged 36354.47 USD Million from 1988 until 2017, reaching an all time high of 94209 USD Million in 2012 and a record low of 1720.40 USD Million in 1994.¹⁰



⁹ <https://tradingeconomics.com/iraq/balance-of-trade>

¹⁰ <https://tradingeconomics.com/iraq/exports>

Imports in Iraq increased to 38766 USD Million in 2017 from 34208 USD Million in 2016. Imports in Iraq averaged 26705.64 USD Million from 1988 until 2017, reaching an all time high of 59349 USD Million in 2013 and a record low of 2681.90 USD Million in 1994.¹¹



SOURCE: TRADINGECONOMICS.COM | CENTRAL BANK OF IRAQ

¹¹ <https://tradingeconomics.com/iraq/imports>

Trade Profile

Iraq

GDP (million current US\$, 2017)	197 699	Rank in world trade, 2017	<u>Exports</u>	<u>Imports</u>
GDP per capita (US\$, 2015-2017)	4 832	Merchandise	51	56
Current account balance (% GDP, 2017)	0.7	excluding intra-EU trade	34	38
Trade per capita (US\$, 2014-2016)	1 378	Commercial services	78	57
Trade (% GDP, 2014-2016)	26.1	excluding intra-EU trade	51	39

MERCHANDISE TRADE

Million US\$	Value	Annual percentage change		2017
	2017	2010-2017	2016	
Merchandise exports, f.o.b.	45 525	-2	-11	4
Merchandise imports, c.i.f.	41 222	-1	-1	6

Share in world total exports (%)	0.26	Share in world total imports (%)	0.23
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Breakdown in economy's total exports

Breakdown in economy's total imports

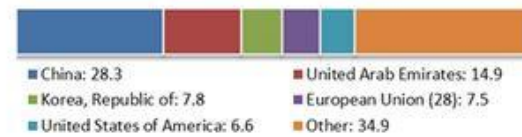
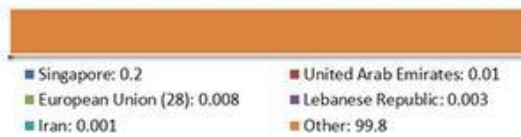
By main commodity group, % (2016)

By main commodity group, % (2014)



By main destination, % (2016)

By main origin, % (2014)



Agricultural Products

Top exported products (Million US\$)		Value	Top imported products (Million US\$)		Value
		2016			2014
HS4102	Raw skins of sheep or lambs	2	HS1001	Wheat and meslin	562
HS0504	Animals' guts, bladders, stomachs	2	HS1006	Rice	451
HS1704	Sugar confectionery	0.1	HS1701	Cane or beet sugar	382
HS4103	Other raw hides and skins	0.1	HS0402	Milk and cream, concentrated	137
HS0106	Other live animals	0.1	HS0207	Meat and edible offal of poultry	104

Share in economy's trade in agricultural products

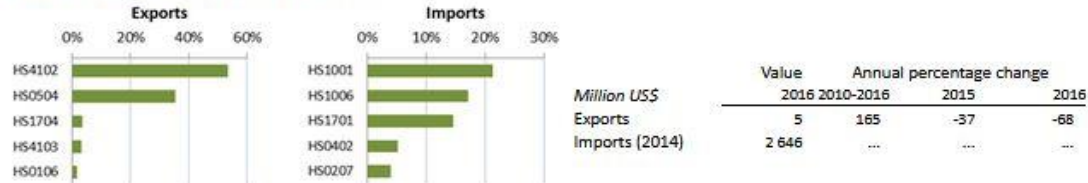


Million US\$	Value	Annual percentage change	
	2016	2010-2016	2015
Exports	5	165	-37
Imports (2014)	2 646	...	...

Agricultural Products

Top exported products (Million US\$)		Value 2016	Top imported products (Million US\$)		Value 2014
HS4102	Raw skins of sheep or lambs	2	HS1001	Wheat and meslin	562
HS0504	Animals' guts, bladders, stomachs	2	HS1006	Rice	451
HS1704	Sugar confectionery	0.1	HS1701	Cane or beet sugar	382
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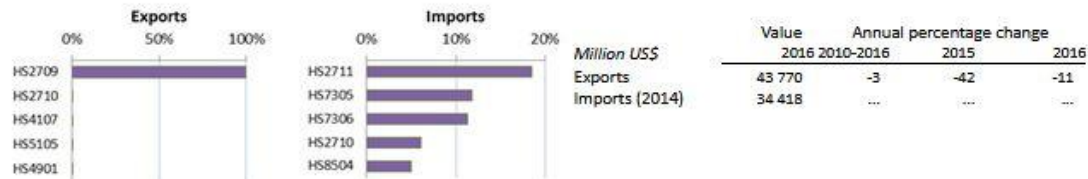
Share in economy's trade in agricultural products



Non-Agricultural Products

Top exported products (Million US\$)		Value 2016	Top imported products (Million US\$)		Value 2014
HS2709	Petroleum oils, crude	43 623	HS2711	Petroleum gases	6 387
HS2710	Petroleum oils, other than crude	145	HS7305	Other tubes and pipes	4 051
HS4107	Bovine or equine-animals' leather	1	HS7306	Other tubes, pipes of iron or steel	3 899
HS5105	Wool and fine or coarse animal hair	0.1	HS2710	Petroleum oils, other than crude	2 093
HS4901	Printed books, brochures, leaflets	0.1	HS8504	Electrical transformers	1 730

Share in economy's trade in non-agricultural products



Other Commercial Services and Goods-related Services

Exports of OCS by main item (2016)	Million US\$	Value		Annual percentage change		2016
		2016	2010-2016	2015	2016	
	Other commercial services					
	Exports	1 630	49	47	-7	
	Imports	2 226	-5	-19	-27	
	Goods-related services					
	Exports	1	...	...	-11
	Imports	32	...	-92	4	

INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY

Patent applications, 2015			Trademark applications			Industrial design applications, 2015		
Residents	Non-residents	Total	Residents	Non-residents	Total	Residents	Non-residents	Total
335	102	437	...	...	...	32	12	44

Tariff Profile

TRADE IN COMMERCIAL SERVICES

Million US\$	Value		Annual percentage change	
	2016	2010-2016	2015	2016
Commercial services exports	4 562	13	53	-26
Commercial services imports	9 950	1	-15	-20
Share in world total exports (%)	0.09			
Share in world total imports (%)				0.21

Breakdown in economy's total exports

By main services item, % (2016)



Breakdown in economy's total imports

By main services item, % (2016)



By main destination

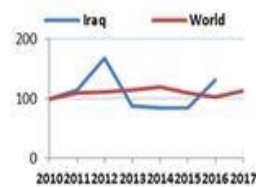
NO DATA AVAILABLE

By main origin

NO DATA AVAILABLE

FATS sales	Value		Annual percentage change	
	2017	2010-2017	2016	2017
Inward (million US\$)
Outward (million US\$)

Transport

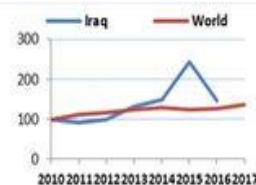


Transport exports (Index 2010=100)

Million US\$
Exports
Imports
Exports
By sea (2016)
By air (2016)
By other (2016)

Value	Annual percentage change		Value	Share (%)	
	2016	2010-2016			2015	2016
Exports	507	5	0	55	
Imports	2 777	-9	-27	-39	
Value	Share (%)	Imports	Value	Share (%)	
By sea (2016)	362	71.3	By sea (2016)	29	1.0
By air (2016)	87	17.1	By air (2016)	183	6.6
By other (2016)	59	11.6	By other (2016)	2 565	92.4

Travel



Travel exports (Index 2010=100)

Million US\$
Exports
Imports

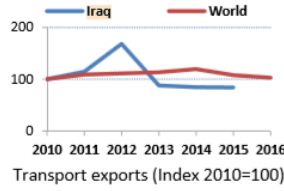
Value	Annual percentage change		Value	Share (%)
	2016	2010-2016		
Exports	2 423	7	63	-40
Imports	4 916	20	15	2

FATS sales
 Inward (million US\$)
 Outward (million US\$)

Value	Annual percentage change		
2016	2010-2016	2015	2016
...
...

NO DATA AVAILABLE

Transport

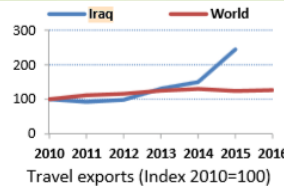


Million US\$

Value	Annual percentage change			
2015	2010-2015	2014	2015	
Exports	328	-3	-4	0
Imports	4 585	-1	-8	-27

Exports	Value	Share (%)	Imports	Value	Share (%)
By sea (2015)	237	72.2	By sea (2015)	28	0.6
By air (2015)	37	11.3	By air (2015)	220	4.8
By other (2015)	54	16.5	By other (2015)	4 337	94.6

Travel



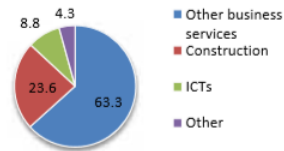
Million US\$

Value	Annual percentage change			
2015	2010-2015	2014	2015	
Exports	4 060	20	14	63
Imports	4 799	24	26	15

Activate Window

Other Commercial Services and Goods-related Services

Exports of OCS by main item (2015)



Million US\$	Value	Annual percentage change		
	2015	2010-2015	2014	2015
Other commercial services				
Exports	1 754	63	75	47
Imports	3 035	0	-13	-19
Goods-related services				
Exports	1	...	...	...
Imports	31	...	...	-92

INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY

Patent applications, 2015

Residents	Non-residents	Total
335	102	437

Trademark applications

Residents	Non-residents	Total
...

Industrial design applications, 2015

Residents	Non-residents	Total
32	12	44

NO DATA AVAILABLE

Extracted from: World Trade Organization (WTO), "Trade Profiles 2017", page.174-175

Heade of Chamber: Mr. Abdul Razzaq al-Zuhairi