The first Korean Workers’ Party congress in 36 years convened on May 6, 2016. It bestowed the title of party chairman on the country’s leader, Kim Jong-Eun. In June the congress of the Supreme People's Assembly revised the constitution to broaden and solidify Kim's powers. A new organization, the State Affairs Commission, became North Korea's highest governing agency, and Kim was named its head. In August Thae Yong-Ho, a diplomat at the London embassy, defected to South Korea. The government claimed in January to have conducted its first hydrogen bomb test, and during the summer submarine-launched ballistic missiles were test-fired off the east coast.

Demography
Density (2016): persons per sq mi 533.4, persons per sq km 205.9.
Sex distribution (2015): male 48.49%; female 51.51%.
Population projection: (2020) 25,763,000; (2030) 26,701,000.
Religious affiliation (2005): mostly non-religious/atheist; autonomous religious activities almost nonexistent.
Major urban areas (2008): P'yongyang 2,581,076; Hamhung 703,610; Ch'ongjin 614,892; Sinuiju 334,031; Wonsan 328,467.

Age breakdown (2015):

- Under 15: 21.2%
- 15–29: 23.7%
- 30–44: 21.3%
- 45–59: 20.7%
- 60–74: 9.8%
- 75–84: 2.9%
- 85 and over: 0.4%

Vital statistics
Birth rate per 1,000 population (2015): 14.5 (world avg. 19.5).
Death rate per 1,000 population (2015): 9.2 (world avg. 8.1).
Life expectancy at birth (2015): male 66.3 years; female 74.2 years.
### National economy

**Budget** (2004). Revenie: 337,546,000,000 [old] won² (turnover tax and profits from state enterprises). Expenditures: 348,807,000,000 [old] won² (2013; national economy 45.2%, social and cultural affairs 38.8%, defense 16.0%).

**Public debt** (external, outstanding; 2001): U.S.$12,500,000,000 (2008): total 12,184,720.

**Population economically active** (2001): U.S.$12,500,000,000.

**Public debt as % of total land area** (2009): in temporary crops or left fallow (2009): U.S.$22,027,000,000 (U.S.$942 per capita).


**Expenditures** (2004). Revenue: 337,546,000,000 [old] won 2 (turnover tax and profits from state enterprises). Expenditures: 348,807,000,000 [old] won 2 (2013; national economy 45.2%, social and cultural affairs 38.8%, defense 16.0%).

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### Military

**Total active duty personnel** (November 2015): 1,190,000 (army 85.7%, navy 5.0%, air force 9.3%); reserve 600,000; paramilitary 189,000; paramilitary reserve 5,700,000. **Military expenditure as percentage of GNP** (2004): 8.1%; per capita expenditure U.S.$80.

### Education and health

**Literacy** (2015): virtually 100%.

**Health**: physicians (2003) 74,597 (1 per 299 persons); hospital beds, n.a.; infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births (2015) 23.7; undernourished population (2006–08) 8,400,000 (35% of total population based on the consumption of a minimum daily requirement of 1,870 calories).

### Foreign trade

**Imports** (2008): U.S.$3,574,000,000 (2002). Food, beverages, and other agricultural products 19.3%, mineral fuels and lubricants 15.5%, machinery and apparatus 15.4%, textiles and clothing 10.4%.

**Major import sources**:

- China
- South Korea
- Russia
- Singapore
- Other

**Exports** (2008): U.S.$2,062,000,000 (2002). Livestock and agricultural products 39.3%, textiles and wearing apparel 16.7%, machinery and apparatus 11.6%, mineral fuels and lubricants 9.5%.

**Major export destinations**:

- China
- South Korea
- India
- Singapore
- Other

### Transport and communications

**Transport**: Railroads: route length (2014) 4,620 mi, 7,435 km; passenger-km 3,400,000,000; metric ton-km cargo 9,100,000,000. Roads (2009): total length 16,034 mi, 25,804 km (paved 2006 3%). Vehicles (1990): passenger cars 248,000.

**Communications**

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<td>Broadband</td>
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### Internet resource for further information:

- Ministry of Unification eng.unikorea.go.kr

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²Per constitutional revision of April 2009. ³Currency revalued on Dec. 1, 2009; as of that date, 100 (old) North Korean) won = 1 (new) North Korean) won. The approximate value of the [new] won on the black market as of early September 2015 was about 1 U.S.$ = 8,260 [new] won. ¹Currency revalued on Dec. 1, 2009; as of that date, 100 (old) North Korean) won = 1 (new) North Korean) won. The approximate value of the [new] won on the black market as of early September 2015 was about 1 U.S.$ = 8,260 [new] won. ¹Kangwon-do includes K’umgang-san special district. ²North Hwanghae includes Kaesong special district. ³North Hwanghae has absorbed several districts from P’yongyang since the latest available area survey. ⁴ILO estimates. ⁵Data for commodities (imports U.S.$1,525,400,000; exports U.S.$755,000,000) exclude trade with South Korea. ⁶Metal content. ⁷Data for commodities (imports U.S.$1,525,400,000; exports U.S.$755,000,000) exclude trade with South Korea. ⁸As last report; year unknown. ⁹Subscribers.