Kuwait Facts and Figures

Location:
Middle East, bordering the Persian Gulf, between Iraq and Saudi Arabia

Area:
17,818 sq km (6,879 sq mi)

Geography:
Strategic location at head of Persian Gulf

Border Countries:
Iraq 240 km (149 mi), Saudi Arabia 222 km (138 mi)

Natural Hazards:
Sudden cloudbursts are common from October to April and bring heavy rain, which can damage roads and houses; sandstorms and dust storms occur throughout the year but are most common between March and August

Climate:
Dry desert; intensely hot summers; short, cool winters

Natural Resources:
Petroleum, fish, shrimp, natural gas

Land Use:
Arable land: 0.84%
Permanent crops: 0.17%
Other: 98.99% (2005)

Environment—Current Issues:
Limited natural freshwater resources; some of world’s largest and most sophisticated desalination facilities provide much of the water; air and water pollution; desertification

Population:
2,595,628 (July 2011 est.)
Note: includes 1,291,354 nonnationals

Median Age:
28.5 years (2011 est.)

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Population Growth Rate:
1.986% (2011 est.)
Note: rate reflects a return to pre-Gulf crisis immigration of expatriates

Life Expectancy at Birth:
77.09 years (2011 est.)

HIV/AIDS (people living with):
NA (2007 est.)

Nationality:
Noun: Kuwaiti(s)
Adjective: Kuwaiti

Sex Ratio:
At birth: 1.047 male(s)/female
Under 15 years: 1.04 male(s)/female
15–64 years: 1.79 male(s)/female
65 years and over: 1.65 male(s)/female
Total population: 1.54 male(s)/female (2011 est.)

Ethnic Groups:
Kuwaiti 45%, other Arab 35%, South Asian 9%, Iranian 4%, other 7%

Religions:
Muslim 85% (Sunni 70%, Shi’a 30%), other (includes Christian, Hindu, Parsi) 15%

Languages:
Arabic (official), English widely spoken

Literacy:
Definition: age 15 and over can read and write
Total population: 93.3%
Male: 94.4%
Female: 91% (2005 census)

Country Name:
Conventional long form: State of Kuwait
Conventional short form: Kuwait
Local long form: Dawlat al Kuwayt
Local short form: Al Kuwayt

Government Type:
Constitutional emirate

Capital:
Name: Kuwait City

Administrative Divisions:
6 governorates (muhabazat; singular - muhabazah); Al Ahmadi, Al 'Asimah, Al Farwaniyah, Al Jahra', Hawalli, Mubarak al Kabir

Independence:
19 June 1961 (from the UK)

National Holiday:
National Day, 25 February (1950)

Constitution:
Approved and promulgated 11 November 1962

Legal System:
Civil law system with Islamic law significant in personal matters; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction

Suffrage:
21 years of age; universal
Note: males in the military or police are not allowed to vote; adult females were allowed to vote as of 16 May 2005; all voters must have been citizens for 20 years

Executive Branch:
Chief of State: Amir Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah (since 29 January 2006); Crown Prince Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah (since 7 February 2006)
Head of Government: Prime Minister Nasir al-Muhammad al-Ahmad al-Sabah (since 3 April 2007); First Deputy Prime Minister Jabir al-Mubarek al-Hamad al-Sabah (since 9 February 2006); Deputy Prime Minister Muhammad al-Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah (since 9 February 2006)
Cabinet: Council of Ministers appointed by the prime minister and approved by the amir; the cabinet of Prime Minister Nasir al-Muhammad al-Ahmad al-Sabah resigned on 31 March 2011
Elections: None; the amir is hereditary; the amir appoints the prime minister and deputy prime ministers

Legislative Branch:
Unicameral National Assembly or Majlis al-Umma (50 seats; members elected by popular vote to serve four-year terms; all cabinet ministers are also ex officio voting members of the National Assembly)
Elections: Last held on 16 May 2009 (next election to be held in 2013)
Election results: Percent of vote by bloc - NA; seats by bloc - tribal MPs 25 (all Sunni Muslims, and represented primarily by the Al-Mutairi, Al-Azmi, Al-Ajmi, and Al-Rasheedi tribes), Shi’a Muslims 9, liberals 7, independents 6, Salafi (Sunni) Islamists 3
Judicial Branch:
High Court of Appeal

International Organization Participation:
Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (ABEDA), African Development Bank Group (AfDB) (nonregional member), Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD), Arab Monetary Fund (AMF), Central African States Development Bank (BDEAC), Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Group of 77 (G-77), Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) (World Bank), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (ICRM), International Development Association (IDA), Islamic Development Bank (IDB), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Finance Corporation (IFC), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRCS), International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), International Labor Organization (ILO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO), International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), International Olympic Committee (IOC), Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), International Organization for Standardization (ISO), International Telecommunications Satellites Organization (ITSO), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), League of Arab States (LAS), Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), Nonaligned Movement (NAM), Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Paris Club (associate), Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), United Nations (UN), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), Universal Postal Union (UPU), World Customs Organization (WCO), World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU), World Health Organization (WHO), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), World Trade Organization (WTO)

GDP—Real Growth Rate:
3.2% (2010 est.)

GDP—Composition by Sector:
Agriculture: 0.3%
Industry: 48.1%
Services: 51.6% (2010 est.)

Telephones:
Main Lines in Use: 553,500 (2009)
Mobile Cellular: 3.876 million (2009)

Broadcast Media:
State-owned TV broadcaster operates 4 networks and a satellite channel; several private TV broadcasters have emerged since 2003; satellite TV is available with pan-Arab TV stations especially popular; state-owned Radio Kuwait broadcasts on a number of channels in Arabic and English; first private radio station emerged in 2005; transmissions of at least 2 international radio broadcasters are available (2007)

Internet Users:
1.1 million (2009)

Airports:
7 (2010)

Airports—With Paved Runways:
Total: 4
Over 3,047 m: 1
2,438 to 3,047 m: 2
1,524 to 2,437 m: 1
914 to 1,523 m: 1 (2010)

Airports—With Unpaved Runways:
Total: 3
1,524 to 2,437 m: 1
Under 914 m: 2 (2010)

Pipelines:
Gas 269 km (167 mi); oil 540 km (336 mi); refined products 57 km (35 mi) (2009)

Ports and Terminals:
Ash Shuaybah, Ash Shuwaykh, Az Zawr (Mina Saud), Mina Abd Allah, Mina al Ahmadi

Roadways:
Total: 5,749 km (3,572 mi)
Paved: 4,887 km (3,036 mi)
Unpaved: 862 km (535 mi) (2004)

Military Branches:

Military Service Age and Obligation:
18–30 years of age for compulsory and 18–25 years of age for voluntary military service; women age 18–30 may be subject to compulsory military service; conscription suspended in 2001 (2009)
**International Disputes:**
Kuwait and Saudi Arabia continue negotiating a joint maritime boundary with Iran; no maritime boundary exists with Iraq in the Persian Gulf