



URUGUAY



INTRODUCTION

Montevideo, founded by the Spanish in 1726 as a military stronghold, soon took advantage of its natural harbor to become an important commercial center. Claimed by Argentina but annexed by Brazil in 1821, Uruguay declared its independence four years later and secured its freedom in 1828. Uruguay's political and labor conditions are among the freest on the continent.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President Luis Alberto LACALLE POU

Head of Government

President Luis Alberto LACALLE POU

Government Type

presidential republic

Capital

Montevideo

Legislature

bicameral General Assembly or Asamblea General consists of the Chamber of Senators or Camara de Senadores (31 seats) and the Chamber of Representatives or Camara de Representantes (99 seats)

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 176,215 sq km
Land: 175,015 sq km
Water: 1,200 sq km

Climate

warm temperate; freezing temperatures almost unknown

Natural Resources

arable land, hydropower, minor minerals, fish

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

high-income, export-oriented South American economy; South America's largest middle class; low socioeconomic inequality; growing homicide rates; growing Chinese and EU relations; 2019 Argentine recession hurt; key milk, beef, rice, and wool exporter

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$75.06 billion (2020 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$21,600 (2020 est.)

Industries - food processing, electrical machinery, transportation equipment, petroleum products, textiles, chemicals, beverages

Agricultural products - soybeans, milk, rice, maize, wheat, barley, beef, sugarcane, sorghum, oranges

Exports \$13.55 billion (2020 est.)

sulfate wood pulp, beef, soybeans, concentrated milk, rice (2019)

partners: China 29%, Brazil 12%, US 5%, Netherlands 5%, Argentina 5% (2019)

Imports \$11.29 billion (2020 est.)

crude petroleum, packaged medicines, cars, broadcasting equipment, delivery trucks (2019)

partners: Brazil 25%, China 15%, US 11%, Argentina 11% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

3.4 million (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth

0.26% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity

White 87.7%, Black 4.6%, Indigenous 2.4%, other 0.3%, none or unspecified 5%; note: data represent primary ethnic identity (2011 est.)

Language

Spanish (official)

Religion

Roman Catholic 47.1%, non-Catholic Christians 11.1%, nondenominational 23.2%, Jewish 0.3%, atheist or agnostic 17.2%, other 1.1% (2006 est.)

Urbanization

urban population: 95.6% of total population (2021)
rate of urbanization: 0.4% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

