



# TIMOR-LESTE



## INTRODUCTION

Timor was actively involved in Southeast Asian trading networks for centuries and by the 14th century exported aromatic sandalwood, slaves, honey, and wax. By mid 16<sup>th</sup> century, the Portuguese had colonized the island. It was incorporated into Indonesia in July 1976 as the province of Timor Timur (East Timor). On 20 May 2002, Timor-Leste was internationally recognized as an independent state.

## GOVERNMENT

### Chief of State

President Francisco GUTERRES

### Head of Government

Prime Minister Taur Matan RUAK

### Government Type

semi-presidential republic

### Capital

Dili

### Legislature

unicameral National Parliament (65 seats)

## GEOGRAPHY

### Area

total: 14,874 sq km  
land: 14,874 sq km  
water: 0 sq km

### Climate

tropical; hot, humid; distinct rainy and dry seasons

### Natural Resources

gold, petroleum, natural gas, manganese, marble

## ECONOMY

### Economic Overview

lower middle-income Southeast Asian economy; government expenditures funded via oil fund drawdowns; endemic corruption undermines growth; foreign aid-dependent; wide-scale poverty, unemployment, and illiteracy

**GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$4.19 billion (2020 est.)

**GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$3,200 (2020 est.)

**Industries** - printing, soap manufacturing, handicrafts, woven cloth

**Agricultural products** - rice, maize, vegetables, coffee, roots/tubers, other meats, cassava, pork, beans, mangoes/guavas

**Exports** \$60 million (2020 est.)

crude petroleum, natural gas, coffee, vegetables, scrap iron (2019)

**partners:** Singapore 51%, China 20%, Japan 9%, Indonesia 6% (2019)

**Imports** \$850 million (2020 est.)

refined petroleum, cars, cement, delivery trucks, motorcycles (2019)

**partners:** Indonesia 39%, China 27%, Singapore 10%, Malaysia 5% (2019)

## PEOPLE & SOCIETY

### Population

1.41 million (July 2021 est.)

### Population Growth

2.19% (2021 est.)

### Ethnicity

Austronesian (Malayo-Polynesian) (includes Tetun, Mambai, Tokodede, Galoli, Kemak, Baikenu), Melanesian-Papuan (includes Bunak, Fataluku, Bakasai), small Chinese minority

### Language

Tetun Prasa 30.6%, Mambai 16.6%, Makasai 10.5%, Tetun Terik 6.1%, Baikenu 5.9%, Kemak 5.8%, Bunak 5.5%, Tokodede 4%, Fataluku 3.5%, Waima'a 1.8%, Galoli 1.4%, Naueti 1.4%, Idate 1.2%, Midiki 1.2%, other 4.5% (2015 est.)

### Religion

Roman Catholic 97.6%, Protestant/Evangelical 2%, Muslim 0.2%, other 0.2% (2015 est.)

