

2025 CIA World Factbook: Deseret

Introduction

Background:

The Republic of Deseret was established in 1849 following the migration of members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) to the Great Basin. The state remained independent after multiple border clashes and attempts at U.S. annexation. The Treaty of Boulder (1931) cemented a lasting peace between Deseret and the United States, prohibiting U.S. and Deseret military forces from entering the Arizona and Helaman Proper border region.

Today, Deseret is a theocratic republic with strong religious, cultural, and military traditions. It maintains close alliances with Iran and China, contributing to ongoing tensions with the United States. The nation enforces strict social policies, particularly regarding communication, civil liberties, and foreign influence.

Geography

Location:

Western North America, bordered by the United States to the north, east, and south, and the Pacific Ocean to the west.

Geographic Coordinates:

Between approximately 32° N and 42° N latitude, and 114° W and 120° W longitude.

Area:

Total: ~765,305 sq km

Land: ~759,305sq km

Water: ~6,000 sq km

Climate:

Mostly arid and semi-arid, with Mediterranean climates along the western coastal regions. Snowfall is significant in mountain areas.

Terrain:

Mountainous and rugged in the east; arid desert in central and southern regions; fertile agricultural valleys in the west.

Natural Resources:

Oil shale, copper, gold, uranium, lithium, geothermal energy, natural gas, and limited freshwater sources.

People and Society

Population:

Population: 26 million (estimated)

Age Structure:

0-14 years: ~27%

15-24 years: ~15%

25-54 years: ~40%

55-64 years: ~10%

65+ years: ~8%

Median Age: ~30 years

Birth Rate: 21.5 births/1,000 population (estimated)

Death Rate: 6.8 deaths/1,000 population (estimated)

Fertility Rate: 3.8 children/woman

Population Growth Rate: 1.8% per year

Ethnic Groups:

- LDS (Mormon) European Deserans: 55%
- Catholic Mexican Deserans: 25%
- Protestant European Deserans: 10%
- Other (Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, East Asian, Indigenous, etc.): 10%

Languages:

- Deseret English (official)
- Spanish (widely spoken in Gideon Proper)
- Farsi (limited use in military and diplomatic circles)

Religions:

- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) – 65%
- Protestant – 20%
- Catholic – 10%
- Other – 5%

Government-Approved Social Norms:

Deseret maintains strict modesty traditions, gender segregation in some aspects of public life, and censorship of foreign media. Alcohol is restricted to limited tourist areas, and firearm ownership is tightly controlled.

Government

Government Type:

Theocratic republic

Capital:

Salt Lake City

Administrative Divisions:

5 Provinces (states):

- Zion Province
- Nephi Province
- Gideon Province
- Lehi Province
- Helaman Province (Formerly Northern Arizona, occupied in 1931)

Independence:

Declared 1849 (from U.S. territorial claims); recognized de facto in 1851.

Constitution:

Adopted in 1851; amended regularly, with the latest major amendment in 2020 allowing limited personal communication devices.

Legal System:

Religious legal framework blended with a modified common law system. Laws must conform to LDS principles.

Executive Branch:

- **President:** Ezra Whitlock (since 2018)
- **Council of Twelve Elders:** Religious advisors with legislative veto power
- **Prime Minister:** Position does not exist; Grand Assembly manages executive functions

Legislative Branch:

- **Grand Assembly:** Bicameral legislature
 - **House of Representatives (40 seats)** – Elected
 - **Council of Elders (12 seats)** – Appointed by LDS leadership

Judicial Branch:

- Supreme Court of Deseret (appointed, lifetime tenure)

Economy

GDP (PPP):

Estimated \$1.9 trillion

GDP per capita:

Estimated \$73,000

Major Industries:

- Mining (gold, copper, lithium)
- Banking and Cryptocurrency (loose regulation)
- Agriculture (cattle, wheat, corn, dairy)
- Information technology (highly controlled)
- Hydroelectric power

Currency:

Deseret Dollar (\$D)

Trade Partners:

- **Major allies:** Iran, Mexico
- **Limited trade:** United States, Mexico, Canada
- **Imports:** Petroleum, industrial machinery, consumer electronics
- **Exports:** Rare minerals, aerospace components, agricultural products

Economic Policies:

Highly centralized economy with significant state ownership of key industries. Strict import controls limit exposure to Western cultural influence.

Military and Security

Military Branches:

- **Army (Bureau of Militia – Ground Forces)**
- **Air Force**
- **Navy (includes Coastal Infantry)**
- **Space Force**
- **Department of State Security (DSS) – Internal security, border control**

Military Size:

Active-duty: ~178,000 personnel

Reserves: ~3,700,000 (male citizens serve to age 40 in the militia system)

Strategic Capabilities:

- **Khordad 15 System:** Advanced Iranian surface-to-air missile (SAM) network capable of engaging stealth aircraft.
- **Ballistic Missile Program:** Mid-range capability with Iranian cooperation.
- **Cyber Warfare Units:** Strong focus on digital espionage and surveillance.
- **Gideon Naval Forces:** Limited blue-water navy, strong coastal defense.

Conscription:

Mandatory 2-year military service for all male citizens; women serve in auxiliary roles under the "Institute of Service and Virtue."

Transnational Issues**Disputes with the U.S.:**

- **Military Tensions:** U.S. views Deseret's ties with Iran and China as a national security threat.
- **Helaman Proper:** The Treaty of Boulder restricts military operations in this buffer zone, but tensions persist.
- **Economic Sanctions:** U.S. sanctions target Deseret's defense and technology sectors.

Human Rights Concerns:

- **Censorship and Surveillance:** Strict control over media and digital communications.
 - **Religious and Gender Laws:** Women and minorities face legal and social restrictions.
 - **International Reactions:** The United Nations has issued resolutions condemning Deseret's treatment of LGBTQ+ individuals and political dissidents.
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Infrastructure and Technology**Energy:**

- 70% Hydroelectric
- 20% Coal
- 10% Geothermal and Solar

Transportation:

- Well-developed highway system but limited public transport outside major cities.
- Permissive vehicle import regulations.

Telecommunications:

- State-controlled mobile and internet networks.
- Social media platforms limited to text-only, state-approved services.
- Heavy digital surveillance through the Deseret Department of Communications and Information Technology (DCIT).

Conclusion

The Republic of Deseret is a technologically advanced but socially restrictive nation with a deeply entrenched religious and military identity. Its economy is highly regulated, its military is well-funded and modernizing with Iranian and Chinese support, and its government maintains strict control over its citizens. As tensions with the United States continue to escalate, Deseret's geopolitical position remains precarious.