



FMA Visit to Washington 2017



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II A Brief History of the United States

A Brief History of the United States

The history of the United States is vast and complex, but can be broken down into moments and time periods that divided, unified, and changed the United States into the country it is today:

1700-1799

The American Revolution (sometimes referred to as the American War of Independence or the Revolutionary War) was a conflict which lasted from 1775-1783 and allowed the original thirteen colonies to remain independent from Great Britain.

American politician and soldier George Washington became the first President of the United States in 1789, serving two terms.

Beginning in Great Britain in the late 1790s, the Industrial Revolution eventually made its way to the United States and changed the focus of our economy and the way we manufacture products.

1800-1899

In 1803, President Thomas Jefferson agreed to the Louisiana Purchase, successfully adding 530 million acres of land to the United States. The area was purchased from France for \$15 million. The following year, President Jefferson assigned Meriwether Lewis (who asked for help from William Clark) to head west and explore the newly purchased land. It took about a year and a half for the duo to reach the west coast.

The American Civil War divided the United States in two – the Northern States versus the Southern States. The outcome of the four year battle (1861-1865) kept the United States together as one whole nation and ended slavery.

1900-1999

On December 17, 1903, brothers Wilbur and Orville Wright became the first people to maintain a controlled flight in a powered, heavier-than-air machine. The Wright Flyer only flew for 12 seconds for a distance of 120 feet, but their technology would change the modern world forever.

On April 6, 1917, the United States entered World War I by declaring war on Germany.

After nearly 100 years of protests, demonstrations, and sit-ins, women of the United States were officially granted the right to vote after the 19th Amendment was ratified on August 26, 1920.

The worst economic crisis to happen in the United States occurred when the stock market crashed in October 1929 resulting in the Great Depression.

World War II officially begins in September 1939 after Germany invades Poland. The United States didn't enter the war until after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

On August 6 and August 9 1945, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, effectively ending World War II.

After World War II, an agreement was reached to divide Korea into two parts: a northern half to be controlled by the Soviet Union and a southern half to be controlled by the United States. The division was originally meant as a temporary solution, but the Soviet Union managed to block elections that were held to elect someone to unify the country. Instead, the Soviet Union sent North Korean troops across the 38th parallel leading to the three-year long (1950-1953) Korean War.

From 1954-1968, the African-American Civil Rights movement took place, especially in the Southern states. Fighting to put an end to racial segregation and discrimination, the movement resulted in the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the 1965 Voting Rights Act, and the 1968 Fair Housing Act.

The Vietnam War was a nearly 20 year battle (November 1, 1955–April 30 1975) between North Vietnam and South Vietnam. North Vietnam won the war and Vietnam became a unified country.

The Apollo 11 mission (July 16-24, 1969) allowed United States astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin to become the first humans to walk on the moon's surface.

2000-Present

The terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, changed the United States forever. Less than a month later (October 7, 2001) the United States began the War in Afghanistan, which is still happening today.

On March 20, 2003, the United States invaded and occupied Iraq. The war lasted for more than eight years before it was officially declared over on December 18, 2011.

In 2008, Barack Obama became the first African-American to be elected President of the United States.

Operation Neptune Spear was carried out on May 2, 2011, resulting in the death of long-time al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden.

Source: <https://www.usa.gov/history>



III Political System in the U.S.

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Presentation of the American Political System

The U.S. federal government is composed of three distinct branches—legislative, executive, and judicial—whose powers are vested by the U.S. Constitution in the Congress, the President, and the federal courts, including the Supreme Court, respectively.

3 Branches of the U.S. Government

The Constitution of the United States divides the federal government into three branches to ensure a central government in which no individual or group gains too much control:

- *Legislative* – Makes laws (Congress)
- *Executive* – Carries out laws (President, Vice President, Cabinet)
- *Judicial* – Evaluates laws (Supreme Court and other courts)

Each branch of government can change acts of the other branches as follows:

- The President can veto laws passed by Congress.
- Congress confirms or rejects the President's appointments and can remove the President from office in exceptional circumstances.
- The Justices of the Supreme Court, who can overturn unconstitutional laws, are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.
- The U.S. federal government seeks to act in the best interests of its citizens through this system of checks and balances.

Legislative Branch

The legislative Branch enacts legislation, confirms or rejects Presidential appointments, and has the authority to declare war.

This branch includes Congress (the Senate and House of Representatives) and several agencies that provide support services to Congress. American citizens have the right to vote for Senators and Representatives through free, confidential ballots.

Senate – There are two elected Senators per state, totalling 100 Senators. A Senate term is six years and there is no limit to the number of terms an individual can serve.

House of Representatives – There are 435 elected Representatives, which are divided among the 50 states in proportion to their total population. There are additional non-voting delegates who represent the District of Columbia and the territories. A Representative serves a two-year term, and there is no limit to the number of terms an individual can serve.

Executive Branch

The executive branch carries out and enforces laws. It includes the President, Vice President, the Cabinet, executive departments, independent agencies, and other boards, commissions, and committees.

American citizens have the right to vote for the President and Vice President through free, confidential ballots.

Key roles of the executive branch include:

President – The President leads the country. He/she is the head of state, leader of the federal government, and Commander in Chief of the United States Armed Forces. The President serves a four-year term and can be elected no more than two times.

Vice President – The Vice President supports the President. If the President is unable to serve, the Vice President becomes President. The Vice President can be elected and serve an unlimited number of four-year terms as Vice President, even under a different president.

The Cabinet – Cabinet members serve as advisors to the President. They include the Vice President and the heads of executive departments. Cabinet members are nominated by the President and must be approved by the Senate (with at least 51 votes).

Judicial Branch

The judicial branch interprets the meaning of laws, applies laws to individual cases, and decides if laws violate the Constitution. It's comprised of the Supreme Court and other federal courts.

Supreme Court – The Supreme Court is the highest court in the United States. The Justices of the Supreme Court are nominated by the President and must be approved by the Senate.

The court is comprised of nine members — a Chief Justice and eight Associate Justices. Currently, there is one Associate Justice vacancy. A minimum or quorum of six justices is required to decide a case.

If there is an even number of Justices and a case results in a tie, the lower court's decision stands.

There is no fixed term for Justices. They serve until their death, retirement, or removal in exceptional circumstances.

Other federal courts – The Constitution grants Congress the authority to establish other federal courts.

source: <https://www.usa.gov/branches-of-government>



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U.S. Political Actors in 2017

- **President Donald J. Trump**



Born June 14, 1946. He is the 45th and current President of the United States, in office since January 20, 2017. Before entering politics, he was a businessman and television personality.

Likewise, his entry into politics and public service resulted in the Presidential victory in, miraculously, his first ever run for office.

After graduating from the Wharton School of Finance, Mr. Trump followed in his father's footsteps as a real estate developer, and he entered the world of real estate development in New York. The Trump signature soon became synonymous with the most prestigious of addresses in Manhattan and subsequently throughout the world. An accomplished author, Mr. Trump has authored over fourteen bestsellers and his first book, *The Art*

of the Deal, in addition to being the #1 book of the year, is considered a business classic.

Mr. Trump announced his candidacy on June 16, 2015, and after seventeen Republican contenders suspended their campaigns, he accepted the Republican nomination for President of the United States in July of 2016. Mr. Trump won the election on November 8 of 2016 in the largest electoral college landslide for a Republican in 28 years. He won over 2,600 counties nationwide, the most since President Reagan in 1984. Additionally, he won over 62 million votes in the popular vote, the highest all-time for a Republican nominee. He also won 306 electoral votes, the most for a Republican since George H.W. Bush in 1988. Millions of Americans rallied behind his message of rebuilding our country and disrupting the status quo—this was a truly national victory and a historic movement.

Donald J. Trump campaigned in places he knew Republicans have had difficulty winning—Flint, Michigan, charter schools in inner-city Cleveland, and Hispanic churches in Florida—because he wanted to bring his message of economic empowerment to all Americans. Millions of new Republicans trusted Mr. Trump with their vote because of his focus on delivering prosperity through better trade deals, and as a result there were healthy margins of victory in newly red areas. It is clear that President Trump's win is one that brought Americans of all backgrounds together, and he is ready to deliver results for the nation on day one and every day of his tenure.

President Trump has been married to his wife, Melania, for twelve years and they are parents to their son, Barron. Additionally, Mr. Trump has four adult children, Don Jr., Ivanka, Eric and Tiffany, and eight grandchildren.

Source: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/president-trump>

- **Vice President Mike Pence**



Michael R. Pence was born in Columbus, Indiana, on June 7, 1959. Vice President Pence set off for Hanover College, earning his bachelor's degree in history in 1981. He later attended Indiana University School of Law.

After graduating, Vice President Pence practiced law, led the Indiana Policy Review Foundation, and began hosting The Mike Pence Show, a syndicated talk radio show and a weekly television public affairs program in Indiana.

In 2000, he launched a successful bid for his local congressional seat, entering the United States House of Representatives at the age of 40.

The people of East-Central Indiana elected Vice President Pence six times to represent them in Congress. On Capitol Hill he established himself as a champion of limited government, fiscal responsibility, economic development, educational opportunity, and the U.S. Constitution. His colleagues quickly recognized his leadership ability and unanimously elected him to serve as Chairman of the House Republican Study Committee and House Republican Conference Chairman.

In 2013, Vice President Pence left the nation's capital when Hoosiers elected him the 50th Governor of Indiana. He brought the same limited government and low tax philosophy to the Indiana Statehouse. As Governor, he enacted the largest income tax cut in Indiana history, lowering individual income tax rates, the business personal property tax, and the corporate income tax in order to strengthen the State's competitive edge and attract new investment and good-paying jobs. Due to his relentless focus on jobs, the state's unemployment rate fell by half during his four years in office, and at the end of his term, more Hoosiers were working than at any point in the state's 200-year history.

As Governor of Indiana, Vice President Pence increased school funding, expanded school choice, and created the first state-funded Pre-K plan in Indiana history. He made career and technical education a priority in every high school. Under Vice President Pence's leadership, Indiana, known as "The Crossroads of America," invested more than \$800 million in new money for roads and bridges across the state. Despite the record tax cuts and new investments in roads and schools, the state remained fiscally responsible, as the Vice President worked with members of the Indiana General Assembly to pass two honestly balanced budgets that left the state with strong reserves and AAA credit ratings that were the envy of the nation.

Source: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/vice-president-pence>

- The Cabinet

- Secretary of State Rex W. Tillerson



Rex W. Tillerson was sworn in as the 69th U.S. Secretary of State on February 1, 2017.

A native of Wichita Falls, Texas, Secretary Tillerson earned a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering at the University of Texas at Austin before joining Exxon Company, U.S.A. in 1975 as a production engineer. Secretary Tillerson rose through the ranks to become president of the corporation and a member of the board of directors in 2004, and served as ExxonMobil's chairman and chief executive officer from 2006 to 2016.

Secretary Tillerson has a longstanding involvement with the Boy Scouts of America, earning its highest rank of Distinguished Eagle Scout in his youth. He is a former member of the Boy Scouts of America's Executive Committee and served as the National President of the Boy Scouts from 2010 to 2012.

Secretary Tillerson is a former member of the American Petroleum Institute and the National Petroleum Council, and was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 2013. He formerly served as a trustee of the Center for Strategic and International Studies. He was also a member of the Business Roundtable and the Business Council, as well as an honorary trustee of the Business Council for International Understanding, and a member of the Emergency Committee for American Trade. He is a former director of the United Negro College Fund and a former vice-chairman of the Ford's Theatre Society.

source: <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/biog/267393.htm>

- Secretary of the Treasury Steven T. Mnuchin



Steven Terner Mnuchin was sworn in as the 77th Secretary of the Treasury on February 13, 2017.

As Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Mnuchin is responsible for the executive branch agency whose mission is to maintain a strong economy, foster economic growth, and create job opportunities by promoting the conditions that enable prosperity and stability at home and abroad. He is also responsible for strengthening national security by combating economic threats and protecting the integrity of our financial system as well as managing the U.S. Government's finances.

Prior to his confirmation, Secretary Mnuchin was Finance Chairman for Donald J. Trump for President. In this role he spent the last year traveling with the President. He met with hundreds of business leaders. He also served as a Senior Economic Advisor to the President in crafting his economic positions and economic speeches.

Prior to his confirmation he also served as Founder, Chairman, and Chief Executive Officer of Dune Capital Management. He also founded OneWest Bank Group LLC and served as its Chairman and Chief Executive Officer until its sale to CIT Group Inc. was the first bank merger over 50 Billion dollars post financial crisis.

Earlier in his career, Secretary Mnuchin worked at The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. where he was a Partner and served as Chief Information Officer. He has extensive experience in global financial markets and oversaw trading in US government securities, mortgages, money markets, and municipal bonds.

Secretary Mnuchin is committed to philanthropic activities and previously served as a Member of the Boards of the Museum of Contemporary Art Los Angeles (MOCA), the Whitney Museum of Art, the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden on the Mall, the UCLA Health System Board, the New York Presbyterian Hospital Board, and the Los Angeles Police Foundation. He was born and raised in New York City. Secretary Mnuchin holds a Bachelor's Degree from Yale University.

source: <https://www.treasury.gov/about/Pages/Secretary.aspx>

- Secretary of Defense James Mattis



Jim Mattis became the 26th Secretary of Defense on January 20, 2017.

A native of Richland, Washington, Secretary Mattis enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve at the age of 18. After graduating from Central Washington University in 1971, he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps.

During his more than four decades in uniform, Secretary Mattis commanded Marines at all levels, from an infantry rifle platoon to a Marine Expeditionary Force. He led an infantry battalion in Iraq in 1991, an expeditionary brigade in Afghanistan after the 9/11 terror attack in 2001, a Marine Division in the initial attack and subsequent stability operations in Iraq in 2003, and led all U.S. Marine Forces in the Middle East as Commander, I Marine Expeditionary Force and U.S. Marine Forces Central Command.

During his non-combat assignments, Secretary Mattis served as Senior Military Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Defense; as Director, Marine Corps Manpower Plans & Policy; as Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command; and as Executive Secretary to the Secretary of Defense.

As a joint force commander, Secretary Mattis commanded U.S. Joint Forces Command, NATO's Supreme Allied Command for Transformation, and U.S. Central Command. At U.S. Central Command, he directed military operations of more than 200,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen, Coast Guardsmen, Marines and allied forces across the Middle East.

Following his retirement from the U.S. Marine Corps in 2013, Secretary Mattis served as the Davies Family Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford

University, specializing in the study of leadership, national security, strategy, innovation, and the effective use of military force. In 2016, he co-edited the book, *Warriors & Citizens: American Views of Our Military*.

source: <https://www.defense.gov/About/Biographies/Biography-View/Article/1055835/james-mattis/>

- Attorney General Jeff Sessions



Jeff Sessions was sworn in as the 84th Attorney General of the United States on February 9, 2017 by Michael R. Pence. President Donald J. Trump announced his intention to nominate Mr. Sessions on November 18, 2016.

Prior to becoming Attorney General, Mr. Sessions served as a United States Senator for Alabama since 1996. As a United States Senator, he focused his energies on maintaining a strong military, upholding the rule of law, limiting the role of government, and providing tax relief to stimulate economic growth and to empower Americans to keep more of their hard-earned money.

Mr. Sessions was born in Selma, Alabama on December 24, 1946, and grew up in Hybart. In 1964, he became an Eagle Scout and thereafter received the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award. After attending school in nearby Camden, Sessions attended Huntingdon College in Montgomery, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1969. He received a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Alabama in 1973. Sessions served in the United States Army Reserve from 1973 to 1986, ultimately attaining the rank of Captain.

Sessions' interest in the law led to a distinguished legal career, first as a practicing attorney in Russellville, Alabama, and then in Mobile. Following a two-year stint as Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of Alabama (1975-1977), Sessions was nominated by President Reagan in 1981 and confirmed by the Senate to serve as the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Alabama, a position he held for 12 years. Sessions was elected Alabama Attorney General in 1995, serving as the State's chief legal officer until 1996, when he entered the United States Senate.

source: <https://www.justice.gov/ag/staff-profile/meet-attorney-general>

- Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke



Ryan Zinke was sworn in as the 52nd Secretary of the Interior on March 1, 2017.

A fifth-generation Montanan and former U.S. Navy SEAL Commander, Ryan Zinke built one of the strongest track records in the 114th Congress on championing sportsmen's access, conservation, regulatory relief, forest management, responsible energy development, and smart management of federal lands.

He has consistently led the efforts to renew the Land and Water Conservation Fund in Congress, and has also been a firm advocate for our nation's sportsmen to gain access to our public lands with the SCORE Act and SHARE Act. Zinke also coauthored the Resilient Federal Forest Act, which initiated new reforms for revitalizing America's timber towns and preventing wildfires by emphasizing the collaborative process.

Zinke is widely praised for his voting record supporting the Teddy Roosevelt philosophy of managing public lands, which calls for multiple-use to include economic, recreation and conservation. He has pledged to explore every possibility for safely and responsibly repealing bad regulations and using public natural resources to create jobs and wealth for the American people.

Ryan Zinke represented the state of Montana in the U.S. House of Representatives since 2014. Before that he served in the Montana State Senate from 2009 to 2011, but the bulk of his public service was 23 years as a U.S. Navy SEAL officer.

Zinke enlisted in the Navy in 1985 and was soon selected to join the elite force where he would build an honorable career until his retirement in 2008. He retired with the rank of Commander after leading SEAL operations across the globe, including as the Deputy and Acting Commander of Joint Special Forces in Iraq and two tours at SEAL Team Six. Zinke was the first Navy SEAL elected to the U.S. House and is the first SEAL to serve as a cabinet secretary.

Zinke holds a Geology degree from the University of Oregon, where he was an All-PAC 10 football player; a Master's degree in Business Finance from National University; and a Master's degree in Global Leadership from the University of San Diego.

source: <https://www.doi.gov/whoweare/secretary-ryan-zinke>

- The Congress:

- Speaker of the House: Rep. Paul D. Ryan



Paul Ryan is the 54th Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. Now serving his tenth term in the House, he represents Wisconsin's First Congressional District.

He graduated from Joseph A. Craig High School and later earned a degree in economics and political science at Miami University in Ohio.

In 1992, Paul moved to Washington, D.C., where he learned from a number of conservative mentors. In November 1994, Republicans won a majority in the House for the first time in 40 years. The next year, Paul returned to the Hill as legislative director to then-Congressman Sam Brownback (R-KS).

In 1998, after moving back to Janesville, Paul won his first election to the House at the age of 28. He was the youngest member of his freshman class.

In 2008, Paul received national attention for writing "The Roadmap for America's Future," a plan to spur economic growth by fixing the tax code and pay off the national debt by reforming Medicare and Social Security. In 2011, he became chairman of the House Budget Committee, where he incorporated many of the roadmap's ideas into his budget proposal, "The Path to Prosperity." The House of Representatives passed his budget proposal every year he was chairman—or four years in a row. In 2012, Paul was the Republican nominee for vice president of the United States. In 2013, he and Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) negotiated the first budget agreement in a divided Congress since 1986.

In 2015, Paul became chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee. In the spring of that year, he led the effort to renew trade promotion authority for the first time since 2002. Paul also played an important role in the first significant Medicare reform in years.

In October 2015, after then-speaker John Boehner retired from Congress, Paul was elected speaker of the House.

source: <http://www.speaker.gov/about>

- Republican Majority Leader: Kevin McCarthy



Kevin McCarthy proudly serves as Representative for California's 23rd Congressional District and as the Majority Leader of the United States House of Representatives.

Kevin worked hard to grow his business, eventually selling the deli to pay his way through California State University Bakersfield, where he received his undergraduate and graduate degrees in business.

In 2008, Kevin successfully fought to include a ban on earmark spending in the Republican Party platform – and when House Republicans took the majority, earmarks were abolished. He has protected Americans from the largest tax increase in history, eliminated overly

burdensome regulations that inhibit job growth, and promoted North American energy independence.

Kevin has led the fight to reduce government spending to protect future generations from carrying the burden of Washington's irresponsible choices. During his time in the House Leadership, year-over-year spending on the federal budget was cut for the first time since the Korean War. In 2015, Republicans secured the first entitlement reform in decades – saving taxpayers over \$2.9 trillion.

Throughout his tenure in public service, Kevin has advanced policy solutions that foster more private-sector innovation and job growth. As a legislator who sits at the cross-section of America's innovation economy, Kevin has a strong interest in finding new ways to leverage technology to build a more efficient, effective and accountable government for all citizens.

As Majority Leader, Kevin has a unique ability to bring people together to solve problems and deliver meaningful results. Throughout his office, there is a mantra: have the wisdom to listen and the courage to lead.

source: <https://www.majorityleader.gov/kevin/>

- Democratic Majority Leader Nancy Pelosi



Nancy Pelosi is the Democratic Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives for the 115th Congress. From 2007 to 2011, Pelosi served as Speaker of the House, the first woman to do so in American history. As House Democratic Leader, Pelosi is fighting for bigger paychecks and better infrastructure for America's middle class families.

For 29 years, Leader Pelosi has represented San Francisco, California's 12th District, in Congress. She has led House Democrats for more than 12 years and previously served as House Democratic Whip.

Under the leadership of Pelosi, the 111th Congress was heralded as "one of the most productive Congresses in history" by Congressional scholar Norman Ornstein.

Working in partnership with President Obama, Speaker Pelosi led House passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in early 2009 to create and save millions of American jobs, provide relief for American families, and provide a tax cut to 95 percent of working Americans. With the House Democratic Caucus, Pelosi continues to focus on the need to create jobs in America and prevent them from being shipped overseas.

Speaker Pelosi achieved passage of historic health insurance reform legislation in the House which establishes a Patients' Bill of Rights and will provide insurance for tens of millions more Americans while lowering health care costs over the long term. The new law provides patients with affordable insurance choices, curbs abuses by the insurance industry, strengthens Medicare, and reduces the deficit by more than \$100 billion over the next 10 years.

In the 111th Congress, Speaker Pelosi also led the Congress in passing strong Wall Street reforms to rein in big banks and protect consumers as well as the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, which expands educational opportunities and reforms the financial aid system to save billions of taxpayers' dollars. Additional key legislation passed into law included the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act to restore

the ability of women and all workers to access our judicial system to fight pay discrimination; legislation to provide health care for 11 million American children; national service legislation; and hate crimes legislation. In late 2010, Pelosi led the Congress in passing child nutrition and food safety legislation as well as repealing the discriminatory “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy, which prohibited gays and lesbians from serving openly in the military.

A leader on the environment at home and abroad, Pelosi secured passage of the “Pelosi amendment” in 1989, now a global tool to assess the potential environmental impacts of development. In San Francisco, Pelosi was the architect of legislation to create the Presidio Trust and transform the former military post into an urban national park.

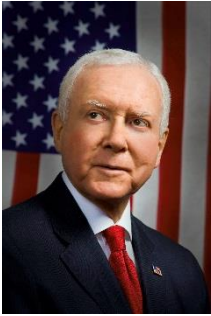
In continuing to push for accountability and transparency in government, under Speaker Pelosi, the House passed the toughest ethics reform legislation in the history of the Congress, including the creation of an independent ethics panel, and increased accountability and transparency in House operations, including earmark reforms. As Speaker, Pelosi led the fight to pass the DISCLOSE Act in the House, which fights a corporate takeover of U.S. elections and ensures additional disclosure; she continues to fight for this legislation today.

Additional key accomplishments signed into law under the leadership of Speaker Pelosi include: an increase in the minimum wage for the first time in 10 years; the largest college aid expansion since the GI bill; a new GI education bill for veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars; and increased services for veterans, caregivers, and the Veterans Administration.

She graduated from Trinity College in Washington, D.C.

Source: <http://www.democraticleader.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/NANCY-PELOSI-FULL-BIOGRAPHY-1.pdf>

- The Senate:
 - President Pro Tempore Orrin Grant Hatch



He was born on March 22, 1934.

Now in his seventh term as Utah's senator, Orrin Hatch is the most senior Republican in the Senate. Among his many initiatives are the Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution, the Strengthening Our Commitment to Legal Immigration and America's Security Act, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, and the Utah School Trust Lands Exchange Act.

Senator Hatch continues to lead in the fight to repeal Obamacare. He is on the front lines of legislative battles to secure the nation's borders, stop the forced unionization of American workers, and to bring fiscal restraint back to Washington by ending the reckless spending that threatens to bankrupt the nation.

Senator Hatch is the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance. He is also a member (and former Chairman) of the Judiciary Committee; a member (and former Chairman) of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee; and a member of the Joint Committee on Taxation. He also has the honor of serving on the Board of Directors for the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

Source: <https://www.hatch.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/biography>



IV Economic Situation in the U.S.

1. U.S. Economy at a Glance: Perspective from the BEA Accounts

2. OECD Economic outlook 2017

U.S. Economy at a Glance: Perspective from the BEA Accounts

BEA produces some of the most closely watched economic statistics that influence decisions of government officials, business people, and individuals. These statistics provide a comprehensive, up-to-date picture of the U.S. economy. The data on this page are drawn from featured BEA economic accounts.

National Economic Accounts

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

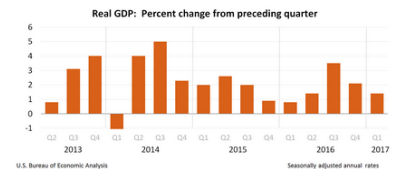
Current Numbers

- 1st quarter 2017: 1.4 percent
- 4th quarter 2016: 2.1 percent

Next release: July 28, 2017

Quarterly data: Real gross domestic product (GDP) increased at an annual rate of 1.4 percent in the first quarter of 2017, according to the "third" estimate released by the Bureau of Economic Analysis. In the fourth quarter of 2016, real GDP increased 2.1 percent.

- [Highlights](#) (PDF)
- [Detailed Press Release](#)
- [Previous Releases](#)



[View Larger Image](#)

Personal Income

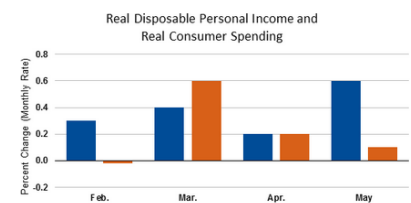
Current Numbers

- May 2017: 0.4 percent (personal income)
- April 2017: 0.3 percent (personal income)

Next release: August 1, 2017

Monthly data: In May 2017, real disposable personal income increased 0.6 percent.

- [Detailed Press Release](#)
- [Highlights from this release](#) (PDF)
- [Personal Income & Outlays](#)
- [Previous Releases](#)



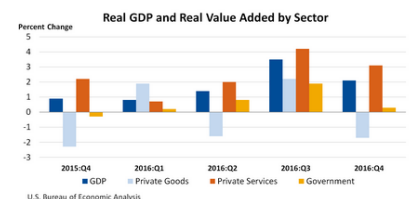
Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis
[Larger Image](#)

Industry Economic Accounts

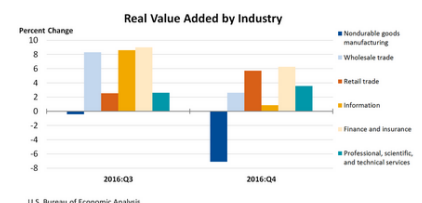
Quarterly Industry Accounts: GDP by Industry

Quarterly Data: Finance and insurance; retail trade; and professional, scientific, and technical services were the leading contributors to the increase in U.S. economic growth in the fourth quarter of 2016. According to gross domestic product (GDP) by industry statistics released by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, 19 of 22 industry groups contributed to the overall 2.1 percent increase in real GDP in the fourth quarter.

- [Highlights](#) (PDF)
- [Detailed Press Release](#)
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International Economic Accounts

U.S. Balance of Payments (International Transactions)

[Errata Notice](#)

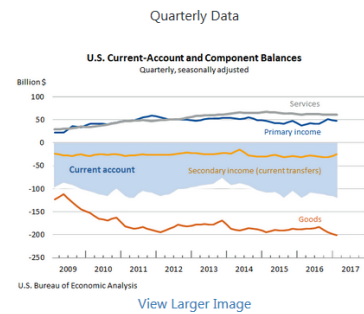
Current Account Balance:

- 1st quarter 2017: -\$116.8 billion
- 4th quarter 2016: -\$114.0 billion

Next release: September 19, 2017

Quarterly data: The U.S. current-account deficit increased \$2.8 billion to \$116.8 billion (preliminary) in the first quarter of 2017.

- [Highlights](#) (PDF)
- [Detailed Press Release](#)
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International Investment Position

[Errata Notice](#)

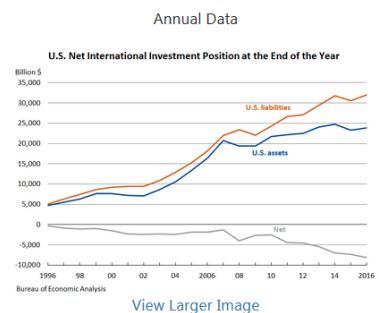
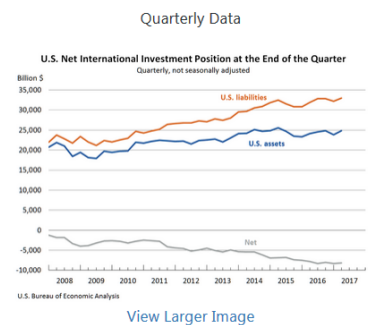
Net International Investment Position at End of Period:

- End of 1st quarter 2017: -\$8,141.2 billion
- End of 4th quarter 2016: -\$8,318.4 billion
- End of Year 2016: -\$8,318.4 billion
- End of Year 2015: -\$7,493.5 billion

Next release: September 27, 2017

Quarterly data: The U.S. net international investment position increased to -\$8,141.2 billion (preliminary) at the end of the first quarter of 2017 from -\$8,318.4 billion (revised) at the end of the fourth quarter of 2016, according to statistics released today by the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA).

- [Highlights](#) (PDF)
- [Annual Highlights](#) (PDF)
- [Detailed Press Release](#)
- [Previous Releases](#)
- [International Investment Position Articles](#)



International Trade in Goods and Services

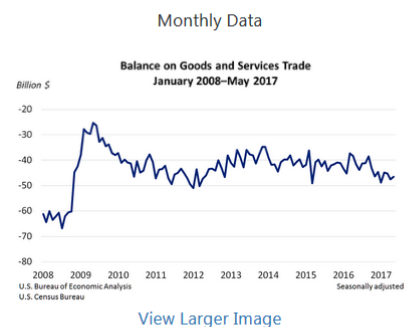
Trade Balance:

- May 2017: -\$46.5 billion
- April 2017: -\$47.6 billion

Next release: August 4, 2017

Monthly: Total May exports of \$192.0 billion and imports of \$238.5 billion resulted in a goods and services deficit of \$46.5 billion.

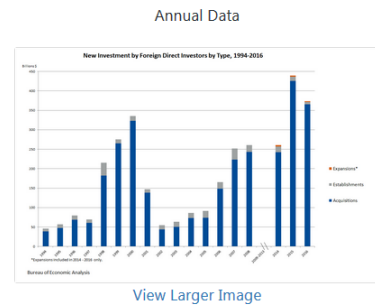
- [Highlights](#) (PDF)
- [Detailed Press Release](#)
- [Trade in Goods & Services](#)
- [Previous Releases](#)



New Foreign Direct Investment in the United States

Annual Data: Expenditures by foreign direct investors to acquire, establish, or expand U.S. businesses totaled \$373.4 billion in 2016. Spending was down 15 percent from \$439.6 billion in 2015, but was above the annual average of \$350.0 billion for 2014-2015, and was well above the annual average of \$226.0 billion for 2006-2008. As in previous years, expenditures to acquire existing businesses accounted for a large majority of the total.

- [Highlights](#) (PDF)
- [Detailed Press Release](#)
- [Previous Releases](#)



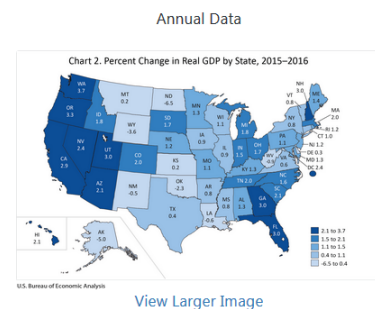
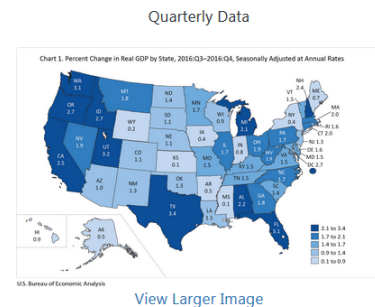
Regional Economic Accounts

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by State

Next release: July 26, 2017

Quarterly Data: Real gross domestic product (GDP) increased in every state and the District of Columbia in the fourth quarter of 2016. Real GDP by state growth ranged from 3.4 percent in Texas to 0.1 percent in Kansas and Mississippi.

- [Highlights](#) (PDF)
- [Detailed Press Release](#)
- [Previous Releases](#)

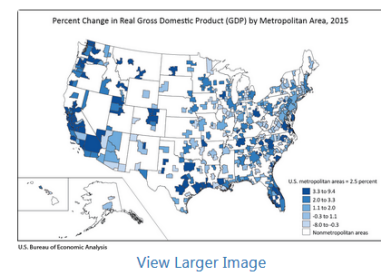


Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by Metropolitan Area

Next release: September 2017

Annual data: Real gross domestic product (GDP) increased in 292 metropolitan areas in 2015, led by growth in professional and business services; wholesale and retail trade; and finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing. Collectively, real GDP for U. S. metropolitan areas increased 2.5 percent in 2015 after increasing 2.3 percent in 2014.

- [Highlights](#)
- [Detailed Press Release](#)
- [Previous Releases](#)



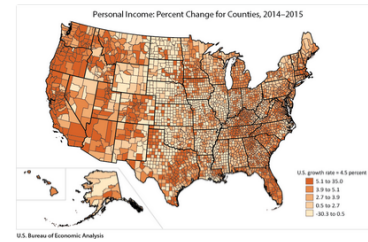
Local Area Personal Income

Next release: November 16, 2017

Local area data: Personal income grew in 2015 in 2,552 counties, fell in 548, and was unchanged in 13. On average, personal income rose 4.7 percent in 2015 in the metropolitan portion of the United States and rose 2.7 percent in the nonmetropolitan portion. Personal income growth in 2015 ranged from -30.3 percent in Sully County, South Dakota to 35.0 percent in Loving County, Texas.

- [Local Area Highlights](#)
- [Detailed Press Release](#)
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Local Area Data



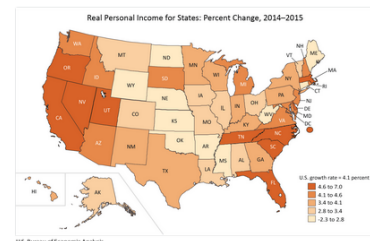
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Real Personal Income for States and Metropolitan Areas

State and Metropolitan area data: Real state personal income grew on average 4.1 percent in 2015, after increasing 3.6 percent in 2014. Growth of real state personal income ranged from -2.3 percent in North Dakota to 7.0 percent in Delaware. Across metropolitan areas, growth ranged from -10.1 percent in Midland, TX to 9.9 percent in Carson City, NV.

- [State Highlights](#)
- [Metropolitan Area Highlights](#)
- [Detailed Press Release](#)
- [Previous Releases](#)

State and Metropolitan Area Data

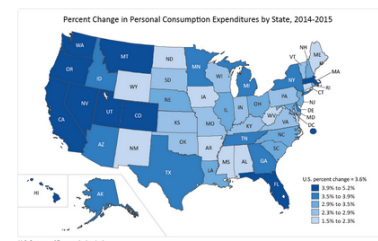


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Personal Consumption Expenditures by State

Annual data: Growth in state personal consumption expenditures (PCE) - the measure of goods and services purchased by or on behalf of households - decelerated to 3.6 percent on average in 2015 from 4.4 percent in 2014. In 2015, PCE growth ranged from 1.5 percent in Wyoming to 5.0 percent in Florida.

- [Highlights](#) (PDF)
- [Detailed Press Release](#)
- [Previous Releases](#)



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Source: <https://www.bea.gov/newsreleases/glance.htm>



IV Economic Situation in the U.S.

1. U.S. Economy at a Glance: Perspective from the BEA
Accounts

2. OECD Economic outlook 2017

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America First Foreign Policy

The Trump Administration is committed to a foreign policy focused on American interests and American national security.

Peace through strength will be at the center of that foreign policy. This principle will make possible a stable, more peaceful world with less conflict and more common ground.

Defeating ISIS and other radical Islamic terror groups will be our highest priority. To defeat and destroy these groups, we will pursue aggressive joint and coalition military operations when necessary. In addition, the Trump Administration will work with international partners to cut off funding for terrorist groups, to expand intelligence sharing, and to engage in cyberwarfare to disrupt and disable propaganda and recruiting.

Next, we will rebuild the American military. Our Navy has shrunk from more than 500 ships in 1991 to 275 in 2016. Our Air Force is roughly one third smaller than in 1991. President Trump is committed to reversing this trend, because he knows that our military dominance must be unquestioned.

Finally, in pursuing a foreign policy based on American interests, we will embrace diplomacy. The world must know that we do not go abroad in search of enemies, that we are always happy when old enemies become friends, and when old friends become allies.

The world will be more peaceful and more prosperous with a stronger and more respected America.

Trade Deals Working For All Americans

For too long, Americans have been forced to accept trade deals that put the interests of insiders and the Washington elite over the hard-working men and women of this country. As a result, blue-collar towns and cities have watched their factories close and good-paying jobs move overseas, while Americans face a mounting trade deficit and a devastated manufacturing base.

With a lifetime of negotiating experience, the President understands how critical it is to put American workers and businesses first when it comes to trade. With tough and fair agreements, international trade can be used to grow our economy, return millions of jobs to America's shores, and revitalize our nation's suffering communities.

This strategy starts by withdrawing from the Trans-Pacific Partnership and making certain that any new trade deals are in the interests of American workers. President Trump is committed to renegotiating NAFTA. If our partners refuse a renegotiation that gives American workers a fair deal, then the President will give notice of the United States' intent to withdraw from NAFTA.

In addition to rejecting and reworking failed trade deals, the United States will crack down on those nations that violate trade agreements and harm American workers in the process. The President will direct the Commerce Secretary to identify all trade violations and to use every tool at the federal government's disposal to end these abuses.

To carry out his strategy, the President is appointing the toughest and smartest to his trade team, ensuring that Americans have the best negotiators possible. For too long, trade deals have been negotiated by, and for, members of the Washington establishment. President Trump will ensure that on his watch, trade policies will be implemented by and for the people, and will put America first.

By fighting for fair but tough trade deals, we can bring jobs back to America's shores, increase wages, and support U.S. manufacturing.

Source: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/america-first-foreign-policy>



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Relations with the EU

The U.S.-EU Partnership

U.S. Relations with the European Union

U.S. cooperation with the EU is based on the Transatlantic Declaration of 1990 and the New Transatlantic Agenda (NTA), adopted in 1995. This cooperation, which has been gradually deepened and broadened, takes place on many levels and includes summit meetings at the level of heads of state and government between the U.S., the European Commission and the country holding the EU Presidency.

Establishing Diplomatic Relations

Diplomatic relations between the U.S. and the European Community were initiated in 1953 when the first U.S. observers were sent to the European Coal and Steel Community. The U.S. Mission to the ECSC formally opened in Luxembourg in 1956. The Delegation of the European Commission to the United States in Washington, D.C. was established in 1954, and the United States Mission to the European Communities, now the United States Mission to the European Union, was established in 1961 in Brussels. In Brussels on November 25, 2003, and on May 6, 2004, in Washington, D.C., the U.S. and the EU celebrated 50 years of diplomatic ties.

Formalized Cooperation

In 1990, the relations of the U.S. with the European Community were formalized by the adoption of the Transatlantic Declaration. A regular political dialogue between the U.S. and the EC was thereby initiated at various levels, including regular summit meetings. The cooperation focused on the areas of economy, education, science and culture

The New Transatlantic Agenda (NTA), which was launched at the Madrid summit in 1995, carried the cooperation forward. The NTA contains four broad objectives for U.S.-EU collaboration: promoting peace and stability, democracy and development around the world; responding to global challenges; contributing to the expansion of world trade and closer economic relations; and building bridges Across the Atlantic.

In connection with the adoption of the New Transatlantic Agenda a Joint EU-U.S. Action Plan was drawn up committing the EU and the U.S. to a large number of measures within the overall areas of cooperation. As an extension of the NTA efforts, agreement was reached at the 1998 London summit to intensify cooperation in the area of trade, which resulted in the Transatlantic Economic Partnership (TEP). The TEP covers both bilateral and multilateral trade. Bilaterally, TEP addresses various types of obstacles to trade and strives to establish agreements on mutual recognition in the areas of goods and services. Furthermore, there is cooperation in the areas of public procurement and intellectual property law. Multilaterally, focus is on further liberalization of trade within the WTO in order to strengthen world trade. The interests of the business sector, the environment and the consumers are to be integrated into this work.

In building bridges across the Atlantic, a number of people-to-people dialogues have been set up. The goal is to enable individual actors to give their opinion. In connection with each summit meeting time is set aside for meetings with representatives of one or more of these dialogues, which include the Transatlantic Business Dialogue (TABD); the Transatlantic Consumer Dialogue (TACD); the Transatlantic Policy Network (TPN), a non-governmental grouping of members of the U.S. Congress and the European Parliament, business leaders and think tanks; the Transatlantic Environmental Dialogue (TAED); and the Transatlantic Legislators Dialogue (TLD).

Source : <https://useu.usmission.gov/our-relationship/policy-history/io/>

Important U.S.-EU Milestones

- US- EU Agreement on the Protection of Personal Information Relating to the Prevention, Investigation, Detection, and Prosecution of Criminal Offenses (2017)
- EU-U.S. Acquisition and Cross Servicing Agreement (ACSA) (2016) (PDF 1.30 MB)
- Implementing Arrangement to enhance transatlantic cooperation on science, technology, and innovation (2016)
- EU – U.S. Privacy Shield (2016) (Supersedes U.S.-EU Safe Harbor Agreement (2000))
- Fulbright Innovation Grants (2015)
- Data Privacy and Protection (DPPA) (2015)
- U.S.-EU Science and Technology Agreement (2014)
- U.S.-EU Organic Equivalency Arrangement (2012)
- Aviation Safety Agreement (2011) (PDF 1.38 MB)
- Agreement on the Use and Transfer of Passenger Name Records(2011) (PDF 619 KB)
- Crisis Management Agreement (2011) (PDF 306 KB)
- Air Transport Agreement (2011) (More)
- Agreement on U.S. Participation in Kosovo Rule of Law Mission (2008) (PDF 281 KB)
- Civil Aviation Safety Agreement (2008; entered into force 2011) (PDF 2.45 MB)
- Agreement on the Security of Classified Information (2007) (PDF 717 KB)
- Wine Agreement (2006)(PDF 464 KB)
- U.S.-Eurojust Agreement (2006) (PDF 839 KB)
- Agreement on Higher Education and Vocational Education and Training (2006) (PDF 707 KB)
- Bridge Agreement On Matters Related To Trade In Wine (2005) (PDF 663 KB)
- Container Security Agreement (2004) (PDF 464 KB)
- Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (2003) (PDF 0.98MB)
- Agreement between the U.S. and the European Police Office (2001) (PDF 0.99 MB)
- Veterinary Equivalency Agreement (1998)

Source : <https://useu.usmission.gov/our-relationship/policy-history/key-u-s-eu-agreements/>



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United States-Saudi Arabia Relationship

“The United States of America and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia dedicate themselves to strengthening their Strategic Partnership for the 21st Century, and to charting a renewed path toward a peaceful Middle East where economic development, trade, and diplomacy are hallmarks of regional and global engagement. To that end, both countries welcome a new period in their strategic partnership, built upon their continued trust and shared interests. Furthermore, the two nations plan to form a Strategic Joint Consultative Group, hosted by The President of the United States of America and The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques The King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, or their appropriate designees, to chart the course of this strategic partnership. The Group will meet at least once a year, alternating between our two countries, and it will review areas of cooperation.

Our two great countries share a desire to address the threats to our shared security interests. Thus, the United States of America and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia seek to embark on new initiatives to counter violent extremist messaging, disrupt financing of terrorism, and advance defense cooperation. Violent extremists who threaten peace in the Middle East will find a growing group of regional partners arrayed against them, confronting their aggression and sowing the seeds of peace. The United States of America and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia hope that responsible governments willing to commit to peace will build upon these efforts to realize these objectives.

A robust, integrated regional security architecture is critical to our cooperation. The United States of America and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia intend to expand engagement with other countries in the region over the coming years and to identify new areas of cooperation. Over the course of our history, the United States of America and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have developed a productive partnership built upon trust, cooperation, and shared interests. We now stand together to thwart our common enemies, to strengthen the bonds between us, and to chart a path towards peace and prosperity for all.”

Source: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/05/20/joint-strategic-vision-declaration-united-states-america-and-kingdom>

United States- Iran Relationship

“The Islamic Republic of Iran is the world’s leading state sponsor of terrorism and engages in and supports violent activities that destabilize the Middle East. This behavior seems continuous despite the very favorable deal given to Iran by the Obama Administration. These sanctions target these behaviors.

Iran’s senior leadership continues to threaten the United States and our allies. Since the Obama Administration agreed to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action with Iran in 2015, Iran’s belligerent and lawless behavior has only increased. Examples include the abduction of ten of our sailors and two patrol boats in January 2016, unwarranted harassment of vessel traffic and repeated weapons tests. Just this week, Iran tested a ballistic missile, and one of its proxy terrorist groups attacked a Saudi vessel in the Red Sea.

The international community has been too tolerant of Iran’s bad behavior. The ritual of convening a United Nations Security Council in an emergency meeting and issuing a strong statement is not enough. The Trump Administration will no longer tolerate Iran’s provocations that threaten our interests.”

source: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/02/03/statement-national-security-advisor-michael-t-flynn-iran>

United States- Israel Relationship

“President Trump Stands with Israel

President Trump stands in solidarity with Israel to reaffirm the unbreakable bond between our two nations and to promote security and prosperity for all.

Stand with President Trump and Prime Minister Netanyahu.”

source: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/trump-stands-with-israel>



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United States- Cuba Relationship

Fact Sheet on Cuba Policy

President Donald J. Trump is changing the policy of the United States toward Cuba to achieve four objectives:

- Enhance compliance with United States law—in particular the provisions that govern the embargo of Cuba and the ban on tourism;
- Hold the Cuban regime accountable for oppression and human rights abuses ignored under the Obama policy;
- Further the national security and foreign policy interests of the United States and those of the Cuban people; and
- Lay the groundwork for empowering the Cuban people to develop greater economic and political liberty.

Summary of Key Policy Changes:

- The new policy channels economic activities away from the Cuban military monopoly, Grupo de Administración Empresarial (GAESA), including most travel-related transactions, while allowing American individuals and entities to develop economic ties to the private, small business sector in Cuba. The new policy makes clear that the primary obstacle to the Cuban people's prosperity and economic freedom is the Cuban military's practice of controlling virtually every profitable sector of the economy. President Trump's policy changes will encourage American commerce with free Cuban businesses and pressure the Cuban government to allow the Cuban people to expand the private sector.
- The policy enhances travel restrictions to better enforce the statutory ban on United States tourism to Cuba. Among other changes, travel for non-academic educational purposes will be limited to group travel. The self-directed, individual travel permitted by the Obama administration will be prohibited. Cuban-Americans will be able to continue to visit their family in Cuba and send them remittances.
- The policy reaffirms the United States statutory embargo of Cuba and opposes calls in the United Nations and other international forums for its termination. The policy also mandates regular reporting on Cuba's progress—if any—toward greater political and economic freedom.
- The policy clarifies that any further improvements in the United States-Cuba relationship will depend entirely on the Cuban government's willingness to improve the lives of the Cuban people, including through promoting the rule of law, respecting human rights, and taking concrete steps to foster political and economic freedoms.
- The policy memorandum directs the Treasury and Commerce Departments to begin the process of issuing new regulations within 30 days. The policy changes will not take effect until those Departments have finalized their new regulations, a process that may take several months. The Treasury Department has issued Q&As that provide additional detail on the impact of the policy changes on American travelers and businesses.

Source: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/06/16/fact-sheet-cuba-policy>

U.S.-Cuba Relations

The Trump administration has partially rolled back some business guidelines with Cuba while largely leaving the normalization policy unchanged.

Backgrounder by Claire Felter, Brianna Lee, James McBride, and Danielle Renwick

Last updated June 19, 2017

Introduction

The U.S.-Cuba relationship has been plagued by distrust and antagonism since 1959, the year Fidel Castro overthrew a U.S.-backed regime in Havana and established a socialist state allied with the Soviet Union. During the half century that followed, successive U.S. administrations pursued policies intended to isolate the island country economically and diplomatically. The United States has sanctioned Cuba longer than any other country.

Presidents Barack Obama and Raul Castro, who replaced his brother as Cuban leader in 2008, took some extraordinary steps to normalize bilateral relations, meeting with each other, restoring full diplomatic ties, and easing travel restrictions. President Donald J. Trump has reversed some actions taken by the Obama administration and raised the prospect that the United States might move to further roll back business ties.

Cold War Antagonism

The tumultuous U.S.-Cuba relationship has its roots in the Cold War. In 1959, Fidel Castro and a group of revolutionaries seized power in Havana, overthrowing the U.S.-backed government of Fulgencio Batista. Despite misgivings about Castro's communist ideology, the United States recognized his government. However, as Castro's regime increased trade with the Soviet Union, nationalized U.S.-owned properties, and hiked taxes on U.S. imports, the United States responded with escalating economic penalties. After slashing Cuban sugar imports, Washington instituted a ban on nearly all U.S. exports to Cuba, which President John F. Kennedy expanded into a full economic embargo that included stringent travel restrictions.

The United States severed diplomatic ties with Cuba and began pursuing covert operations to overthrow the Castro regime in 1961. The Bay of Pigs invasion, a botched attempt to topple Castro backed by the Central Intelligence Agency, fueled Cuban mistrust and nationalism, and encouraged Havana to allow the Soviet Union to install nuclear missile sites on the island in secret. U.S. surveillance aircraft uncovered the installations in October 1962, setting off a thirteen-day showdown between the Kennedy administration and Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev that threatened to escalate into nuclear war. In the end, Khrushchev agreed to withdraw Soviet missiles in exchange for a pledge from Kennedy not to invade Cuba and to remove U.S. nuclear missiles from Turkey.

In the decades that followed, economic and diplomatic isolation became the major prongs of U.S. policy toward Cuba. In 1982, the Ronald Reagan administration labeled Cuba a state sponsor of terrorism for its support of leftist militant groups in Central America and Africa. Both Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton signed laws—the Cuba Democracy Act of 1992 and the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act of 1996 [PDF]—that significantly strengthened the U.S. sanctions regime, requiring Cuba to transition to a democratically elected government that excludes the Castros before the embargo could be removed. (Raul has said he will leave office in 2018.) Some adjustments were made to the embargo in 1999 to allow for the export of certain U.S. medical

supplies and food products to the island, but the introduction of the Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba under President George W. Bush increased enforcement of existing sanctions. The Cuban government estimated that U.S. trade restrictions cost the country \$4.6 billion in economic damages in 2015 and a total of \$126 billion since the start of the embargo.

Reform and Rapprochement

During the 2008 U.S. election, presidential candidate Barack Obama said that it was time for the United States to “pursue direct diplomacy” with Cuba, and pledged that he would as president meet with Raul Castro, who had recently replaced his brother Fidel as leader. Several weeks after taking office, the Obama administration eased restrictions on remittances and travel, allowing Cuban Americans to send unlimited funds into Cuba and permitting U.S. citizens to travel to Cuba for religious and educational purposes. Over the course of his first term in office, Obama continued modest loosening of restrictions in these areas.

Meanwhile, the new Cuban leadership also signaled an openness to reform. Facing an aging population, heavy foreign debt, and economic hardship amid the global economic downturn, Raul Castro began in 2009 to liberalize parts of Cuba’s largely state-controlled economy. Reforms in subsequent years included decentralizing the agricultural sector, relaxing restrictions on small businesses, liberalizing real estate markets, making it easier for Cubans to obtain permission to travel abroad, and expanding access to consumer goods. Cuba’s private sector swelled as a direct result, and in 2014 was reported to be about 20 percent of the country’s workforce. Cuban government figures estimate that the number of self-employed workers nearly tripled between 2009 and 2013. Obama and Castro surprised the world in late 2014, announcing that their governments would restore full diplomatic ties and begin to ease more than fifty years of bilateral tensions. The historic moment marked the culmination of eighteen months of secret diplomacy brokered by Pope Francis in which the parties agreed to an exchange of prisoners, including intelligence officers and a U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) contractor, among other concessions.

The thaw in relations continued in the months that followed. The Obama administration eased travel and trade restrictions on Cuba, and removed it from an official list of terrorism sponsors. Cuba’s inclusion on the U.S. blacklist was a major obstacle to normalization talks. The two governments also reopened their embassies.

In early 2016, President Obama took another significant step down the normalization path, visiting Havana in what was the first trip to Cuba by a sitting U.S. president since Calvin Coolidge toured the island in 1928. In a keynote address broadcast live with Raul Castro sitting in the audience, Obama urged both countries to press on with reforms. The Cuban government should continue political and economic liberalization, and the U.S. Congress should lift the trade embargo, he said. Ahead of his trip, Obama further loosened U.S. travel and financial restrictions with regard to Cuba. Later that year, commercial U.S. airlines began offering service between the countries for the first time in more than fifty years.

Days before leaving office in January 2017, Obama repealed the so-called “wet foot, dry foot” policy, which had since 1995 allowed Cubans who reached U.S. shores without authorization to pursue permanent residency there. The move brought the U.S. government’s treatment of Cubans in line with its handling of other undocumented immigrants. The Cuban government welcomed the change and agreed to allow back into the country all Cubans removed by the United States.

Lifting the Embargo

Leaders in both U.S. political parties want to see the Cuban government improve its human rights record as part of significant political and economic reforms. Human Rights Watch reported that

Cuban authorities continued to “to repress dissent and discourage public criticism” in 2016, and the Cuban Commission on Human Rights and National Reconciliation documented a total of 9,940 arbitrary detentions by the Cuban government last year. But there is disagreement in Washington on what the United States should do to encourage that process, particularly on the question of the trade embargo, the last major diplomatic obstacle on the road to normal U.S.-Cuba relations. Most Democrats, along with some Republicans, support ending the embargo forthwith, which they hope will spur further liberalization and human rights improvements in Cuba. On the other hand, many Republican lawmakers say the Cuban government needs to move first and institute greater reforms before the United States makes any more concessions.

Public Opinion

There is widespread support for normalization in both the United States and Cuba. A Pew Research poll conducted in early 2015 found 63 percent of Americans approved of President Obama’s decision to resume diplomatic relations, while another poll from that period found that 97 percent of Cubans thought normalization is a positive thing for the island.

There is widespread support for normalization in both the United States and Cuba.

A poll conducted in early 2016 by CBS News and the New York Times found that 55 percent of Americans favored ending the trade embargo with Cuba. Meanwhile, global support for normalization has been overwhelming, particularly in Latin America. In 2016, the UN General Assembly approved a resolution condemning the U.S. embargo for the twenty-fifth consecutive year, with 191 member countries backing the resolution.

Trump and U.S.-Cuba Ties

The death of Fidel Castro and election of Donald J. Trump in late 2016 rekindled debates over U.S.-Cuba policy. President Trump announced during a visit to Miami in June 2017 that he would reinstate some restrictions on travel and trade that had been eased by the Obama administration, but would not break diplomatic relations. Trump said that the “outcome of the last administration’s executive actions has been only more repression” and issued a memorandum directing the U.S. Treasury and Commerce Departments to begin implementing the new regulations within a month. Those include reinstating the ban on individual travel by Americans to Cuba; halting economic transactions involving GAESA, a military-run conglomerate; and regularly reporting on human rights progress in Cuba. Trump said U.S. sanctions will not be lifted until Cuba frees all political prisoners and holds free and fair elections, among other rights-related conditions.

Some U.S. business leaders and members of Congress criticized the policy reversal, saying isolating Cuba could worsen the economic and political situation there. Administration officials said the new restrictions will not disrupt existing U.S. business ventures; many U.S.-based companies, including Google, Airbnb, and Starwood Hotels & Resorts, invested heavily in Cuba following the warming of relations.

The Trump administration’s partial rollback, along with the reelection of Republican majorities to the U.S. Congress in 2016, increased the likelihood that the trade embargo will remain in place. Republican lawmakers in both chambers have routinely blocked bills that would roll back the embargo. But some analysts say Raul Castro’s eventual departure from office could provide a political window for lifting it. Just before Trump announced the new restrictions, Castro, who has said he will step down in 2018, at the end of his second term, called for municipal elections to take place in October 2017 as the first step in the process of electing a new Cuban leader.

Source: <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/us-cuba-relations>



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3. European Parliament resolution
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5. Relations with Russia
6. Relations with Latin-America
- 7. Security Situation of U.S.**
 - 7.1 US: Security situation
 - 7.2 Country Report on Terrorism
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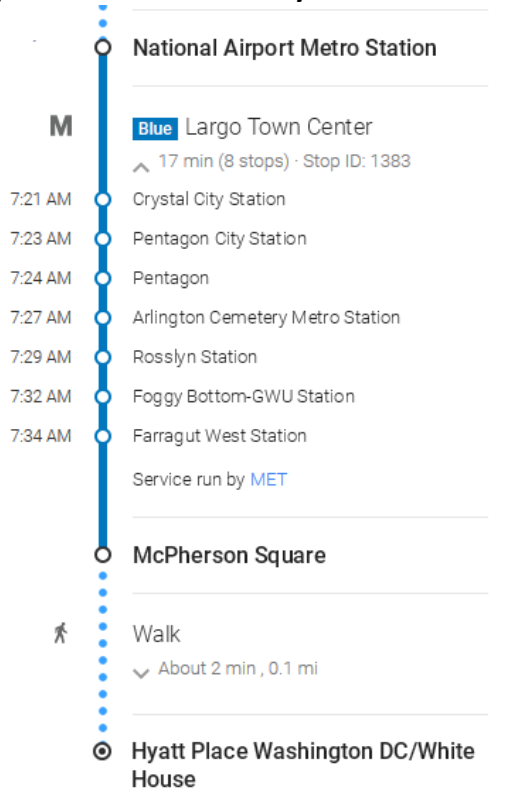
VII Practical Information

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1. How to reach the hotel from the airport

1.1 From Washington National Airport

- **By metro: Blue line every 12 min**



- **By Uber** (You need to download the app from the store in your phone): price around 15\$-19\$



1.2 From Dulles International Airport

- **By shuttle:** [SuperShuttle](#) - Available 24 hours a day, this shuttle provides door to door shared rides within the Washington DC metropolitan area. Price: 30\$

[Supreme Airport Shuttle](#) – This company offers door-to-door service to and from the airport. Price: 30\$

- **By taxi:** [Washington Flyer](#) is the exclusive supplier of taxi transportation services to Dulles Airport. Reservations are not necessary when leaving the airport. Taxis are available on the lower level of the Main Terminal 24 hours a day. Price: around 60\$
- **By Uber** (You need to download the app from the store in your phone): price around 35\$-50\$

2. Must see in Belgrade

	<p><i>Lincoln Memorial</i></p> <p>The Lincoln memorial is a monument honoring the 16th President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln. It is located on the western end of the National Mall in Washington, D.C., across from the Washington Monument. The building is in the form of a Greek Doric temple and contains a large seated sculpture of Abraham Lincoln and inscriptions of two well-known speeches by Lincoln, "The Gettysburg Address" and his Second Inaugural Address. The memorial has been the site of many famous speeches, including Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech.</p>
	<p><i>National World War II Memorial</i></p> <p>It was dedicated in 2004 to the 400,000-plus Americans who died during the war. A circle of 56 pilings (representing the then 56 U.S. states and territories) looks over the Rainbow Pool. At night, with lights shining, this memorial can be quite ethereal.</p> <p>The National World War II Memorial is located on the National Mall's main drag, between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial</p>
	<p><i>The Washington Monument</i></p> <p>It is an obelisk on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., built to commemorate George Washington, First President of the United States. Located almost due east of the Reflecting Pool and the Lincoln Memorial, the monument, made of marble, granite, and bluestone gneiss, is the world's tallest obelisk.</p>
	<p><i>Vietnam Veterans and Korean War Veterans Memorials</i></p> <p>It is a long black granite wall with the names of more than 58,000 Americans who perished during the Vietnam War emblazoned on its surface</p>
	<p><i>National Gallery of Art</i></p> <p>The National Gallery of Art, and its attached Sculpture Garden, is a national art museum in Washington, D.C., located on the National Mall, between 3rd and 9th Streets, at Constitution Avenue NW. Open to the public and free of charge.</p>



The Tidal Basin

It is a 2-mile-long pond that was once attached to the Potomac River.

Every spring, the Tidal Basin bursts with color as cherry blossom trees (gifted to D.C. from Tokyo) bloom into cotton candy-colored tufts, and they attract hordes of visitors.



National Archives Museum

It holds the original copies of the three main formative documents of the United States and its government: the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. It also hosts an original version of the 1297 Magna Carta.

The National Archives Building also exhibits other important American historical documents such as the Articles of Confederation, the Louisiana Purchase Treaty, the Emancipation Proclamation, and collections of photography and other historically and culturally significant American artifacts.



Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History

It is located on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., United States. It is the third most visited museum in the world, the most visited natural history museum in the world, and the most visited museum in North America.

The museum's collections contain over 126 million specimens of plants, animals, fossils, minerals, rocks, meteorites, human remains, and human cultural artifacts.



Washington National Cathedral

It is a cathedral of the Episcopal Church. Of Neo-Gothic design closely modeled on English Gothic style of the late fourteenth century, it is the sixth-largest cathedral in the world, the second-largest in the United States, and the highest as well as the fourth-tallest structure in Washington, D.C.



National Air and Space Museum

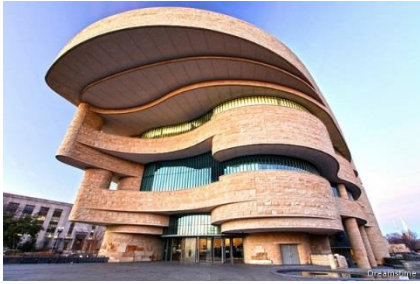
It holds the largest collection of historic aircraft and spacecraft in the world.

The Air and Space Museum takes visitors to the sky, showcasing the amazing technological achievements that have progressed aviation and space exploration throughout the last century



The Museum of African American History

The National Museum of African American History and Culture is the only national museum devoted exclusively to the documentation of African American life, history, and culture. It was established by Act of Congress in 2003. The Museum opened to the public on September 24, 2016.



The Museum of American Indian History

The museum cares for one of the world's most expansive collections of Native artifacts, including objects, photographs, archives, and media covering the entire Western Hemisphere, from the Arctic Circle to Tierra del Fuego.

3. Practical Information

3.1 Hotel

Hyatt Place Washington DC/White House

1522 K Street, NW

Washington, D.C., USA, 20005

Tel: +1 202 830 1900

3.2 Transports

Metro

The heart of Washington DC's public transportation is the MetroRail system. It provides service to the entire metro area and has numerous stations within walking distance of museums, monuments and other places of interest to tourists. It's generally safe, clean (though not as clean as it used to be) and easy to use, and it has reasonable fares. On weekdays it operates from 5:30 a.m. to midnight, and on the weekends from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. Trains typically arrive every 6 to 12 minutes, though it may be longer during non-rush hours and weekends. Large and helpful rail system and street maps are posted at each station, which makes navigation easy even for first-time visitors. Look for large-print system maps near the Station Master's kiosk. Station Masters are very helpful if you're not sure how to use the system. Single fares start at \$1.70, One Day Passes are available for \$14 and 7-Day Fast Passes are available for \$57.50. Farecards can be purchased at any station. After using your farecard to enter the station, be sure to hang on to it, as you will also need it to exit at your destination. Most stations are underground with escalator and elevator access, and they are marked above ground by a large letter M.

MetroBus

Coupled with the MetroRail system is the MetroBus system. Its hours and fares are similar to the MetroRail's. While it's a bit harder to use than the rail system, it does provide access to places around the city that don't have a rail station in close proximity. Bus stops are marked by red, white and blue signs, and they typically have route and schedule information posted.

3.3 Telephone

Washington international country code: + 1 202

3.4 List of useful contacts

FMA Secretariat

Office JAN 2 Q 73

European Parliament

B-1047 Brussels

Tel: +322.284.07.03 Fax: +332.284.09.89

E-mail: formermembers@europarl.europa.eu

Elisabetta FONCK

Mobile phone: +32.473.646.746

Embassies and Consulates

Embassy of France in Washington Ambassador: Mr. Gérard Araud 4101 Reservoir Rd NW, Washington, DC 20007, USA Telephone: +1 202-944-6000 Website: https://franceintheus.org/	Embassy of United Kingdom in Washington Ambassador: Sir Kim Darroch 3100 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC 20008, USA Telephone: +1 202-588-6500 Website: https://www.gov.uk/world/organisations/british-embassy-washington
Embassy of Spain in Washington Ambassador: Mr. Pedro Morenés 2375 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC 20037, USA Telephone: +1 202-452-0100 Website: http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Embajadas/WASHINGTON/es/Embajada/Paginas/inicio.aspx	Embassy of the Netherlands in Washington Ambassador: Mr. Henne Schuwer 4200 Linnean Ave NW, Washington, DC 20008, USA Telephone: 1 202-244-5300 Website: http://nlintheusa.com/#top
Embassy of Germany in Washington Ambassador: Mr. Peter Wittig 4645 Reservoir Rd NW, Washington, DC 20007, USA Telephone: +1 202-298-4000 Website: http://www.germany.info/embassy	Embassy of Greece in Washington Ambassador: Vassilis Kaskarelis 2217 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC 20008, USA Telephone: +1 202-939-1300 Website: http://www.mfa.gr/usa/en/the-embassy
Embassy of Italy in Washington Ambassador: Armando Varricchio 3000 Whitehaven St NW, Washington, DC 20008, USA Telephone: +1 202-612-4400 Website: http://www.ambwashingtondc.esteri.it/ambasciata_washington/it	Embassy of Lithuania in Washington Ambassador: Rolandas Kriščiūnas 2622 16th St NW, Washington, DC 20009, USA Telephone: +1 202-234-5860 Website: http://usa.mfa.lt/usa/en/

3.5 Climate

Washington is in the northern part of the humid subtropical climate zone. However, under the Trewartha climate classification, the city has a temperate maritime climate. Winters are usually chilly with light snow, and summers are hot and humid.

Hurricanes (or their remnants) occasionally track through the area in late summer and early fall, but are often weak by the time they reach Washington, partly due to the city's inland location.

3.6 Electric power supply

Voltage: 110-120 Volts

Frequency: 60 Hz

Power sockets: Type B

3.7 Local Time

Washington is located in the Eastern Time Zone UTC-05:00

3.9 Money

The official tender in USA is dollar USD. Money may be exchanged in all banks and post offices, as well as in authorized exchange offices.

1 EUR = 1.1413 USD

3.10 Emergency Numbers

This is the emergency number in Washington: **911**