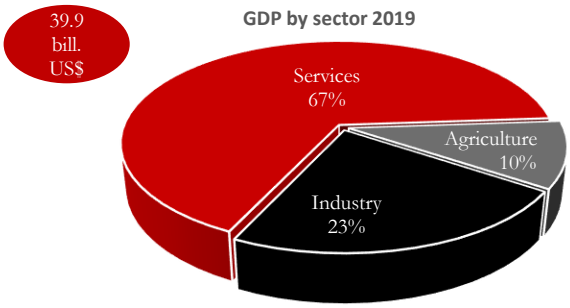
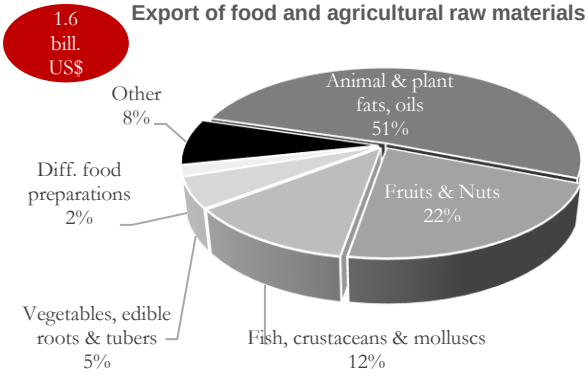
Tunisia

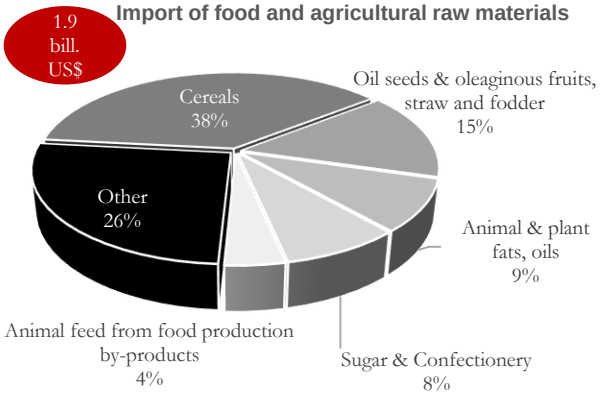
Population in m. (2018)	12.56
Area in km²	155,360
GDP in bill. US$ (2018)	39.9
HDI – Rank (2018)	90 of 188

Economy



Ø GDP growth in % (2014-2018)	9.3
GDP per capita in US$[1] (2018)	4,401
Population under the age of 15 years in % (2019)	24.2
Urban population in % (2019)	68.9
Literacy rate in % (2018)	79





Political & Investment Climate

Form of Government	Parliamentary Democracy
Political Stability - Rank (2018)	177 of 211
Property Rights Index - Rank (2019)	77 of 129
Ease of Doing Business - Rank (2020)	78 of 190

Tunisia was able to maintain its democratic achievements and developments after the Arab Spring of 2010/11. After a previous period of unrest in the wake of the revolution and the overthrow of ruler President Ben Ali in 2011, political order was restored in 2014. In recent years, the new government has pushed ahead with much needed structural reforms, including the adoption of laws to promote transparency in public-private economic partnerships, to ensure the independence of the central bank and to improve the investment climate through stricter protection of property ownership.

[1] constant US$ from 2010

Tunisia joined the WTO on 26 March 1995. Since 2015, Tunisia has been in negotiations with the EU on a deep and comprehensive trade agreement (DCFTA). So far, the Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreement is the basis for trade between the EU and Tunisia. Following the gradual dismantling of customs duties, Tunisia has been a free trade area with the EU for almost all commercial origin goods since 2008. The import of some consumer goods is subject to authorisation, import quotas or state import monopolies. This applies, for example, to certain agricultural products, textiles or even cars.

Rural Area

Rural population in % (2019)	31.1
Proportion of the rural population living in extreme poverty[2] in % (2020)	<3
Ø Rural population growth in % (2014 - 2018)	0.18
Proportion of the population with access to electricity in % (2018)	95

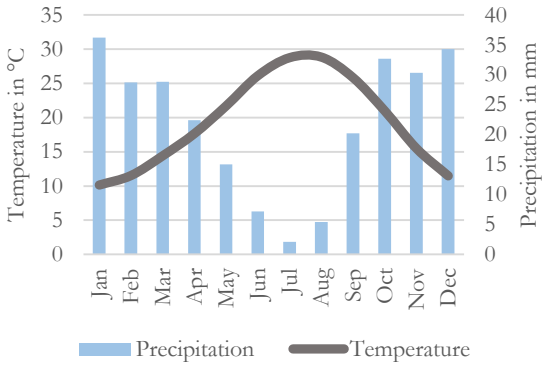
Historically, the Tunisian government's economic development focus has long been on the eastern coastal regions and their urban agglomerations. The western and south-western areas of the country were only given a closer look in the mid-1990s due to the steadily growing development and income disparities between rural and urban areas. Since then, there have been many efforts, and indeed significant progress, made by the country in the areas of education, health and other public services. Agriculture is still the primary source of income for many rural households, but their economic opportunities are severely limited by water shortages, land distribution and lack of funding. As a result, more and more (young) people are migrating to the cities.

Agriculture Policy

Since the 1980s, Tunisia has gradually opened and deregulated its agricultural market under the Agricultural Sector Adjustment Programme (PASA) to comply with the World Bank and the WTO rules. Although public spending on agricultural support payments has been significantly reduced, subsidies for basic foodstuffs still form the core of Tunisian agricultural policy. Export concentration and self-sufficiency are currently the main objectives of this policy, with domestic products, which are not internationally competitive (such as cereals and animal feed) being heavily subsidised in order to support domestic production and reduce import dependency.

[2] Poverty line: persons with an income < 1.90 US$ per day

Natural & Climatic Conditions



The climate in Tunisia varies due to the country's diverse geography, which can be divided into three regions. The northern mountain region has a Mediterranean climate with mild, rainy winters and hot, dry summers. The south has a hot, dry and semi-dry climate, while the eastern coastal region has a dry steppe climate. Rainfall varies greatly from region to region, with annual rainfall ranging from 500 mm to 1,000 mm in the north and less than 40 mm in the south of the country.

Nutrition

Prevalence of undernourishment in % (2018)	4.3
Ø Supply of protein of animal origin in g/capita/day (2017)	28.2

The food supply of the Tunisian population has improved considerably in recent years and already exceeds the country's actual energy needs. Cereals, sweeteners and oil cover about three quarters of the daily energy supply. Although the average diet is highly rich in energy, there has been a simultaneous increase in fruit and vegetable consumption in recent years. The share of animal products in food consumption has also increased significantly. The extent of nutrition-related underdevelopment, especially in the affected western and south-western regions, has declined sharply in recent years. On the other hand, there has been a significant increase in the proportion of overweight people in the population.

Agriculture

Agricultural Area in km² (% of land area) (2016)	100,673 (64.8)
Agriculture value added per worker in US$ (2018)	8,667.8

In terms of production value, olive, cereal and date cultivation, milk production and chicken fattening are the main pillars of Tunisian agriculture. The cultivation of olives (and their processing into olive oil) and dates is strongly export-oriented, while cereals and meat are used for domestic supply. Agriculture, together with fisheries and food processing, provides about 18% of the total of jobs in the country. The role of agriculture as an employer is highly dependent on the regions. In the north-western regions of the country, for example, it provides about 50% of the total of jobs.

Animal Husbandry

Cattle (total) (2018)	594,500
Dairy cows (2018)	401,000
Sheep (2017)	6,406,100
Goats (2017)	1,184,600
Camels (2018)	237,200
Broiler (2019)	107,690,000
Laying hens (2019)	6,885,000

Meat & Dairy Industry

	Consumption (t)	Per capita consumption (kg/capita)	Production (t)
Meat (total) (2018)	408,200	32.5	344,400
Beef (2018)	48,984	3.9	51,600
Sheep meat (2018)	89,176	7.1	52,600
Poultry meat (2018)	243,664	19.4	225,000
Milk (total, ME) (2017)	1,377,832	109.7	1,360,000
Butter (2018)	12,560	1	
Cheese (2018)	17,584	1.4	
Eggs[3] (2018)	1,817,800	190	1,817,800

Potentials & Risks for the Meat & Dairy Industry

Potentials	Risks
• Rising demand for more highly processed dairy products • Export opportunities for animal products to neighbouring countries • Highly developed milk processing sector • Easy market access for feed imports • Good organisation of the poultry meat and egg value chains with efficient production plants	• Scarce water resources • Scarce natural feed resources and insufficient feed production • Insufficient milk quality and lack of international competitiveness in milk production • International requirements are not fully met in the value chain for poultry • Recycling of residues from intensive livestock farms is not always environmental-friendly

[3] Quantity (consumption, per capita consumption, production) in units