

March 2026

Country – capital	Republic of Peru - Lima. ¹
Population	Total population 34.2 million (est. 2024). ²
Geography	South America, bordering Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, and the Pacific Ocean. Peru lies at an average elevation of 1555 m above sea level. ³
Languages	Official languages Spanish, Quechua, Aymara. Mother tongues: Spanish 84.1% - Quechua 13%, Aymara 1.7%, Ashanika 0.3%, others 0.9%. ⁴
Writing system	Latin. ⁵
Education and literacy	90.7 % of women is literate, and 97.0% of men. ⁶ 92.3% of girls and 91.6% of boys complete lower secondary school (2019). ⁷ Education in Peru through primary and secondary school is theoretically free for children from ages 7 to 16, although in practice inaccessible to many rural children. After pre-school education, children enter primary school for 6 grades. Secondary school consists of 5 grades. Many children, especially from country areas, find it difficult to adapt to this new level as they are accustomed to a single teacher. Technological institutions and other facilities offer vocational training. Higher education is available from private and public technical colleges and universities. ⁸
Religions	81.3% Catholic, 11.5% Lutheran, 1.7% Christian, 2.9% non-denominational, 2.6% other. ⁹
Conflict history and overview	Since 2016, Peru has become the second-largest hosting country of displaced Venezuelans in Latin America and the Caribbean. ¹⁰ From the 1990s into the 2020s, several Peruvian presidents have been ousted or imprisoned due to corruption. ¹¹ In December 2022, the impeachment of President Castillo, accused of a “self-coup attempt”, led to violent protests and unrest. ¹² 49 protesters and bystanders had been killed. ¹³ In 2024 about 400,000 Peruvians fled their country, due to criminality, insecurity, a stagnant economy, poor employment prospects, rising poverty, corruption, the erosion of democracy, and an inert Congress. ¹⁴ In September and October 2025 protesters demanded action against rising crime and political corruption. Many also protested Congress’s decision to appoint José Jerí as president. Clashes between police and protesters left one person dead and more than 70 people injured. ¹⁵
Humanitarian situation	Life expectancy at birth: male 75, female 80.1. Peru is an upper middle-income economy, average annual income 7500 USD. ¹⁶ Since the socio-economic crisis in Venezuela began in 2016, almost 8 million Venezuelans have fled of whom 1.5 million fled to Peru. ¹⁷ The capital Lima hosts over one million Venezuelans. ¹⁸
Human rights situation	Peru’s corruption index is 30 (very bad). ¹⁹ Human rights violations include: serious restrictions on freedom of expression and media freedom, including violence or threats of violence against journalists and censorship, and violence against union members. Victims of the 2022-23 protest violence showed signs of torture. ²⁰ In 2025, democracy and human rights were further undermined as Congress adopted measures that fostered impunity, weakened democratic institutions, and eroded judicial independence. Congress passed an amnesty law granting impunity for serious crimes committed during the violence. Organized crime is expanding across the country, leading to an increase in homicides, extortion, and other violent crimes. ²¹
Situation of women FGM – early marriages	The maternal mortality ratio has improved from 198 in 2000 to 51 in 2023. ²² In 2023, congress amended legislation, prohibiting marriage under the age of 18. ²³ 14.1% of girls in Peru are married or in a union before their 18th birthday and 2% are married or in a union before the age of 15. ²⁴ In 2025, more than 500 women were reported missing. Between January-August 2025, 105 femicides had been registered. ²⁵ 38% of women have experienced intimate partner violence, and 6.5% any form of sexual violence. ²⁶
Situation of LGBTI	Peru does not allow same-sex marriage or legal gender recognition for transgender people and lacks comprehensive anti-LGBT discrimination legislation. ²⁷ LGBTI persons report discrimination in healthcare, abuse in prisons, social rejection etc. ²⁸ A draft bill replacing the concept of gender with biological sex in public policies is met by UN with concern for undermining gender equality and non-discrimination. ²⁹
Asylum / migration	Sea arrivals in Malta: unknown. In 2025 Malta registered 5 asylum-seekers from Peru. ³⁰

- ¹ <https://www.worlddata.info/america/peru/index.php>
- ² <https://www.worlddata.info/america/peru/index.php>
- ³ <https://www.worlddata.info/america/peru/index.php>
- ⁴ <https://www.worlddata.info/america/peru/index.php>
- ⁵ <https://www.worlddata.info/america/peru/index.php>
- ⁶ <https://genderdata.worldbank.org/en/economies/peru>
- ⁷ <https://genderdata.worldbank.org/en/economies/peru>
- ⁸ <https://www.scholaro.com/db/Countries/peru/Education-System>
- ⁹ <https://www.worlddata.info/america/peru/index.php>
- ¹⁰ <https://www.unesco.org/en/emergencies/education/data/refugees/peru>
- ¹¹ <https://www.theweek.in/news/world/2022/12/08/high-drama-in-lima-as-peru-ousts-its-president-after-he-attempts-self-coup.html> ; <https://www.euronews.com/2022/12/12/perus-new-president-suggests-moving-general-election-forward-to-april-2024>
- ¹² <https://www.unesco.org/sites/default/files/medias/fichiers/2023/12/PPI-Country-Profiles-Peru.pdf>
- ¹³ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2026/country-chapters/peru>
- ¹⁴ <https://perusupportgroup.org.uk/2024/04/400000-peruvians-leave-the-country-indefinitely-according-to-americas-quarterly-article/>
- ¹⁵ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2026/country-chapters/peru>
- ¹⁶ <https://www.worlddata.info/america/peru/index.php>
- ¹⁷ https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/where/latin-america-and-caribbean/south-america_en
- ¹⁸ <https://reliefweb.int/report/peru/unhcr-peru-factsheet-2025>
- ¹⁹ <https://www.worlddata.info/america/peru/index.php>
- ²⁰ <https://www.state.gov/reports/2024-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/peru/>;
- ²¹ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2026/country-chapters/peru>
- ²² <https://genderdata.worldbank.org/en/economies/peru>
- ²³ <https://www.state.gov/reports/2024-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/peru/>;
- ²⁴ <https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/learning-resources/child-marriage-atlas/regions-and-countries/peru/>
- ²⁵ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2026/country-chapters/peru>
- ²⁶ <https://genderdata.worldbank.org/en/economies/peru>
- ²⁷ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2026/country-chapters/peru>
- ²⁸ <https://ilga.org/news/advocating-for-older-lgbt-persons-visit-of-the-independent-expert-on-older-persons-to-peru/> ; <https://database.ilga.org/peru-lgbti>
- ²⁹ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/12/peru-bill-eliminating-concept-gender-threatens-progress-human-rights-warn-un>
- ³⁰ <https://asylumineurope.org/reports/country/malta/asylum-procedure/access-procedure-and-registration/access-territory-and-push-backs/>
- ³⁰ https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/download?data_finder%5BdataGroup%5D=displacement&data_finder%5Bdataset%5D=population&data_finder%5BdisplayType%5D=totals&data_finder%5BpopulationType%5D%5B%5D=REF&data_finder%5BpopulationType%5D%5B%5D=ASY&data_finder%5BpopulationType%5D%5B%5D=IDP&data_finder%5BpopulationType%5D%5B%5D=OIP&data_finder%5BpopulationType%5D%5B%5D=STA&data_finder%5BpopulationType%5D%5B%5D=HST&data_finder%5BpopulationType%5D%5B%5D=OOC&data_finder%5Byear_filterType%5D=range&data_finder%5Byear_rangeFrom%5D=2020&data_finder%5Byear_rangeTo%5D=2026&data_finder%5Bcoo_displayType%5D=custom&data_finder%5Bcoo_country%5D%5B%5D=44&data_finder=on&data_finder%5Bcoa_displayType%5D=custom&data_finder%5Bcoa_country%5D%5B%5D=132&data_finder%5Byear_%5D=&data_finder%5Bcoo_%5D=&data_finder%5Bcoa_%5D=&data_finder%5Badvanced_%5D=&data_finder%5Bsubmit%5D=

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This factsheet was compiled by Adri van den Berg for BDE. Adri worked for many years as a Country of Origin Information (COI) researcher, her final post before retiring being with the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) in Malta.