

Yemen

21. YEMEN

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Major Changes

- Yemen continues working to improve its defense relations with the US. The US is training Yemeni personnel in counterterrorism activities and helping Yemen to establish its Coast Guard.
 - Yemen has acquired 100 small fast patrol boats from Abu Dhabi.
 - The Yemenite Navy acquired four landing craft from Poland and ordered ten Bay patrol boats from Australia.
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Yemen

General Data

Official Name of the State: Republic of Yemen

Head of State: President Ali Abdallah Salih

Prime Minister: Abd al-Qadir Ba Jamal

Minister of Defense: Brig. General Abdallah Ali Alaywa

Chief of General Staff: Brig. General Abdallah Ali Alaywah

Commander of the Air Force: Colonel Muhammad Salih al-Ahmar

Commander of the Navy: Admiral Abdallah al-Mujawar

Area: 527,970 sq. km.

Population: 20,000,000

Demography

Ethnic groups

• Arabs	18,156,600	91.7%
• Afro-Arabs	1,247,400	6.3%
• Others	396,000	2.0%

Religious Groups

• Sunni Muslims	12,276,000	62.0%
• Shi'ite Zaydi Muslims	7,128,000	36.0%
• Shi'ite Ismaili Muslims	99,000	0.5%
• Others	297,000	1.5%

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Economic Data

		1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
• GDP (current price)	\$ bn	6.7	9.2	9.5	10.8	11.6
• GDP per capita	\$	385	511	510	560	580
• Real GDP growth	%	2.7	4.4	4.6	3.5	2.8
• Consumer price index	%	8.7	4.6	11.9	12.3	10.7
• External debt	\$ bn	5.4	5.6	5.0	5.2	6.0
Balance of payments						
• Exports fob	\$ bn	2.48	4.07	3.37	3.62	3.92
• Imports fob	\$ bn	2.12	2.48	2.60	2.63	3.04
• Current account balance (including services and income)	\$ bn	0.39	1.62	0.66	0.84	0.49
Government expenditure						
• Total expenditure	\$ bn	1.893	2.981	3.142	NA	NA
• Defense expenditure	\$ bn	0.40	0.44	0.42	NA	NA
• Real change in defense expenditure	%	0	10	-4.5	NA	NA
• Defense expenditure/GDP	%	5.6	5.4	6.1	NA	NA
Population	m	17.4	18.0	18.6	19.3	20.0
Official exchange rate	YR:\$1	155.72	161.72	168.67	175.63	183.43

Sources: EIU Quarterly Report, EIU Country Profile, IMF International Financial Statistical Yearbook, SIPRI Yearbook

Foreign Military Cooperation

Type	Details
• Foreign forces	Some 23 U.S soldiers(2003)
• Security agreements	Oman (2004); Turkey(2002)
• Joint maneuvers	USA (2004)

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Arms Trade

Arms Procurement and Security Assistance Received

Country	Type	Details
Australia	• Arms transfers	Patrol boats (2003)
Czech Republic	• Arms transfers	L-39C jet trainers (1999), T-54/55 MBTs (2000), light weapons(2001)
France	• Arms transfers	AML (1999)
Jordan	• Military training	Training of Yemeni special operations forces (2003)
Netherlands	• Assistance	50 million euros military aid
North Korea	• Arms transfers	Scud SSM's (2002)
Poland	• Arms transfers	T-55 MBTs (suspended - 1999), trucks (1999), NS-717 landing crafts (2001)
Russia	• Arms transfers • Maintenance of equipment	T-72 MBTs (2000), MIG-29 fighters (2001) SS-21 missiles (2001)
Saudi Arabia	• Assistance	\$2 million for demining operations (2002)
Syria	• Military training	Trainees abroad (2004)
UAE	• Arms transfers	Patrol boats (2004)
US	• Arms transfers • Military training • Assistance	C3 systems (2001) Assistance in building and reorganizing Yemen's coast guard (2002) \$100 million (2003)

Arms Sales and Security Assistance Extended

Country	Type	Details
Sudan	• Arms transfers	T-55 MBTs (from Poland - 1999)
US	• Facilities	Use of airforce and naval bases (2002)

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Strategic Assets

NBC Capabilities

Nuclear capability

No known nuclear activity. Signatory to the NPT.

Chemical weapons and protective equipment

No known CW activities. Signed and ratified the CWC.

Biological weapons

No known BW activities. Party to the BWC.

Ballistic Missiles

Model	Launchers	Missiles	Since	Notes
• SS-1 (Scud B/C)	6			New Missiles received from North Korea, possibly Scud C
• SS-21 (Scarab)	4		1988	
Total	10			

Note: Serviceability of missiles and launchers unknown.

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Armed Forces

Note: Since the 1994 civil war, all figures are rough estimates.

Order-of-Battle

Year	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
General data					
• Personnel (regular)	~65,000	~65,000	~65,000	~65,000	~65,000
• SSM launchers	10	10	10	10	10
Ground Forces					
• Number of brigades	33	33	33	33	33
• Tanks	575 (1,040)	605 (1,070)	~715 (~1,180)	~715 (~1,180)	~715 (~1,180)
• APCs/AFVs	~480 (~1,170)	~480 (~1,200)	~480 (~1,200)	~495 (~1,210)	~495 (~1,210)
• Artillery (including MRLs)	~670 (~990)*	~670 (~1,000)	~670 (~1,000)	~675 (~1,025)	~675 (~1,025)
Air Force					
• Combat aircraft	~50 (~150)	~50 (~150)	~55 (~180)	~65 (~190)	~65 (~190)
• Transport aircraft	18 (23)	18 (23)	20 (30)	20 (30)	20 (30)
• Helicopters	27 (67)	26 (66)	26 (70)	26 (70)	26 (70)
Air Defense Forces					
• Heavy SAM batteries	25	25	25	25	25
• Medium SAM batteries	+	+	+	+	+
• Light SAM launchers	120	120	120	120	120
Navy					
• Combat vessels	11	10	10	10	10
• Patrol craft	3	9	9	8	8

* Due to change in estimate.

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Personnel

	Regular	Reserves	Total
Ground Forces	~60,000	200,000	~260,000
Air Force	3,000		3,000
Navy	2,000		2,000
Total	~65,000	200,000	~265,000
Paramilitary			
Central Security Force	50,000		50,000

Note: The military forces are a combination of personnel from the former Yemen Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen; no information regarding reorganization is available.

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Ground Forces

Formations

	Independent brigades/ groups	Independent battalions
Armored	7	
Mechanized	5	
Infantry *	18	
Artillery	4	
SSM	1	
Air Defense		2
Commando/ Paratroops	1	
Special Forces	1	
Central Guards	1	
Total	38	2

* Many infantry brigades are undermanned or retain only skeleton formations

Tanks

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
MBTs				
High quality				
• T-72	39	39	2000	
Medium and low quality				
• T-62	200	75	1979	
• M60 A1	140	50	1979	
• T-54/55/AM2	800	550	1971/1999	
Subtotal	1,140	675		
Total	~1,180	~715		

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APCs/AFVs				
Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
APCs				
• al-Walid	+	+	1977	
• BTR-152	+	+	1977	
• BTR-40/50/60	650	180	1977	
• M113 A1	76	70	1979	Including several derivatives
Subtotal	~750	~250		
IFVs				
• BMP-1/2	150	100		
Reconnaissance				
• AML-90/60	140	95	1975	
• BRDM-2	100	50		
• Saladin	60	★	1974	Possibly phased out
Subtotal	300	145		
Light Armored Vehicles				
• Ferret	10	★	1974	Possibly phased out
Total	~1,210	~495		

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Artillery

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
Self-propelled guns and howitzers				
• 122mm M-1974	+	+		
• 100mm SU-100	30	0		Possibly phased out
Subtotal	~50	+		
Towed guns and howitzers				
• 155mm M114	12	12	1980	
• 152mm D-20	10	+		
• 130mm M-46	75	60	1976	
• 122mm D-30	150	130	1977	
• 122mm M-1938	100	40	1975	
• 122mm M-1931/7	30	30		
• 105mm M101	30	25		
Subtotal	407	~300		
Mortars, over 160mm				
• 160mm	100	100		
Mortars, under 160mm				
• 120mm	100	100	1978	
• 107mm	12	12		
Subtotal	112	112		
MRLs				
• 240mm BM-24	35	+	1991	Unconfirmed
• 140mm BM-14	14	+	1986	
• 132mm BM-13	15	+		
• 122mm BM-21	280	150	1980	
Subtotal	344	~150		
Rockets				
• Frog-7	12	12		
Total	~1,025	~675		

Anti-Tank Missiles

Model	Launchers	Missiles	Since	Notes
• AT-3 (Sagger)	+	+		
• BGM-71A TOW	12	+	1979	
• M47 Dragon	24	+	1982	

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Air Force

Order-of-Battle

Category	Quantity	In service	Notes
• Combat	~190	~65	Some in storage
• Transport	30	20	
• Helicopters	70	26	

Combat Aircraft

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
Interceptors				
• MiG-29 (Fulcrum)	26	22	1995	
Multi-role				
• F-5E/B	9	9	1980	
Ground attack				
• MiG 23 BN	25	0	1980	
• Su-20/22 (Fitter C)	48	15	1980	
Subtotal	73	15		
Obsolete				
• MiG-21 (Fishbed)	82	21	1979	
• MiG-17 (Fresco)/ MiG-15 (Faggot/ Midget)	+	+		In training role, some not serviceable
Total	~190	~65		
Future procurement				
• MiG-29 (Fulcrum)	10			

Transport Aircraft

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
• An-12	3	2		
• An-24/An-26 (Coke/Curl)	15	10	1984/1985	
• C-130H Hercules	2	2	1979	
• IL-14 (Crate)	8	4		
• Short Skyvan Srs. 3	2	2		
Total	30	20		

Training and Liaison Aircraft

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
Jet trainers				
• L-39C	12	12	1999	

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Helicopters

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
Attack				
• Mi-24 (Hind)	15	6	1980	
Medium transport				
• AB-212	6	3	1980	
• AB-204	2	2		
• AB-205	2	2	1976	
• Mi-8/Mi-17 (Hip)	39	9	1974	
Subtotal	49	16		
Light transport				
• AB-206 JetRanger	6	4	1980	
Total	70	26		

Advanced Armament

Air-to-air missiles

AA-2 (Atoll)

Air-to-ground missiles

AT-2 (Swatter)

Air Force Infrastructure

Military airfields: 15

Aden (Khormaksar), al-Anad, Ataq, Bayhan, Ghor Ubyad, al-Hudaydah, Ir-Fadhil, Kamaran Island, Lawdar, al-Mukalla, Nugaissa, al-Qasab, al Riyan (Rayane), San'a, Socotra.

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Air Defense Forces

Surface-to-Air Missiles

Model	Batteries	Launchers	Since	Notes
Heavy missiles				
• SA-2 (Guideline)	+			
• SA-3	+		1980	
Total	25			
Medium missiles				
• SA-6	+			
Light missiles				
• SA-9 (Gaskin)		120	1979	
Shoulder-launched missiles				
• SA-7 (Grail)		100-200	1975	

Other Air Defense Systems

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
Short-range guns				
• 57mm ZSU 57x2 SP	+	+	1978	
• 57mm S-60	150	100	1974	
• 37mm M-1939	150	150	1974	
• 23mm ZSU 23x4 SP (Gun Dish)	40	+	1978	
• 23mm ZU 23x2	30	30	1976	
• 20mm M163 Vulcan SP	20	20	1979	
• 20mm M167 Vulcan	52	20	1979	
Total	~440	~330		

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Navy

Combat Vessels

Type	Quantity	Length (m.)/ displacement (t.)	Notes/armament
Missile corvettes			
• Tarantul-I (Type 1241)	1	56.1/385	4xSSN-2C SSMs 4xSA-N-5 SAMs 1x76mm gun 2x30mm guns possibly not operational
MFPBs			
• Huang-Feng	3	38.6/171	4xYJ-1 (C-801) SSMs 4x25mm guns
Mine warfare vessels			
• Yevgenia class (Type 1258)	5	24.6/90	2x25mm guns
• Natya class (Type 266ME)	1	61/804	Acoustic and magnetic sweeps 4x30mm guns 4x25mm guns 2xRBU 1200 ASW mortars 10 mines
Subtotal	6		
Total	10		

Patrol Craft

Type	Quantity	Length (m.)/ displacement (t.)	Notes/armament
• Baklan (CMN)	6	15.5/12	2x12.7mm MGs
• Zhuk class (Type 1400M)	2	24/39	4x14.5mm MGs
Total	8		
Future procurement			
• Bay class	10	37.5	25mm gun 2X12.7mm MGs
• Sea Spirit 36	100	11	Being delivered

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Landing Craft

Type	Quantity	Length (m.)/ displacement (t.)	Notes/armament
• Ondatra LCU (Type 1176)	2	24/145	1 tank
• Ropucha LST (Type 775)	1	112.5/4,080	10 tanks and 190 troops 4xSA-N-5 SAMs 4x57mm guns 2x122mm MRLs 92 mines. Not operational
• T-4 LCM/ LCU	1	19.9/93	
• Bilqis (Type 722)	1	90/1,383	5 tanks and 111 troops 2xZSU-23-2MR guns Igla-1 (SA-16) SAM
• Deba class (Type 716)	3	37.2/176	50 troops 2x23mm gun
Total	8		

Coastal Defense

Type	Quantity	Notes
• SS-N-2 Styx	8	

Naval Infrastructure

Naval bases: **6**
Aden, al-Hudaydah; anchorage at Kamaran Island (unconfirmed); al-Mukalla, Perim Island, Socotra

Ship maintenance and repair facilities

National Dockyards, Aden; 4,500-ton floating dock and 1,500-ton slipway