

Yemen

21. YEMEN

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Major Changes

- Yemen continues working to improve its defense relations with the USA.
 - The Yemeni Air Force is absorbing 18 upgraded MiG-29 combat aircraft and signed a deal for 32 additional MiG-29 SMT aircraft.
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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 Muhammad Nasir Ahmad ALI

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: 20,700,000

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Demography

Ethnic groups		
• Arabs	18,981,900	91.7%
• Afro-Arabs	1,304,100	6.3%
• Others	414,000	2.0%
Religious Groups		
• Sunni Muslims	12,834,000	62.0%
• Shi'ite Zaydi Muslims	7,452,000	36.0%
• Shi'ite Ismaili Muslims	103,500	0.5%
• Others	310,500	1.5%

Economic Data

		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
• GDP (current price)	\$ bn	10.3	11.3	13.4	15.7	19.6
• GDP per capita	\$	533	574	660	748	907
• Real GDP growth	%	3.9	3.1	2.7	3.4	2.6
• Consumer price index	%	12.3	10.8	12.5	11.8	21.6
• External debt	\$ bn	5.2	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.4
Balance of payments						
• Exports fob	\$ bn	3.6	3.9	4.7	6.4	7.6
• Imports fob	\$ bn	2.9	3.5	3.8	4.7	5.1
• Current account balance (including services and income)	\$ bn	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.6	1.2
Government expenditure						
• Total expenditure	\$ bn	3.4	4.1	NA	NA	NA
• Defense expenditure	\$ bn	0.73	0.8	0.84	0.85	NA
• Real change in defense expenditure	%	26.50	9.6	5.0	1.2	NA
• Defense expenditure/GDP	%	7.1	7.1	6.3	5.4	NA
Population	m	19.3	19.7	20.3	21.0	21.6
Official exchange rate	YR:\$1	175.63	183.45	184.77	191.51	197.18

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

Foreign Military Cooperation

Type	Details
• Foreign forces	Some 20 U.S soldiers(2004)
• Forces deployed abroad	Burundi (ONUB), Liberia (NUMIL)
• Security agreements	France (2004), Oman (2004), Turkey(2002), UAE (2005)

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Type	Details
• Joint maneuvers	Saudi Arabia (2005), UK (2006) , USA (2004)

Arms Trade

Arms Procurement and Security Assistance Received

Country	Type	Details
Australia	• Arms transfers	Patrol boats (2003)
France	• Arms transfers	Military boats (2005)
Jordan	• Military training	Training of Yemeni special operations forces (2003)
Russia	• Arms transfers	MIG-29 fighters (2006), Ka-52 helicopters (2004), BMP-2 IFVs (2005)
Syria	• Military training	Trainees abroad (2004)
UAE	• Arms transfers	Patrol boats (2004)
Ukraine	• Arms transfers	T-72 MBTs (2003), BMP-2 IFVs (2004)
US	• Arms transfers	Patrol boats (2006), spare parts for aircrafts (2004), M113 APCs (2005)
	• Military training	Training Yemen's coast guard and special forces (2006)
	• Assistance	\$100 million (2003)

Arms Sales and Security Assistance Extended

Country	Type	Details
Somalia	• Arms transfers	Helicopters, Shoulder launched SAMs
US	• Facilities	Use of air force and naval bases (2002)

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Strategic Assets

NBC Capabilities

Nuclear capability

No known nuclear activity. Party to the NPT.

Chemical weapons and protective equipment

No known CW activities. Party to the CWC.

Biological weapons

No known BW activities. Party to the BWC.

Ballistic Missiles

Model	Launchers	Missiles	Since	Notes
• SS-1 (Scud B)	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

Order-of-Battle

Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
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	715 (1,180)	715 (1,180)	715 (1,180)	745 (1,230)	745 (1,230)
• APCs/AFVs	495 (1,210)	495 (1,210)	495 (1,210)	795 (1,390)	815 (1,410)
• Artillery (including MRLs)	675 (1,025)	675 (1,025)	675 (1,025)	675 (995)	675 (995)
Air Force					
• Combat aircraft	65 (190)	65 (190)	54 (175)	62 (181)	62 (181)
• Transport aircraft	20 (30)	20 (30)	20 (30)	13 (14)	13 (14)
• Helicopters	26 (70)	26 (70)	26 (70)	24 (68)	24 (68)
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	10	10	10	10	10
• Patrol craft	8	8	8	30	142

* 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

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	70	70	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	1,230	745		

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APCs/AFVs

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
APCs				
• 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	420	420	2004	
Reconnaissance				
• AML-90/60	140	95	1975	
• BRDM-2	100	50		
Subtotal	240	145		
Total	~1,410	~815		

Artillery

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
Self-propelled guns and howitzers				
• 122mm M-1974	+	+		
Subtotal	~20	+		
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	

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Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
• 132mm BM-13	15	+		
• 122mm BM-21	280	150	1980	
Subtotal	344	~150		
Rockets				
• Frog-7	12	12		
Total	~995	~675		

Anti-Tank Missiles

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

Air Force

Order-of-Battle

Category	Quantity	In service	Notes
• Combat	181	62	Some in storage
• Transport	14	13	
• Helicopters	68	24	

Combat Aircraft

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
Interceptors				
• MiG-29 SMT (Fulcrum)	18	18	2004	
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)	81	20	1979	
Total	181	62		
Future procurement				
• MiG-29 SMT	32			Under negotiation

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Transport Aircraft

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
• An-12	3	2		
• An-24/An-26 (Coke/Curl)	6	6	1984/1985	
• C-130H Hercules	2	2	1979	
• IL-76	3	3		
Total	14	13		

Training and Liaison Aircraft

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

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		
• Mi-8/Mi-17 (Hip)	39	9	1974	
Subtotal	47	14		
Light transport				
• AB-206 JetRanger	6	4	1980	
Total	68	24		

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-FadhI, 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	(Missiles removed) 1x76mm gun 2x30mm guns possibly not operational
MFPBs			
• Huang-Feng	3	38.6/171	(Missiles removed) 4x25mm guns
Mine warfare vessels			
• Yevgenia class (Type 1258)	5	24.6/90	2x25mm guns (at least 2 operational)
• 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
• Bay class	10	37.5	25mm gun 2X12.7mm MGs
• Zhuk class (Type 1400M)	2	24/39	4x14.5mm MGs
• Baklan (CMN)	6	15.5/12	2x12.7mm MGs
• US life boats	24	14.6	Draw-down from US coast guard
• Sea Spirit 36	100	11	
Total	142		
Future procurement			
• patrol boats	40		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)	0	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	7		

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