17. SYRIA

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Major Changes

- Syria has been deep into a civil war since March 2011. The figures in the following tables represent the Syrian ORBAT before the outbreak of the civil war.
- Some tens of thousands Syrian soldiers defected, many of them joining the Free Syria Army. As of January 2013 the Syrian armed forces seem to be still active and loyal, but large parts of the country are probably no longer under the Assad regime's control.
- Concerns that the regime would use its chemical weapons have not materialized so far, but the regime did resort to firing Scud B missiles at the rebels' positions.

General Data

Official Name of the State: The Arab Republic of Syria
Head of State: President Bashar al-Assad
Prime Minister: Wael al-Halqi
Minister of Defense: Fahd Jassem al-Freij
Chief of General Staff: General Ali Abdullah Ayoub
Commander of the Air Force: General Issam Hallaq
Commander of the Navy: Vice Admiral Taleb al-Bari

Area: 185,180 sq. km.
Population: 22,900,000

Demography

Ethnic groups		
• Arabs	20,679,000	90.3%
• Kurds, Armenians and others	2,221,000	9.7%
Religious groups		
• Sunni Muslims	16,946,000	74.0%
• Alawis, Druze, and Shi'ite Muslims	3,664,000	16.0%
• Christians (Greek Orthodox, Gregorian, Armenian, Catholics, Syrian Orthodox, Greek Catholics)	2,290,000	10.0%

Economic Data

		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
• GDP (current prices)	$ bn	40.4	52.6	53.9	60.0	NA
• GDP per capita	$	2,013	2,554	2,557	2,802	NA
• Real GDP growth	%	5.7	4.5	5.9	3.4	NA
• Consumer price index	%	4.7	15.2	2.8	4.4	7.45
• Eternal debt	$ bn	5.7	5.4	5.7	5.3	5.0
• Current account balance	$ bn	-0.1	-0.7	-1.9	-2.0	NA
Government expenditure						
• Government expenditure/ GDP	%	25.7	22.9	26.7	26.6	NA
• Defense expenditure	$ bn	1.7	1.85	2.1	2.3	2.0
• Real change in defense expenditure	%	10.4	8.8	13.5	9.5	-13.1
• Defense expenditure/GDP	%	4.2	3.5	3.9	3.8	NA
Population	m	20.1	20.6	21.1	21.4	22.9
Official exchange rate	S£: $1	48.1	46.74	47.0	47.3	59.1

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

Foreign Military Cooperation

Type	Details
• Foreign forces	Iran (2011), Russia (2011)
• Security agreements	Iran, Russia (2006)
• Joint maneuvers	Russia (2009), Turkey (2009)

Arms Trade

Arms Procurement and Security Assistance Received

Country	Type	Details
Iran	• Arms transfers	Tor-M1 SAM (2008), HT-233 radars (2010),

Country	Type	Details
		Ghadir mini-submarines (2011), Mohajer UAVs (2012)
	• Assistance	Upgrading of naval base in Latakya (2011)
	• Cooperation in arms production	Cooperation in production of SSMs (2009)
France	• Assistance	Adviser to Syrian rebel groups (2012)
Russia	• Arms transfers	Pantsir SAM (2009), Tunguska SAMs (2009) , upgrading of SA-3 SAMs (2009), MiG-29M aircraft (2009), SS-N-26 Yakhont SSMs (2011), YAK-130 aircraft (2012), Buk-M2 SAMs (2011), UAVs (2012), Kh-31P AGMs (2012)
	• Assistance	Upgrading of naval base in Tartus (2009)

Arms Sales and Security Assistance Extended

Country	Type	Details
Iran	• Facilities	Use of Latakia naval base (2011)
Lebanon	• Arms transfers	M600 SSMs and Khaibar rockets for Hizbullah (2009), Scud SSMs (2011)
Palestinian organizations	• Facilities	Training camps of Hamas and Islamic Jihad
Russia	• Facilities	Use of Tartus naval base (2012)
Yemen	• Military training	Training of Yemeni air force (2011)

Defense Production

	M	P	A
Weapons of mass destruction			
• Production and upgrading of SSMs (in cooperation with North Korea and Iran)		√	√
• Production of chemical and biological agents, chemical warheads for SSMs	√		
Army equipment			
• Upgrading of tanks		√	
• 600mm M600 SSM		√	
• 220mm Raad and 302mm Khaibar artillery rockets		√	
• Ammunition	√		

Note: M - manufacture (indigenously developed)
P - production under license
A - assembly

Strategic Assets

NBC Capabilities

Nuclear capability

Basic research. Alleged deal with Russia for a 24 Mw reactor. Deals with China for a 27 kw reactor and with Argentina for a 3 Mw research reactor, are probably cancelled.
Party to the NPT; Safeguards agreement with the IAEA in force.

Chemical weapons and protective equipment

Stockpiles of nerve gas, including sarin, mustard, and VX.
There are unconfirmed allegations that Syria received Iraq's stockpile of chemical weapons just before the Iraq war broke out.
Delivery vehicles include chemical warheads for SSMs and aerial bombs.
Personal protective equipment; Soviet-type unit decontamination equipment.
Not a party to the CWC.

Biological weapons

Biological weapons and toxins (unconfirmed). Signed but not ratified the BWC.

Ballistic Missiles

Model	Launchers	Missiles	Since	Notes
• SS-1 (Scud B)	18	200	1974	
• SS-1 (Scud C)	8	80	1992	
• SS-21 (Scarab)	18		1983	
• Fateh-110/ M600	+	+	2007	
• Scud D	+		2002	
Total	**~50**			

Note: The figures in this table represent the Syrian ORBAT before the outbreak of the civil war. Current ORBAT of the Syrian army is unknown.

Space Assets

Name	Type	Notes
Satellite imaging		
• GORS	Remote sensing	Using images from Cosmos, ERS, Landsat, SPOT satellites

Command and Control Assets

Name	Description
Air defense	
	National Early warning system, linking regional and national command centers, radar facilities, and AD assets.
Naval surveillance	
	Costal surveillance radars, linked to coastal defense missiles.

Armed Forces

Order-of-Battle

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
General data					
• Personnel (regular)	289,000	289,000	289,000	~270,000	~260,000
• SSM launchers	~50	~50	~50	~50	~50
Ground Forces					
• Divisions	12	12	12	12	12
• Total number of brigades	67	67	67	67	67
• Tanks	3,700 (4,800)	3,700 (4,800)	3,700 (4,800)	3,700 (4,800)	3,700 (4,800)
• APCs/AFVs	5,060	5,060	5,060	5,060	5,060
• Artillery (including MRLs)	3,274 (3,674)	3,274 (3,674)	3,274 (3,674)	3,274 (3,674)	3,274 (3,674)
Air Force					
• Combat aircraft	390 (490)	390 (490)	390 (490)	390 (490)	365 (445)
• Transport aircraft	23	23	23	23	23
• Helicopters	195 (225)	195 (225)	195 (225)	195 (225)	165 (195)
Air Defense Forces					
• Heavy SAM batteries	108	108	88*	88	88
• Medium SAM batteries	67	67	67	85	85
• Light SAM launchers	88	88	88	93	93
Navy					
• Combat vessels	21	29	29	26	26
• Patrol craft	14	14	9*	9	9

Note: The figures in this table represent the Syrian ORBAT before the outbreak of the civil war. Current ORBAT of the Syrian army is unknown.

Personnel

	Regular	Reserves	Total
Ground Forces	185,000	100,000	315,000
Air Force	30,000	10,000	40,000
Air Defense	40,000	20,000	60,000
Navy	5,000	2,500	7,500
Total	**260,000**	**132,500**	**422,500**
Paramilitary			
• Gendarmerie	8,000		8,000

	Regular	Reserves	Total
• Workers' Militia		100,000	100,000

Note: The figures in this table represent the Syrian ORBAT before the outbreak of the civil war. Current ORBAT of the Syrian army is unknown.

Ground Forces

Formations

	Corps / armies	Divisions	Independent brigades / groups	Brigades in divisions
All arms	3			
Armored		7	1	3 armd., 1 mech., 1 aty. Each
Mechanized		3	1	2 mech., 2 armd., 1 aty. Each
Republican Guard		1		3 armd, 1 mech., 1 aty.
Infantry/ Special Forces		1	3	
Airborne/ Special Forces			8-10	
Artillery			2	
SSM forces			3	
Anti-tank/ Infantry			2	
Total	**3**	**12**	**20-22**	

Note: One armored division is a reserve unit.

Tanks

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
MBTs				
High quality				
• T-72(Upgraded)	122	122	2003	Upgraded by an Italian firm
• T-72/T-72M	1,478	1,478	1979/ 1993	
Subtotal	1,600	1,600		
Medium and low quality				
• T-62	1,000	1,000	1974	
• T-55/T-54	~2,200	1,100	1957/ 1998	Some upgraded to MV standard
Subtotal	~3,200	2,100		
Total	**~4,800**	**3,700**		

Note: The figures in this table represent the Syrian ORBAT before the outbreak of the civil war. Current ORBAT of the Syrian army is unknown.

APCs/AFVs

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
APCs				
• BTR-152	560	560	1967	
• BTR-40/50/60	1,000	1,000	1956	
Subtotal	1,560	1,560		
IFVs				
• BMP-1	2,450	2,450	1977	
• BMP-2	100	100	1988	
Subtotal	2,550	2,550		
Reconnaissance				
• BRDM-2	950	950	1978	Also listed under Anti-Tank Weapons
Total	**5,060**	**5,060**		

Note: The figures in this table represent the Syrian ORBAT before the outbreak of the civil war. Current ORBAT of the Syrian army is unknown.

Artillery

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
Self-propelled guns and howitzers				
• 152mm 2S3	50	50	1984	
• 122mm 2S1	400	400	1982	
• 122mm D30	36	36	1986	Syrian-made
Subtotal	486	486		
Towed guns and howitzers				
• 180mm S-23	10	10	1975	
• 152mm M-1937	50	50	1987	
• 152mm D-20	20	20	1982	
• 130mm M-46	800	800	1970	
• 122mm D-30	500	500	1984	
• 122mm D-74	400	0		
• 122mm M-1938	150	150	1976	
Subtotal	1,930	1,530		
Mortars, over 160mm				
• 240mm M-240	10	10	1986	
• 160mm M-160	80	80	1976	
Subtotal	90	90		

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
Mortars, under 160mm				
• 120mm M-1943	700	700	1975	
Rockets				
• 220mm Raad	+	+	2001	Syrian-made
• 302mm (WS-1) Khaibar	+	+	2006	Syrian-made
• FROG-7	18	18	1971	
MRLs				
• 122mm BM-21	250	250	1979	
• 107mm Type 63	200	200	1994	
Subtotal	450	450		
Total	**3,674**	**3,274**		

Note: The figures in this table represent the Syrian ORBAT before the outbreak of the civil war. Current ORBAT of the Syrian army is unknown.

Logistics and Engineering Equipment

MTU-67 bridging tanks, MT-55 bridging tanks (90), tank-towed bridges, mine-clearing rollers, AFV transporters (800)

Anti-Tank Missiles

Model	launchers	Missiles	Since	Notes
• AT-14 (Kornet)	50	1,500	1998	
• AT-4 (Spigot)	150		1980	
• AT-5 (Spandrel)	40		1995	
• AT-3 (Sagger) SP		3,000	1974	Mounted on BRDM-2 and BMP-1
• MILAN	200		1980	
Total	**~3,400**			
Future procurement				
• Matis (AT-11)	+			Under negotiation
• Kornet (AT-14)	+			Under negotiation

Note: The figures in this table represent the Syrian ORBAT before the outbreak of the civil war. Current ORBAT of the Syrian army is unknown.

Air Force

Order-of-Battle

Category	Quantity	In service	Notes
Combat	445	365	
Transport	23	23	
Helicopters	195	165	

Combat Aircraft

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
Interceptors				
• MiG-29 (Fulcrum)	20	20	1987	
• MiG-25 (Foxbat)	35	35	1980	
• MiG-23 ML/MF	50	50	1974	
Subtotal	105	105		
Ground attack				
• Su-24 (Fencer)	20	20	1988	
• MiG-23 U/BN (Flogger)	51	51	1978	
• Su-20/22 (Fitter C/ D)	90	58	1978	
Subtotal	160	130		
Obsolete				
• MiG-21 MF/BIS/U (Fishbed)	180	130	1966	Some possibly phased out
Total	**444**	**364**		
Future procurement				
• MiG-29M	10			Under negotiation

Note: The figures in this table represent the Syrian ORBAT before the outbreak of the civil war. Current ORBAT of the Syrian army is unknown.

Transport Aircraft

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
• An-24/26 (Coke/Curl)	6	6	1979	
• IL-76 (Candid)	4	4	1983	
• Tu-134	2	2	1985	
• Mystère-Falcon 20/900	3	3	1980	
• Piper Navajo	2	2		
• Yak-40 (Codling)	6	6	1989	
Total	**23**	**23**		

Note: The figures in this table represent the Syrian ORBAT before the outbreak of the civil war. Current ORBAT of the Syrian army is unknown.

Training and Liaison Aircraft

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
Jet trainers				
• L-39 Albatross	85	35	1980	
Piston/Turbo-prop				
• MBB 223 Flamingo	40	40	1976	
• Mushshak	6	6	1994	
Subtotal	46	46		

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
Total	**136**	**96**		
Future procurement				
• Yak-130	36			

Note: The figures in this table represent the Syrian ORBAT before the outbreak of the civil war. Current ORBAT of the Syrian army is unknown.

Helicopters

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
Attack				
• Mi-24 (Hind)	52	~35	1980	
• SA-342 Gazelle	38	38	1976	
Subtotal	90	~70		
Medium transport				
• Mi-8/17 (Hip H)	70	70	1971	
• Mi-2	10	10	1975	
Subtotal	80	80		
Naval combat				
• Ka-28 (Helix)	2	2	1990	
• Mi-14 (Haze)	13	11	1984	
Subtotal	15	13		
Total	**195**	**~165**		

Note: The figures in this table represent the Syrian ORBAT before the outbreak of the civil war. Current ORBAT of the Syrian army is unknown.

Miscellaneous Aircraft

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
Reconnaissance				
• MiG-25 R	7	+	1985	
UAVs and mini-UAVs				
• Mohajer-4	+	+	2011	
• Shmel/ Malachit	+	+		

Note: The figures in this table represent the Syrian ORBAT before the outbreak of the civil war. Current ORBAT of the Syrian army is unknown.

Advanced Armament

Air-to-air-missiles

AA-2 (610), AA-6 (150), AA-7 (470), AA-8 (1,120), AA-10, AA-11

Air-to-ground-missiles

AS-7, AS-9, AS-10, AS-11, AS-12, AS-14, AT-2, HOT, Kh-31 (AS-17)

Note: Number in parentheses refers to the quantity of missiles purchased, not to current inventory levels.

Air Force Infrastructure

Aircraft shelters	
In all airfields, for combat aircraft	
Military airfields	**21**
Abu Duhur, Afis North, Aleppo, Damascus (International), Damascus (Meze), Dir ez-Zor, Dumayr, Hama, Jarah, Khalkhala, Latakia, Marj-royal (Bley), Nassiriyah, al-Qusayr, Rasm al-Aboud, Sayqal, Shayarat, al-Suweida, T-4, Tabaka, Tudmur	

Air Defense Forces

Surface-to-Air Missiles

Model	Batteries	Launchers	Since	Notes
Heavy missiles				
• SA-2 (Guideline)	40		1971	
• SA-3 (Goa)	40		1971	Being upgraded
• SA-5 (Gammon)	8		1983	
Total	**88**			
Medium missiles				
• SA-17 (Buk-M2E)	8	18	2011	
• SA-8 (Gecko)	14	56	1982	
• SA-6 (Gainful)	50		1973	
• Pantsir-S1	9	36	2008	
• Tor-M1	+	+	2008	Allegedly from Iran
Total	**~85**			
Light missiles				
• SA-19 Tunguska-M1 (2K22)		6	2009	
• SA-24 Strelets (Igla-S)		32	2006	
• SA-9 (Gaskin)		20	1975	
• SA-13 (Gopher)		35	1986	
Total		**93**		
Shoulder-launched missiles				
• SA-7 (Grail)		+	1973	
• SA-14 (Gremlin)		+		
• SA-16 Igla-1		+		
• SA-18 Igla		+	2003	
Future procurement				
• Pechora-2M	+			Upgrading of SA-3

Note: The figures in this table represent the Syrian ORBAT before the outbreak of the civil war. Current ORBAT of the Syrian army is unknown.

Other air Defense Systems

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
Short-range guns				
• 57mm S-60	700	~400	1973	Partly phased out
• 37mm M-1939	300	0	1973	
• 23mm ZSU 23x4 SP (Gun Dish)	400	400	1977	
• 23mm ZU 23x2	600	~300	1986	
Total	**2,000**	**~1,100**		
Radars				
Kolchuga, Long Track, P-14 (Tall King), P-15 (Flat Face), P-12 (Spoon Rest), P-30, P-35, P-80, PRV-13, PRV-16, HT-233				

Note: The figures in this table represent the Syrian ORBAT before the outbreak of the civil war. Current ORBAT of the Syrian army is unknown.

Navy

Submarines

Type	Quantity	Length (m.)/ displacement (t.)	Notes / armament
Midget submarines			
• Ghadir (Yono IS 120)	2	29/123	Allegedly delivered by Iranian navy

Combat Vessels

Type	Quantity	Length (m.)/ displacement (t.)	Notes/armament
MFPBs			
• Ossa I/II	16	38.6/245	4xSS-N-2C Styx SSM 4x30mm guns
• Tir class	6	21/28.1	2xC-802 (Nur) SSMs
Subtotal	22		
ASW vessels			
• Petya III	1	81.8/950	4xRBU 2500 ASW mortars 3x76mm guns 3x533 mm torpedoes 22 mines Additional 1 non-operational
Mine warfare vessels			
• Sonya class (Type 12650)	1	48/450	2x SA-N-5 SAMs 2x30mm guns

Type	Quantity	Length (m.)/ displacement (t.)	Notes/armament
• Yevgenia class (Type 1258)	2	24.6/77	8 mines 2x25mm guns 2x14.5mm MGs Additional 3 non-operational
Subtotal	3		
Total	**26**		

Note: The figures in this table represent the Syrian ORBAT before the outbreak of the civil war. Current ORBAT of the Syrian army is unknown.

Patrol Craft

Type	Quantity	Length (m.)/ displacement (t.)	Notes/armament
• Zhuk class (Type 1400M)	4	24/39	4x14.5mm MGs Additional 4 non-operational
• Szkwal PBs	5	12m	Drawdown from Polish coast Guard.
Total	**9**		

Note: The figures in this table represent the Syrian ORBAT before the outbreak of the civil war. Current ORBAT of the Syrian army is unknown.

Landing Craft

Type	Quantity	Length (m.)/ displacement (t.)	Notes/armament
• Polnochny B-class LCT (Type 771)	3	75/760	180 troops or 350 tons 2x140mm MRLs 4x30mm guns

Auxiliary Vessels

Type	Quantity	Length (m.)/ displacement (t.)	Notes/armament
• al-Assad (Ro-Ro)	1	105/3,500	Training ship
• Natya (Type 226)	1	61/804	2xSA-N-5 (Grail) SAMs 4x30mm guns formerly a minesweeper, now converted to oceanographic research
Total	**2**		

Coastal Defense

Type	Batteries	Since	Notes
Missiles			
• C-802	+	2007	
• SSC-5 (P-800) Yakhont/ Bastion	2	2011	
• SSC-1B Sepal	3		

Type	Batteries	Since	Notes
• SSC-3	3	1966	Armed with SS-N-2C missiles
Total	**10**		

Note: The figures in this table represent the Syrian ORBAT before the outbreak of the civil war. Current ORBAT of the Syrian army is unknown.

Naval Infrastructure

Naval bases	**3**
Latakia, Minat al-Baida, Tartus	
Ship maintenance and repair facilities	**1**
Repairs at Latakia	

Major Non-Governmental Paramilitary Forces

Anti Governmental organizations

Personnel

	Active	Reserves	Total
• Free Syrian Army (FSA)	60,000		60,000

Equipment

Organization	Category	System	Notes
FSA	ATGMs	• AT-3 Sagger	
		• AT-14 Kornet	
	Tanks	• T-55 MBTs	
	Artillery	• 107mm MRLs	
		• 120mm Mortars	
	AD systems	• SA-7 Strela	
		• SA-18 Igal	
		• SA-24 Igla-S	
		• MIM-9 Stinger	
		• 14.5mm KPV	
		• 23mm SU-23 Guns	