

Yemen

21. YEMEN

Contents

Major Changes	1
General Data	1
Arms Trade	3
Strategic Assets	3
Armed Forces	4
Ground Forces	5
Air Force	7
Air Defense Forces	9
Navy	10
Major Non-Governmental Paramilitary Forces.....	13

Major Changes

- The Yemeni armed forces suffered significantly during the political upheavals of the "Arab spring". Several of its aircraft have been lost as well. Since the ascent of the new regime there have been some major changes in the organization of the armed forces, including the disbandment of the Republican Guard as well as an armored division.
-

General Data

Official Name of the State: Republic of Yemen

Head of State: President Abdul Rabbo Mansur Hadi

Prime minister: Mohammed Salem Basendwah

Minister of Defense: Mohammed Nasser Ahmed Ali

Chief of General Staff: Major General Ahmed al-Ashwal

Commander of the Air Force: Major General Rashid Nasser al-Janad

Commander of the Navy: Admiral Abdullah Salem Ali Abdullah

Area: 527,970 sq. km.

Population: 25,100,000

Yemen

Demography

Ethnic groups		
• Arabs	23,016,000	91.7%
• Afro-Arabs	1,582,000	6.3%
• Others	502,000	2.0%
Religious Groups		
• Sunni Muslims	15,562,000	62.0%
• Shi'ite Zaydi Muslims	9,036,000	36.0%
• Shi'ite Ismaili Muslims	126,000	0.5%
• Others	376,000	1.5%

Economic Data

		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
• GDP (current price)	\$ bn	21.65	26.92	25.13	31.05	33.75
• GDP per capita	\$	987	1,170	1,077	1,290	1,361
• Consumer price index	%	7.9	19.0	5.4	11.2	16.4
• External debt	\$ bn	61.5	63.2	67.3	66.8	64.2
• Current account balance	\$ bn	-1.5	-1.3	-2.6	-1.4	-1.0
Government expenditure						
• Public expenditure	%	40.4	41.2	35.2	30.1	28.9
• Defense expenditure	\$ bn	1.05	1.2	NA	NA	NA
• Real change in defense expenditure	%	28.0	14.3	NA	NA	NA
• Defense expenditure/GDP	%	5.7	5.1	NA	NA	NA
Population	m	22.3	23.0	23.7	24.4	25.1
Official exchange rate	YR:\$1	198.95	199.76	202.85	219.6	213.8

Sources: IMF Statistical Yearbook, SIPRI Yearbook, World Bank Statistical Yearbook.

Foreign Military Cooperation

Type	Details
• Foreign forces	Some 200 U.S soldiers (2010),
• Forces deployed abroad	Democratic republic of Congo (MONUSCO), Liberia (NUMIL), Sudan (UNAMIS), Western Sahara (MINURSO), participation in CTF-150 international naval task force (2010)
• Security agreements	France (2004), Oman (2004), Turkey (2011), UAE (2005), USA (2009)
• Joint maneuvers	Saudi Arabia (2005), UK (2006) , USA (2004)

Yemen

Arms Trade

Arms Procurement and Security Assistance Received

Country	Type	Details
France	• Assistance	Construction of naval base (2009)
Italy	• Arms transfers	Naval C ² system (2009)
Iran	• Assistance	Support for anti-governmental forces (2010)
Jordan	• Military training	Training of security forces (2010)
	• Arms transfers	PBs (2010)
Russia	• Arms transfers	BTR-80 APCs (2010)
Spain	• Arms transfers	CN-235M aircraft (2012)
UK	• Military training	Training of Special Forces (2010)
US	• Arms transfers	UH-1H helicopters (2011), upgrading Mi-17 helicopters (2010), HMMWV vehicles (2010), 26m PBs (2010), C-130 aircraft (2012), CN-235 aircraft (2012), RQ-11 Raven UAVs (2012), C-208 aircraft (2012)
	• Military training	Training Yemen's coast guard and special forces (2010)
	• Assistance	\$36 million military aid (2012)

Arms Sales and Security Assistance Extended

Country	Type	Details
France	• Facilities	Use of naval bases
Russia	• Facilities	Use of naval bases for port services
US	• Facilities	Use of air force and naval bases

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.

Yemen

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 is unknown.

Armed Forces

Order-of-Battle

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
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	20	20
• Tanks	745 (1,230)	745 (1,230)	745 (1,230)	745 (1,230)	745 (1,230)
• APCs/AFVs	835 (1,430)	835 (1,430)	835 (1,430)	935 (1,500)	935 (1,500)
• Artillery (including MRLs)	675 (995)	675 (995)	675 (995)	725 (1,120)	725 (1,120)
Air Force					
• Combat aircraft	58 (176)	58 (176)	53 (152)*	51 (150)	49 (146)
• Transport aircraft	13 (14)	13 (14)	12 (14)	12 (14)	12 (14)
• Helicopters	20 (31)	20 (31)	27 (38)*	27 (38)	27 (38)
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	54	54	56	56	56

* Due to change in estimate.

Yemen

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			
Coast Guards	1,200		1,200
Central Security Force	50,000		50,000

Ground Forces

Formations

	Independent brigades/ groups	Independent battalions
Armored	2	
Mechanized	7	
Presidential protection	1	
Artillery	4	
SSM	3	
Air Defense		2
Commando/ Paratroops	1	
Special Forces	1	
Marines	1	
Total	20	2

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		

APCs/AFVs

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
APCs				
• BTR-152	+	+	1977	

Updated on 10/06/2013

Yemen

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
• BTR-80	100	100	2010	
• BTR-40/50/60	650	180	1977	
• ILAV	18	18	2008	
• M113 A1	70	70	1979	Including several derivatives
Subtotal	~840	~370		
IFVs				
• BMP-1/2	420	420	2004	
Reconnaissance				
• AML-90/60	140	95	1975	
• BRDM-2	100	50		
Subtotal	240	145		
Total	~1,500	~935		

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	482	~300		
Mortars, over 160mm				
• 160mm	100	100		
Mortars, under 160mm				
• 120mm	150	150	1978	
• 107mm	12	12		
Subtotal	162	162		
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		

Yemen

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
Rockets				
• Frog-7	12	12		
Total	~1,120	~725		

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	146	49	
• Transport	14	12	
• Helicopters	38	27	

Combat Aircraft

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
Interceptors				
• MiG-29 SMT (Fulcrum)	13	13	2004	
Multi-role				
• F-5E/B	9	9	1980	
Ground attack				
• MiG 23 BN	24	0	1980	
• Su-20/22	30	10	1980	
Subtotal	54	10		
Obsolete				
• MiG-21 (Fishbed)	70	17	1979/2008	Being upgraded
Total	146	49		
Future procurement				
• MiG-29 SMT	32			Under negotiation

Transport Aircraft

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
• An-12	2	2		
• An-24/An-26	4	4	1984	
• C-130H Hercules	2	0	1979	Status unclear

Yemen

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
• CN-235M	1	1	2012	
• C-208 Caravan	2	2	2012	Employed for reconnaissance
• IL-76	3	3		
Total	14	12		
Future procurement				
• CN-235	3			Under negotiations
• C-130/ L-100	2			Under negotiations

Training and Liaison Aircraft

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
Jet trainers				
• L-39C	12	12	1999	Also used for Light attack

Helicopters

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
Attack				
• Mi-24 (Hind)	15	6	1980	
Medium transport				
• UH-1H	4	4	2011	
• Mi-8/17	10	10	1974	
• Ka-32T/S	3	3	1995	One in Maritime surveillance role.
Subtotal	17	17		
Light transport				
• AB-206 JetRanger	6	4	1980	
Total	38	27		

Yemen

Miscellaneous Aircraft

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
Reconnaissance				
• C-208 Caravan	2	2	2012	Also listed under Transport aircraft
UAVs				
• RQ-11 Raven	4	4	2012	

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-Fadhl, Kamaran Island, Lawdar, al-Mukalla, Nugaissa, al-Qasab, al Riyan (Rayane), San'a, Socotra.

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	

Yemen

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		

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		

Yemen

Patrol Craft

Type	Quantity	Length (m.)/ displacement (t.)	Notes/armament
• Bay class	10	37.5m	25mm gun 2X12.7mm MGs
• Protector CPB	2	26.5m	12.7mm MGs
• Zhuk class (Type 1400M)	2	24/39	4x14.5mm MGs
• Baklan (CMN)	6	15.5/12	2x12.7mm MGs
• US MLB	8	14.6/18	
• Archangel RB-M	4	13/9.6	
• Wave Protector	2	12m	With Coast Guard
• Sea Spirit 36	10	11m	
• Defender RB-S	12	8.6/4	
Total	56		

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		

Yemen

Coastal Defense

Type	Quantity	Notes
• SS-N-2 Styx	8	

Naval Infrastructure

Naval bases:	6	
Aden, al-Hudaydah, Kamaran Island, al-Mukalla, Perim/ Mayyun Island , Socotra		
Command and Control		
Vessel Traffic Monitoring System		
Ship maintenance and repair facilities		
National Dockyards, Aden; 4,500-ton floating dock and 1,500-ton slipway		

Yemen

Major Non-Governmental Paramilitary Forces

Personnel

	Active	Reserves	Total
• Believing Youth	Few hundreds		10,000

Equipment

Organization	Category	System	Notes	
Believing Youth	Tanks	• T-55/ 62		
	APCs	• M113		
	MRLs	• 122mm Grad		
	AD systems		• SA-7 SAM	
			• 12.7mm MG	
		• 23mm ZU		