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Country Information Library: Tunisia

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🚫 **NOTE:** Please use the information below with discretion as it may be out of date.



KEY INFORMATION: Unemployment rate was estimated at 16% in April 2014; it is chronic in some regions, mostly in the South. In its period of political transition, Tunisia has turned into a corridor for trafficking of all kinds, both goods and people. From a geopolitical perspective, Tunisia is a hotspot, bordered by Algeria to the west and Libya to the southeast. It is also burdened by relatively long borders.

Content last updated December 23, 2014

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▼ Country overview

Key facts: See the [World Factbook](#) provided by the CIA (English only).

Major urban centers

- People escaping conflict in Libya are putting pressure on the Tunisian-Libyan border. There is a strong presence of refugees and displaced people mainly from Libya, but also from Somalia, Eritrea and Ethiopia.
- Terrorist brigades, mainly groups linked to Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), present in the north-west of Algeria, have participated in terrorist attacks in Tunisia, particularly in and around Chaambi Mountain. On July 16, 2014, 15 soldiers were killed in a terrorist attack near Chaambi. It was the deadliest attack against the Tunisian military since 1956.
- Terrorists are known to infiltrate from the Libyan and Algerian borders and to carry smuggled goods. In 2014, significant quantities of weapons and explosives have been seized in the country, including in and around Tunis.
- The Tunisian Ministry of the Interior (Moi) estimates that there are around 2,500 Tunisian jihadists fighting in Syria and Iraq. Authorities are concerned that they could eventually return to the country and conduct terrorist attacks.

Level of confidence given to documents

▼ Identity and travel documents

Passport

- Regular passport (dark green) is issued to citizens for international travel. It is valid for 5 years.
- The first machine-readable passports were issued in 2003.

Identity card

- The National Identity Card (*Carte d'identité nationale*) is issued to every citizen 18 years or older.

▼ Civil documents

- Birth certificates (*Extrait de Naissance*), Marriage, Divorce and Death certificates are obtained from the Office of the Registrar (*Bureau de l'État Civil*) where the event occurred.
- A **Family Booklet** (*Livret de famille*) is issued to the Tunisian head of family.

▼ Notarized documents

- Significant and reliable solicitor's network (public notaries are involved in civil weddings).