

17. SYRIA

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Major Changes

- The Syrian armed forces have deployed the indigenously made M-600 ballistic missile (probably based on the Iranian Fateh 110 Missiles)
 - The Syrian air defense forces now operate at least some of the newly acquired Strelets and Pantsir-S1 SAMs.
- The Syrian navy has acquired the P-800 "Bastion" (CSS-5) coastal defense system with its supersonic Yakhont missiles.
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General Data

Official Name of the State: The Arab Republic of Syria

Head of State: President Bashar al-Assad

Prime Minister: Mohammed Jazi Otri

Minister of Defense: Major General Ali Mohammed Habib Mahmoud

Chief of General Staff: Major General Dawood Abdullah Rajneh

Commander of the Air Force: Major General Ahmad al-Ratyb

Commander of the Navy: Vice Admiral Wa'il Nasser

Area: 185,180 sq. km.

Population: 20,500,000

Syria

Demography

Ethnic groups		
• Arabs	18,511,000	90.3%
• Kurds, Armenians and others	1,989,000	9.7%
Religious groups		
• Sunni Muslims	15,170,000	74.0%
• Alawis, Druze, and Shi'ite Muslims	3,280,000	16.0%
• Christians (Greek Orthodox, Gregorian, Armenian, Catholics, Syrian Orthodox, Greek Catholics)	2,050,000	10.0%

Economic Data

		2005	2006	2007	2008
• GDP (current prices)	\$ bn	27.97	32.66	40.42	50.88
• GDP per capita	\$				
• Real GDP growth	%	6.0	5.2	6.3	4.8
• Consumer price index	%	7.2	10.0	3.9	15.3
• External debt	\$ bn	6.57	6.54	6.93	7.3
Balance of payments					
• Exports fob	\$ bn	8.6	10.25	11.75	12.78
• Imports fob	\$ bn	-8.74	-9.36	-12.27	-14.49
• Current account balance (including services and income)	\$ bn	0.29	0.89	0.4	-0.7
Government expenditure					
• Total expenditure	\$ bn	8.1	9.5	10.43	13.1
• Defense expenditure	\$ bn	1.43	1.77	1.54	NA
• Real change in defense expenditure	%	-6.6	23.8	-13.0	NA
• Defense expenditure/GDP	%	5.1	5.4	3.8	NA
Population	m	18.9	19.4	19.9	20.5
Official exchange rate	SE: \$1	54.85	51.1	48.1	46.74

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

Foreign Military Cooperation

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

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Arms Trade

Arms Procurement and Security Assistance Received

Country	Type	Details
Iran	- Arms transfers - Assistance - Cooperation in arms production	C-802 SSM (2007), Tor-M1 SAM (2008), HT-233 radars (2010) Financial guarantees for debts to Russia (2007) Cooperation in production of SSMs (2009)
North Korea	Arms transfers	Scud C/ D SSMs (2004), including assistance in production
Pakistan	Cooperation in arms production, R&D	nuclear centrifuge technology (2004)
Russia	- Arms transfers - Assistance	Strelets SAMs (2006) , Pantsir SAM (2009), Tunguska SAMs (2007) , upgrading of SA-2 SAMs (2006), MiG-29M aircraft (2009), SS-N-26 Yakhont SSMs (2009) Upgrading of naval bases in Tartus and Latakya (2009)

Arms Sales and Security Assistance Extended

Country	Type	Details
Lebanon	Arms transfers	M600 SSMs and Khaibar rockets for Hizbullah (2009)
Palestinian organizations	Facilities	Training camps of Hamas and Islamic Jihad
Russia	Facilities	Use of Tartus naval base (2009)

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			

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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: see also long-range rockets under "Artillery"

Space Assets

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

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Armed Forces

Order-of-Battle

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
General data					
• Personnel (regular)	289,000	289,000	289,000	289,000	289,000
• SSM launchers	~45	~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	350 (490)	350 (490)	350 (490)	350 (490)	350 (490)
• Transport aircraft	23	23	23	23	23
• Helicopters	195 (225)	195 (225)	195 (225)	195 (225)	195 (225)
Air Defense Forces					
• Heavy SAM batteries	108	108	108	108	108
• Medium SAM batteries	64	64	67	67	67
• Light SAM launchers	55	88	88	88	88
Navy					
• Combat vessels	16	19	21	29	29
• Patrol craft	14	14	14	14	14

* Due to change in estimate.

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Personnel

	Regular	Reserves	Total
Ground Forces	215,000	100,000	315,000
Air Force	30,000	10,000	40,000
Air Defense	40,000	20,000	60,000
Navy	4,000	2,500	6,500
Total	289,000	132,500	421,500
Paramilitary			
• Gendarmerie	8,000		8,000
• Workers' Militia		100,000	100,000

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.

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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	Some upgraded to MV standard
• T-55/T-54	~2,200	1,100	1957/1998	
Subtotal	~3,200	2,100		
Total	~4,800	3,700		

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		

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Artillery					
Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes	
Self-propelled guns and howitzers					
• 152mm 2S3	50	50	1984	Syrian-made	
• 122mm 2S1	400	400	1982		
• 122mm D30	36	36	1986		
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			
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			
Logistics and Engineering Equipment					
MTU-67 bridging tanks, MT-55 bridging tanks (90), tank-towed bridges, mine-clearing rollers, AFV transporters (800)					

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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

Air Force

Order-of-Battle

Category	Quantity	In service	Notes
Combat	490	390	
Transport	23	23	
Helicopters	225	195	

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)	56	56	1978	
• Su-20/22 (Fitter C/D)	100	60	1978	
Subtotal	176	136		
Obsolete				
• MiG-21 MF/BIS/U (Fishbed)	~200	140	1966	Some possibly phased out
Total	~490	~390		
Future procurement				
• MiG-29M	10			Under negotiation

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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		

Training and Liaison Aircraft

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
Jet trainers				
• L-39 Albatross	90	~40	1980	
Piston/Turbo-prop				
• MBB 223 Flamingo	40	40	1976	
• Mushshak	6	6	1994	
Subtotal	46	46		
Total	136	96		

Helicopters

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
Attack				
• Mi-25 (Hind)	52	~35	1980	
• SA-342 Gazelle	38	38	1976	
Subtotal	90	~70		
Medium transport				
• Mi-8/17 (Hip H)	100	100	1971	
• Mi-2	10	10	1975	
Subtotal	110	110		
Naval combat				
• Ka-28 (Helix)	5	2	1990	
• Mi-14 (Haze)	20	11	1984	
Subtotal	25	13		
Total	225	~195		

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Miscellaneous Aircraft

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

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

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)/SA-3 (Goa)	100		1971	Being upgraded
• SA-5 (Gammon)	8		1983	
Total	108			
Medium missiles				
• SA-8 (Gecko)	14	56	1982	
• SA-6 (Gainful)	50		1973	
• Pantsir-S1	3	12	2008	Delivery in progress
• Tor-M1	+	+	2008	Allegedly from Iran
Total	67			
Light missiles				
• SA-9 (Gaskin)		20	1975	

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Model	Batteries	Launchers	Since	Notes
• SA-24 Strelets (Igla-S)		32	2006	
• SA-13 (Gopher)		35	1986	
Total		88		
Shoulder-launched missiles				
• SA-7 (Grail)		+	1973	
• SA-14 (Gremlin)		+		
• SA-16 Igla-1		+		
• SA-18 Igla		+	2003	
Future procurement				
• Pechora-2A (SA-2)	+			Upgrading of SA-2
• Pantsir-S1	36			Being delivered
• Tunguska-M1	6			

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				

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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
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 8 mines
• Yevgenia class (Type 1258)	5	24.6/77	2x25mm guns 2x14.5mm MGs Some non-operational
Subtotal	6		
Semi-submersible			
• Tir class	6	21/28.1	2xC-802 (Nur) SSMs
Total	29		

Patrol Craft

Type	Quantity	Length (m.)/ displacement (t.)	Notes/armament
• Zhuk class (Type 1400M)	8	24/39	4x14.5mm MGs Some non-operational
• MIG-S-1800	6	18.7/60	1x20mm gun
Total	14		

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

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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	Launchers	Since	Notes
Missiles			
• C-802	+	2007	
• SSC-5 (P-800) Yakhont/ Bastion	+	2009	Bering delivered
• SSC-1B Sepal	12		
• SSC-3	12	1966	Armed with SS-N-2C missiles
Total	24		

Naval Infrastructure

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