

029 Teheran (Iran)

7.2 million inhabitants according to the UN's *Urban Agglomerations 2003*.

1. Territorial Levels, Population and Area

Name	Population	% of total	Area, km ²	Density, people/km ²
Teheran	*6,758,845	11.2%	750 Km2	9,011
	**7,500,000	**11.0%		10,000
Teheran Metropolitan Region	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available
Province de Teheran	*11,176,239	18,6%	19,196 Km2	582
	***11,931,656	17,5%		621
Iran	*60,055,488	100%	1,648,000 Km2	36.4
	***68,018,924	100%		41.2

* Census data for 1996-97 by *Statistics Centre of Iran*.

** Data directly offered by the Municipality of Teheran, the percentage is computed over the total population estimated by the *CIA World Factbook 2004*.

***Estimated by *CIA World Factbook 07/2004*.

2. Administrative Designation and Number of Municipalities

Name	Designation	Number of Municipalities
Teheran	<i>Tehran</i>	1 Municipality 22 Districts
Teheran Metropolitan Region	<i>Tehran Bozorg</i>	Not available
Province of Teheran	<i>Tehran Ostan</i>	9 Provincial Districts: Tehran, Shemiranat, Rey, Islamshahr, Shahreyar, Karaj, Savejbolagh, Varamin and Damavand
Iran	Islamic Republic of Iran <i>Jomhuri-ye Eslami-ye Iran</i>	28 provinces (<i>ostan / ostanha</i>); Ardabil, Azarbayjan-e Gharbi, Azarbayjan-e Sharqi, Bushehr, Chahar Mahall va Bakhtiari, Esfahan, Fars, Gilan, Golestan, Hamadan, Hormozgan, Ilam, Kerman, Kermanshah, Khorasan, Khuzestan, Kohgiluyeh va Buyer Ahmad, Kordestan, Lorestan, Markazi, Mazandaran, Qazvin, Qom, Semnan, Sistan va Baluchestan, Teherán, Yazd and Zanjan. 316 Counties 893 Zones 936 Cities 2,353 Villages

3. Institutional framework and political powers

Teheran

General Aspects

The City of Teheran has responsibilities in the following areas of power: health, education, social welfare and public services and the supply of water, electricity, gas, telephones and sewerage.

Mayor

Has executive power in the city. His executive work is supported by eight directors organised in accordance with the following areas: society and culture, urban services, administrative and financial affairs, urban development, technical affairs, traffic and transport, urban planning and architectural affairs and co-ordination. Elected by the Council and can thus be either a member of the municipal council or not.

Municipal Council, *Showra*

Has municipal legislative power. The *Showra's* responsibilities include electing the mayor, approving the plans for the city, approving the local legislation proposed by the mayor, approving the budget and municipal rates. The *Showra* operates via five standing committees responsible for reviewing the plans, laws and proposals made in five main areas: urban development; culture, society and urban environment; planning, budgets and legal affairs; transport; and management and planning. Also has five committees charged with supervising the operation of the 22 city districts. Composed of 15 councillors elected by direct universal suffrage for four-year terms.

Districts

Carry out administrative work in their areas. The head is the district mayor. The districts are supervised by both the Mayor of Teheran and the *Showra*.

Teheran Metropolitan Region

General Aspects

No institution with metropolitan powers over the Teheran region was identified. Metropolitan planning work is carried out by the central government of the Republic.

Teheran Province

General Aspects

The Constitution of Iran attributes the following general powers to all local organisations (towns, districts, cities, municipalities and provinces): preparation of social and economic programs, development, health, culture, education and other programs related to public welfare, in accordance with the needs of the local populations.

Governor

Has executive power in the province. Appointed directly by the Government of the Republic.

Provincial Council

Has legislative power in the province.

Iran

Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution, *Wali Faqih- Ayatollah*

The holder of this religious position develops the functions of the Head of State. Considered the supreme spiritual guide of the country. Responsibilities include supervising government activity, controlling the armed forces and taking decisions on security, defence and foreign policy. A lifelong position appointed by the Assembly of Experts.

President of the Republic

Has executive power and is responsible for implementing both the Constitution and laws. Acts as the head of government with the sphere of action restricted to the activity of the Supreme Leader. Elected by popular vote in a double-round absolute majority system for a four-year term, renewable once.

National Assembly, *Majles-e-Shura-ye-Eslami*

The unicameral parliament has legislative power in the Islamic Republic of Iran. It introduces, approves and modifies laws, oversees the executive power and ratifies international treaties. The 290 members are elected every four years by votes in single and multi-member electoral districts. Candidates are previously approved by the Guardian Council.

Guardian Council of the Islamic Constitution

The purpose of the Council, composed of six leading clerics and six lawyers in different areas, is to safeguard Islamic decrees and the Constitution, examining their compatibility with the legislation approved by the National Assembly. It is mainly a review body of the legislative work of the Assembly. The religious members determine the compatibility of the legislation with Islamic precepts while the lawyers do the same in relation to the Constitution. The religious members are appointed by the Supreme Leader of the Revolution while the lawyers are elected by the National Assembly from candidatures proposed by the head of the judicial power. Terms are for six years and half the positions are renewed every three years.

Supreme Council of the Provinces

Government body whose function is to represent the provinces. The aim is to allow the provinces to take part in the preparation of policies and programs. It is able to formulate bills and raise them before the National Assembly.

Assembly of Experts

This organ has the following attributions: appointing the Supreme Leader, supervising his work and removing him if he fails to meet his responsibilities. Normally meets in two sessions per year. Made up of 86 members directly elected by universal suffrage. Only clerics can stand for election and the Guardian Council approves the candidatures.

4. Relevant websites and online documents

City of Teheran: <http://www.tehran.ir>

Municipality of District 22 of Teheran: <http://www.district22.org/english/index.htm>

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the United Nations:

<http://www.un.int/iran/>

Iranian Studies Group at MIT: <http://web.mit.edu/isg/>

National Geoscience of Iran: <http://www.ngdir.ir>

Iran Chamber Society: <http://www.iranchamber.com/>

Iran World: <http://www.iranworld.com>

Metro of Teheran: <http://www.tehranmetro.com/>

Documents:

Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran 1979-80