

Introduction

Botswana is a landlocked country in Southern Africa that borders the countries of Namibia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Zambia. The geography is flat, and up to 70% of Botswana is covered by the Kalahari Desert, thus making it a sparsely populated country with little agricultural activity. The government system is a parliamentary republic; the chief of state and head of government is the president. Botswana has a mixed economic system, which includes a variety of private freedom, combined with centralized economic planning and government regulation. Botswana is a member of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).



Location: Southern Africa

Capital City: Gaborone (+2 GMT)

Chief of State: President Mokgweetsi Eric Masisi

Head of Govt.: President Mokgweetsi Eric Masisi

Currency: Botswanan pula (BWP)

Major Languages: <p>Setswana 77.3%, Sekalanga 7.4%, Shekgalagadi 3.4%, English (official) 2.8%, Zesuru/Shona 2%, Sesarwa 1.7%, Sembukushu 1.6%, Ndebele 1%, other 2.8% (2011 est.)</p>

Primary Religions: <p>Christian 79.1%, Badimo 4.1%, other 1.4% (includes Baha'i, Hindu, Muslim, Rastafarian), none 15.2%, unspecified 0.3% (2011 est.)</p>

Calling Code: 267

Voltage: 231

Key Websites

Main Government Page: gov.bw

Commerce Ministry: gov.bw

Export Promotion Agency: gobotswana.com

Investment Promotion Agency: gobotswana.com

Key Economic Facts

Income Level (by per capita GNI):	Upper Middle Income
Level of Development:	Developing
GDP, PPP (current international \$):	\$48.20 billion (2022)
GDP growth (annual %):	5.78% (2022)
GDP per capita, PPP (current international \$):	\$18,323.05 (2022)
External debt stocks, total (DOD, current US\$):	\$1,981,527,906.40 (2021)
Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP):	5.38% (2022)
Current account balance (BoP, current US\$):	-\$0.12 billion (2021)
Inflation, consumer prices (annual %):	11.67% (2022)
Labor force, total:	1,151,624 (2022)
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate):	20.68% (2022)
Imports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$8.55 billion (2022)
Exports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$8.85 billion (2022)

GDP Composition %

Agriculture Services Industry Manufacturing



**Although Manufacturing is included in the Industry figures, it is also separately reported because it plays a critical role in economy.*

Rankings

Index	Rank
Corruption Perceptions Index	41 / 178
Global Competitiveness Index	91 / 141
Global Enabling Trade Index	65 / 136
Index of Economic Freedom	52 / 176
Inward FDI Potential Index	78 / 139
KOF Index of Globalization	125 / 185
Networked Readiness Index (NRI)	101 / 139
Open Budget Index	77 / 114

Risk Assessment (Provided by Coface)

Country rating: A4 - A somewhat shaky political and economic outlook and a relatively volatile business environment can affect corporate payment behavior. Corporate default probability is still acceptable on average.

Business Climate rating: A4 - The business environment is acceptable. Corporate financial information is sometimes neither readily available nor sufficiently reliable. Debt collection is not always efficient and the institutional framework has shortcomings. Intercompany transactions may thus run into appreciable difficulties in the acceptable but occasionally unstable environments rated A4.

Strengths

- Abundant natural resources (notably diamonds, but also copper, silver, and nickel)
- Low public and external debt
- Large foreign exchange reserves
- Political stability and the level of governance place the country among the top performers in sub-Saharan Africa in international business environment rankings
- Member of the Southern African Customs Union (SACU)

Weaknesses

- Dependence on the diamond sector (over 90% of exports)
- Inadequate infrastructure (water and electricity production and distribution)
- High inequality and unemployment, poverty maintained at a relatively high level
- Lack of skilled labor, small domestic market

U.S. Embassy

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