Congo, Democratic Republic of the

Introduction

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is a country located in Central Africa with a short Atlantic Ocean coastline. Neighboring countries include Angola, Burundi,

Central African Republic, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. The geography includes active volcanoes near the city of Goma, mountains in the east and lowlands around the Congo River that experience seasonal flooding. The government system is a republic. The chief of state is the President and the head of government is the Prime Minister. DRC has a mixed economic system in which the economy includes a variety of private freedom, combined with centralized economic planning and government regulation. DRC is a member of the African Union (AU), African Economic Community (AEC) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).

Location: Middle Africa
Capital City: Kinshasa (+1 GMT)
Chief of State: President Joseph Kabila
Head of Govt.: Prime Minister Augustin Matata Ponyo
Currency: Congolese Franc (CDF)
Major Languages: French (official), Lingala (a lingua franca trade language), Kingwana (a dialect of Kiswahili or Swahili), Kikongo, Tshiluba
Primary Religions: Roman Catholic 50%, Protestant 20%, Kimbanguist 10%, Muslim 10%, other (includes syncretic sects and indigenous beliefs) 10%
Calling Code: 243
Voltage: 220

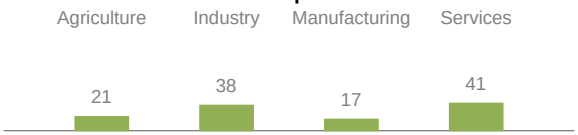
Key Websites

Main Government Page:	presidentrdc.cd
Investment Promotion Agency:	investindrc.cd

Key Economic Facts

Income Level (by per capita GNI):	Low Income
Level of Development:	Developing
GDP, PPP (current international $):	$54.63 billion (2013)
GDP growth (annual %):	8.48% (2013)
GDP per capita, PPP (current international $):	$809.22 (2013)
External debt stocks, total (DOD, current US$):	$6,081,631,000.00 (2013)
Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP):	16.55% (2013)
Current account balance (BoP, current US$):	-$2.86 billion (2013)
Inflation, consumer prices (annual %):	1.63% (2013)
Labor force, total:	26,684,621 (2013)
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate):	8.00% (2013)
Imports of goods and services (current US$):	$13.22 billion (2013)
Exports of goods and services (current US$):	$11.19 billion (2013)

GDP Composition %



**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	153 / 173
Index of Economic Freedom	172 / 178
International Logistics Performance Index (LPI)	159 / 160
Inward FDI Potential Index	137 / 139
KOF Index of Globalization	159 / 186
Open Budget Index	78 / 100

Risk Assessment (Provided by Coface)

Country rating: D - A high-risk political and economic situation and an often very difficult business environment can have a very significant impact on corporate payment behaviour. Corporate default probability is very high.
Business Climate rating: D - The business environment is very difficult. Corporate financial information is rarely available and when available usually unreliable. The legal system makes debt collection very unpredictable. The institutional framework has very serious weaknesses. Intercompany transactions can thus be very difficult to manage in the highly risky environments rated D.

Strengths

- Abundant mineral resources (copper, cobalt, diamonds, gold, tin) and considerable hydroelectric potential (Inga dams)
- International drive to resolve conflicts in the Great Lakes Region

Weaknesses

- Tensions in the east of the country with recurrent rebellions (the last by the M23 militia) and difficult relations with Rwanda
- Defective infrastructures (transport, energy, telecommunications) and governance shortcomings

U.S. Embassy

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