

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 which includes a variety of private freedom, combined with centralized economic planning and government regulation. The Democratic Republic of the Congo is a member of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), and the Southern African Development Community (SADC).



Location: Middle Africa

Capital City: Kinshasa (+1 GMT)

Chief of State: President Felix Tshisekedi

Head of Govt.: Prime Minister Judith Suminwa Tuluka

Currency: Congolese Franc (CDF)

Major Languages: <p>French (official), Lingala (a lingua franca trade language), Kingwana (a dialect of Kiswahili or Swahili), Kikongo, Tshiluba</p>

Primary Religions: <p>Roman Catholic 29.9%, Protestant 26.7%, Kimbanguist 2.8%, other Christian 36.5%, Muslim 1.3%, other (includes syncretic sects and indigenous beliefs) 1.2%, none 1.3%, unspecified .2% (2014 est.)</p>

Calling Code: 243

Voltage: 220

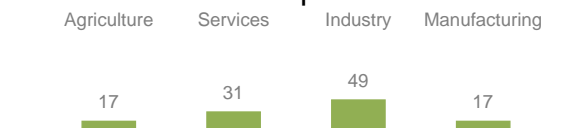
Key Websites

Investment Promotion investindrc.cd
Agency:

Key Economic Facts

Income Level (by per capita GNI):	Low Income
Level of Development:	Developing
GDP, PPP (current international \$):	\$132.42 billion (2022)
GDP growth (annual %):	8.92% (2022)
GDP per capita, PPP (current international \$):	\$1,337.39 (2022)
External debt stocks, total (DOD, current US\$):	\$10,288,150,918.80 (2021)
Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP):	16.73% (2022)
Current account balance (BoP, current US\$):	-\$0.59 billion (2021)
Inflation, consumer prices (annual %):	2.89% (2016)
Labor force, total:	35,059,361 (2022)
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate):	4.99% (2022)
Imports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$29.56 billion (2022)
Exports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$27.88 billion (2022)

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	166 / 178
Global Competitiveness Index	139 / 141
Global Enabling Trade Index	133 / 136
Index of Economic Freedom	157 / 176
International Logistics Performance Index (LPI)	120 / 160
Inward FDI Potential Index	137 / 139
KOF Index of Globalization	161 / 185
Open Budget Index	66 / 114

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 behavior. Corporate default probability is very high.

Business Climate rating: E - The highest possible risk in terms of business climate. Due to a lack of available financial information and an unpredictable legal system, doing business in this country is extremely difficult.

Strengths

- Abundant mineral resources (copper, cobalt, diamonds, gold, tin, etc.), the world's largest producer of cobalt and third-largest producer of copper
- Significant hydroelectric potential, but little exploited
- The Congo River basin is home to the second largest tropical forest in the world; the DRC's forested area totals almost 130 million hectares, i.e. 55% of its territory
- Enormous, largely unexploited agricultural potential: out of 75 million hectares available for cultivation, only 10 million are actually used
- Large and rapidly growing population (3% annual growth rate)
- International involvement and regional cooperation in conflict resolution in the Great Lakes region in the east

Weaknesses

- Economy based essentially on minerals
- High dependence on commodity prices due to mineral exports and on food and oil imports
- Weak infrastructure (transport, energy, telecommunications, health)
- Weak tax revenue and governance, corruption, complicated business environment
- Precarious humanitarian and security situation, with numerous armed militia operating in the east of the country, tensions with Rwanda
- Propensity to epidemics (cholera and Ebola)
- Widespread poverty (60%) and a quarter of the population suffering from food insecurity

U.S. Embassy

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