Georgia

Introduction

Georgia is situated at the crossroads of Eastern Europe and Western Asia. It is bordered by Armenia, Azerbaijan, Russia, Turkey, and the Black Sea. Strategically located directly east of the Black Sea, Georgia is largely mountainous and controls much of the Caucasus Mountains and the routes through them. The government system is a republic. The chief of state is the President and the head of government is the Prime Minister. Georgia has a mixed economic system in which the economy includes a variety of private freedom, combined with centralized economic planning and government regulation. Georgia is a member of Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC).

Location: Western Asia
Capital City: T'bilisi (+4 GMT)
Chief of State: President Mikheil Saakashvili
Head of Govt.: Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili
Currency: Lari (GEL)
Major Languages: Georgian 71% (official), Russian 9%, Armenian 7%, Azeri 6%, other 7%
Primary Religions: Orthodox Christian 83.9%, Muslim 9.9%, Armenian-Gregorian 3.9%, Catholic 0.8%, other 0.8%, none 0.7%
Calling Code: 995
Voltage: 220

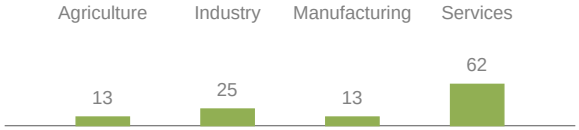
Key Websites

Main Government Page:	government.gov.ge
Commerce Ministry:	economy.gov.ge
Investment Promotion Agency:	investingeorgia.org

Key Economic Facts

Budget Expenditures:	$.00 trillion (2011)
Budget revenues:	$.00 trillion (2012)
Debt - external:	$.01 trillion (2011)
Distribution Of Family Income - GINI Index:	40.80% (2009)
Exports:	$3.22 billion (2011)
GDP per capita, PPP:	$5,502.52 (2011)
GDP, PPP:	$.02 trillion (2011)
Imports:	$6.64 billion (2011)
Industrial production growth rate:	11.80% (2010)
Inflation rate (consumer prices):	8.50% (2011)
Labor force:	1650.00 million (2010)
Population:	4.57 million (2012)
Unemployment rate:	16.30% (2010)

GDP Composition %



Rankings

Index	Rank
Freedom of the Press	111/197
Global Competitiveness Report	77/144
Global Enabling Trade Report	38/132
Index of Economic Freedom	21/177
International Logistics Performance Index (LPI)	77/155
Inward FDI Potential Index	102/141
KOF Index of Globalization	64/187
Networked Readiness Index (NRI)	88/142
Open Budget Index	33/100

Risk Assessment (Provided by Coface)

Country rating: C - A very uncertain political and economic outlook and a business environment with many troublesome weaknesses can have a significant impact on corporate payment behaviour. Corporate default probability is high.
Business Climate rating: C - The business environment is difficult. Corporate financial information is often unavailable and when available often unreliable. Debt collection is unpredictable. The institutional framework has many troublesome weaknesses. Intercompany transactions run major risks in the difficult environments rated C.

Strengths

- Support of international financial aid
- Strategic geographical position (crossing point for oil and gas from the Caspian Sea)
- Favorable policy towards foreign investors

Weaknesses

- Weak economic diversification
- Structural current account deficit
- Substantial poverty and very high unemployment in urban areas
- Persistent tensions with Russia

U.S. Embassy

11 George Balanchine Street
Tbilisi, Georgia, 0131
Tel: (995 32) 27-70-00
http://georgia.usembassy.gov/