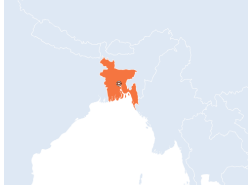


## Introduction

Bangladesh is a country in Southern Asia and is located on the Bay of Bengal bordered by India on all sides except for a small border with Burma. Bangladesh has flat plains, and most of the country is situated on deltas of large rivers flowing from the Himalayas. The government system is parliamentary democracy; the chief of state is the president, and the head of government is the prime minister. Bangladesh has a traditional economic system in which the allocation of available resources is made on the basis of inheritance and primitive methods. Bangladesh is a member of the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA) and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).



**Location:** Southern Asia

**Capital City:** Dhaka (+6 GMT)

**Chief of State:** President Abdul Hamid

**Head of Govt.:** Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

**Currency:** Taka (BDT)

**Major Languages:** <p>Bangla 98.8% (official, also known as Bengali), other 1.2%</p>

**Primary Religions:** <p>Muslim 89.1%, Hindu 10%, other 0.9% (includes Buddhist, Christian)</p>

**Calling Code:** 880

**Voltage:** 220

## Key Websites

Main Government Page: [bangladesh.gov.bd](http://bangladesh.gov.bd)

Commerce Ministry: [mincom.gov.bd](http://mincom.gov.bd)

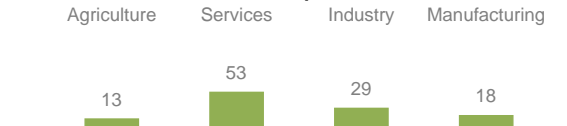
Export Promotion Agency: [epb.gov.bd](http://epb.gov.bd)

Investment Promotion Agency: [boi.gov.bd](http://boi.gov.bd)

## Key Economic Facts

Income Level (by per capita GNI):	Lower Middle Income
Level of Development:	Developing
GDP, PPP (current international \$):	\$734.11 billion (2018)
GDP growth (annual %):	7.86% (2018)
GDP per capita, PPP (current international \$):	\$4,549.61 (2018)
External debt stocks, total (DOD, current US\$):	\$52,124,147,979.80 (2018)
Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP):	17.96% (2018)
Current account balance (BoP, current US\$):	-\$7.59 billion (2018)
Inflation, consumer prices (annual %):	5.59% (2019)
Labor force, total:	70,009,353 (2019)
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate):	4.19% (2019)
Imports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$64.24 billion (2018)
Exports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$40.56 billion (2018)

## 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	149 / 180
Global Competitiveness Index	105 / 141
Global Enabling Trade Index	123 / 136
Global Services Location Index	21 / 55
Index of Economic Freedom	121 / 179
International Logistics Performance Index (LPI)	100 / 160
Inward FDI Potential Index	117 / 139
KOF Index of Globalization	159 / 185
Networked Readiness Index (NRI)	112 / 139
Open Budget Index	65 / 115

## 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 behavior. 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

- Competitive garment sector, thanks to relatively cheap labor
- Substantial remittances from expatriate workers, mainly living in the Gulf States
- International assistance helps to cover financing needs
- Moderate level of public debt
- Favorable demographics: a third of Bangladeshis are under 15 years of age
- Improving financial inclusion through microfinance and mobile services

### Weaknesses

- Economy vulnerable to changes in global competition in the textile sector and to developments in Gulf Cooperation Council countries
- Very low per capita income and low participation of women despite progress
- Recurring and growing political, religious and social tensions
- Business climate shortcomings and lack of infrastructure
- Recurring natural disasters (cyclones, severe floods, landslides) resulting in significant damage and crop losses
- One of the most vulnerable countries to climate risk (6th most affected country according to the 2018 Global Climate Risk Index)
- Fragile banking sector; many non-performing loans on bank balance sheets

## U.S. Embassy

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Tel: (880) (2) 8855500  
<https://bd.usembassy.gov>