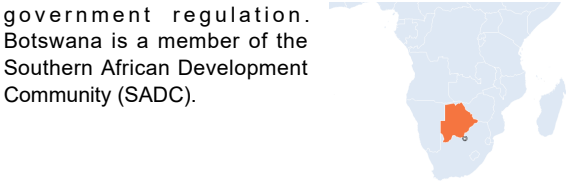


Introduction

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 Mokgweetse Eric Masisi

Head of Govt.: President Mokgweetse Eric Masisi

Currency: Botswanan pula (BWP)

Major Languages: 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.)

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

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 \$):	\$39.77 billion (2017)
GDP growth (annual %):	2.36% (2017)
GDP per capita, PPP (current international \$):	\$17,354.20 (2017)
External debt stocks, total (DOD, current US\$):	\$1,740,063,200.20 (2017)
Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP):	5.13% (2017)
Current account balance (BoP, current US\$):	\$2.15 billion (2017)
Inflation, consumer prices (annual %):	3.31% (2017)
Labor force, total:	1,130,007 (2017)
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate):	17.36% (2017)
Imports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$6.58 billion (2016)
Exports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$8.62 billion (2016)

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	34 / 178
Global Competitiveness Index	90 / 139
Global Enabling Trade Index	65 / 136
Index of Economic Freedom	35 / 180
Inward FDI Potential Index	78 / 139
KOF Index of Globalization	125 / 185
Networked Readiness Index (NRI)	101 / 139
Open Budget Index	95 / 115

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 (especially diamonds)
- A sustainable level of public and external debt
- Substantial currency reserves
- Political stability and level of governance, placing the country among the leading countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and in the international rankings of the business environment
- Member of SACU (Southern Africa Customs Union)

Weaknesses

- Dependence on the diamond sector (more than 80% of exports)
- Insufficient infrastructure (production and distribution of water and electricity)
- Inequality and high unemployment
- Stagnation of poverty at a relatively high level

U.S. Embassy

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