Introduction

The Central African Republic is a landlocked country in Central Africa that borders the countries of Cameroon, Chad, Sudan, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Republic of the Congo. The geography of the Central African Republic is vast and flat with scattered hills in the northeast and southwest. The government system is a republic; the chief of state is the president, and the head of government is the prime minister. The Central African Republic has a traditional economic system in which subsistence agriculture and forestry remain the backbone of the economy. The Central African Republic is a member of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS).

Key Economic Facts

Income Level (by per capita GNI): Low Income
Level of Development: Developing
GDP, PPP (current international $): $3.39 billion (2017)
GDP growth (annual %): 4.30% (2017)
GDP per capita, PPP (current international $): $727.49 (2017)
External debt stocks, total (DOD, current US$): $730,693,382.80 (2017)
Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP): 6.80% (2015)
Current account balance (BoP, current US$): -$0.02 billion (1994)
Inflation, consumer prices (annual %): 37.14% (2015)
Labor force, total: 1,952,603 (2018)
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate): 6.48% (2018)
Imports of goods and services (current US$): $0.62 billion (2017)
Exports of goods and services (current US$): $0.24 billion (2017)

GDP Composition %

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Although Manufacturing is included in the Industry figures, it is also separately reported because it plays a critical role in economy.

Rankings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Index</th>
<th>Rank</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corruption Perceptions Index</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Index of Economic Freedom</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Logistics Performance Index (LPI)</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOF Index of Globalization</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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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

- Agricultural potential (cotton, coffee), forestry and mineral wealth (diamonds, gold and uranium)
- Significant international financial support

Weaknesses

- Extreme poverty (over 76% of the population)
- Economy vulnerable to external shocks
- Poor transport infrastructure and inadequate power production capacity
- Geographic isolation
- Unstable political and security situation; presence of several armed foreign rebel groups

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