

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 Sylvestre Ilunga Ilunkamba

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

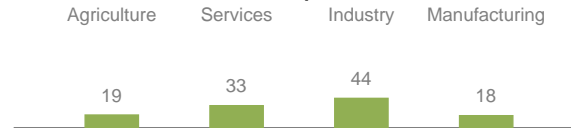
Main Government Page: presidentrdc.cd

Investment Promotion Agency: investindrc.cd

Key Economic Facts

Income Level (by per capita GNI):	Low Income
Level of Development:	Developing
GDP, PPP (current international \$):	\$93.46 billion (2018)
GDP growth (annual %):	5.76% (2018)
GDP per capita, PPP (current international \$):	\$1,111.68 (2018)
External debt stocks, total (DOD, current US\$):	\$4,983,718,743.00 (2018)
Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP):	18.11% (2018)
Current account balance (BoP, current US\$):	-\$2.17 billion (2018)
Inflation, consumer prices (annual %):	2.89% (2016)
Labor force, total:	29,741,467 (2019)
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate):	4.24% (2019)
Imports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$17.64 billion (2018)
Exports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$15.88 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	161 / 180
Global Competitiveness Index	139 / 141
Global Enabling Trade Index	133 / 136
Index of Economic Freedom	156 / 179
International Logistics Performance Index (LPI)	120 / 160
Inward FDI Potential Index	137 / 139
KOF Index of Globalization	161 / 185
Open Budget Index	82 / 115

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, diamond, gold, tin)
- Significant hydroelectric potential
- International involvement and regional cooperation in resolving conflicts in the Great Lakes region
- Achieved first peaceful transition of power in 60 years

Weaknesses

- Weak infrastructure (transport, energy, telecommunications)
- Poor security and humanitarian situation, with numerous armed militias in the east of the country
- Ebola epidemic continues to gain momentum
- Extremely dependent on commodity prices
- Poor governance, questionable electoral process

U.S. Embassy

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Kinshasa, Gombe
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<https://cd.usembassy.gov>