

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 Joseph Kabila

Head of Govt.: Prime Minister Bruno Tshibala

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 50%, Protestant 20%, Kimbanguist 10%, Muslim 10%, other (includes syncretic sects and indigenous beliefs) 10%</p>

Calling Code: 243

Voltage: 220

Key Websites

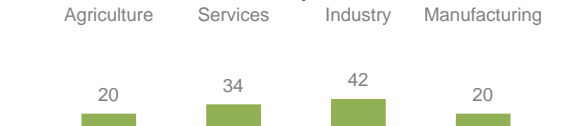
Main Government Page: presidentrdc.cd

Investment Promotion Agency: investindrc.cd

Key Economic Facts

Income Level (by per capita GNI):	Low Income
Level of Development:	Developing
GDP, PPP (current international \$):	\$72.17 billion (2017)
GDP growth (annual %):	3.70% (2017)
GDP per capita, PPP (current international \$):	\$887.21 (2017)
External debt stocks, total (DOD, current US\$):	\$5,127,686,566.40 (2017)
Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP):	19.67% (2017)
Current account balance (BoP, current US\$):	-\$1.33 billion (2016)
Inflation, consumer prices (annual %):	2.89% (2016)
Labor force, total:	31,643,726 (2017)
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate):	3.69% (2017)
Imports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$14.68 billion (2017)
Exports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$13.26 billion (2017)

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
Global Competitiveness Index	134 / 139
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

- Plentiful mineral resources (copper, cobalt, diamonds. Gold and tin)
- Significant tourism potential
- International involvement and regional cooperation in resolving conflicts in the Great Lakes region
- Debt relief as part of the HIPC and MDR initiatives

Weaknesses

- Tensions in the East of the country with the recurrence of rebellions
- Political crisis following the Supreme Court ruling to delay the presidential elections and lack of any political desire to organise them
- Extreme dependence on raw material prices
- Poor level of infrastructures (transport, energy, telecommunications) and weak governance
- High poverty levels

U.S. Embassy

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<https://cd.usembassy.gov>