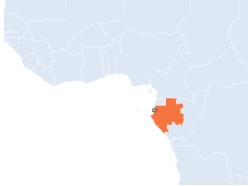


Introduction

Gabon is a country located in Western Africa bordering Equatorial Guinea, Cameroon, Republic of the Congo, the Gulf of Guinea, and the Atlantic Ocean. Gabon has an extensive system of rainforests and savannas in the east and south. The government system is a republic with a multiparty presidential regime; the chief of state is the president, and the head of government is the prime minister. Gabon has a mixed economic system with a heavy reliance on oil, combined with relatively weak centralized economic planning and government regulation. Gabon is a member of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS).



Location: Middle Africa

Capital City: Libreville (+1 GMT)

Chief of State: President Ali Bongo Ondimba

Head of Govt.: Prime Minister Emmanuel Issoze-Ngondet

Currency: Communauté Financière Africaine Franc (XAF)

Major Languages: <p>French (official), Fang, Myene, Nzebi, Bapounou/Eschira, Bandjabi</p>

Primary Religions: <p>Roman Catholic 42.3%, Protestant 12.3%, other Christian 27.4%, Muslim 9.8%, animist 0.6%, other 0.5%, none/no answer 7.1% (2012 est.)</p>

Calling Code: 241

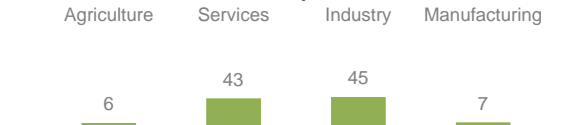
Voltage: 220

Key Websites

Key Economic Facts

Income Level (by per capita GNI):	Upper Middle Income
Level of Development:	Developing
GDP, PPP (current international \$):	\$36.82 billion (2017)
GDP growth (annual %):	1.10% (2017)
GDP per capita, PPP (current international \$):	\$18,183.12 (2017)
External debt stocks, total (DOD, current US\$):	\$6,165,574,113.50 (2017)
Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP):	7.23% (2017)
Current account balance (BoP, current US\$):	\$1.98 billion (2012)
Inflation, consumer prices (annual %):	2.11% (2016)
Labor force, total:	667,636 (2017)
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate):	19.66% (2017)
Imports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$3.91 billion (2017)
Exports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$6.40 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
Corruption Perceptions Index	117 / 178
Global Enabling Trade Index	129 / 136
Index of Economic Freedom	117 / 179
International Logistics Performance Index (LPI)	150 / 160
Inward FDI Potential Index	97 / 139
KOF Index of Globalization	92 / 185
Networked Readiness Index (NRI)	125 / 139

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

- 5th largest oil producer in Sub-Saharan Africa; 2nd largest African producer of timber; world's leading producer of highly coveted manganese
- Drive to diversify the economy undertaken under the Emerging Gabon Strategic Plan
- Stable CFA franc

Weaknesses

- Economy highly dependent on oil sector
- High cost of production factors, linked to inadequate infrastructure (transport and electricity)
- Informal sector representing 40-50% of GDP
- High unemployment and endemic poverty
- Degraded political context, rampant corruption
- Accumulation of domestic and external arrears

U.S. Embassy

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<https://ga.usembassy.gov>