

Introduction

Guatemala is a country in Central America bordering the Northern Pacific Ocean, the Gulf of Honduras, El Salvador, Mexico, Honduras, and Belize. Two mountain chains enter Guatemala from west to east, with a small desert, sand dunes, and hills in-between. The government system is a presidential republic; the chief of state and head of government is the president. Guatemala has a mixed economic system which includes a variety of emerging private freedom, combined with centralized economic planning and government regulation.



Location: Central America

Capital City: Guatemala City (-6 GMT)

Chief of State: President Jimmy Ernesto Morales Cabrera

Head of Govt.: President Jimmy Ernesto Morales Cabrera

Currency: Quetzal (GTQ)

Major Languages: Spanish (official) 69.9%, Maya languages 29.7% (Q'eqchi' 8.3%, K'iche' 7.8%, Mam 4.4%, Kaqchikel 3%, Q'anjob'al 1.2%, Poqomchi' 1%, other 4%), other 0.4% (includes Xinca and Garifuna) (2018 est.)

Primary Religions: Roman Catholic, Protestant, indigenous Maya

Calling Code: 502

Voltage: 120

Key Websites

Main Government Page: presidencia.gob.gt

Commerce Ministry: mineco.gob.gt

Investment Promotion Agency: investinguatemala.org

Key Economic Facts

Income Level (by per capita GNI):	Lower Middle Income
Level of Development:	Developing
GDP, PPP (current international \$):	\$145.96 billion (2018)
GDP growth (annual %):	3.15% (2018)
GDP per capita, PPP (current international \$):	\$8,462.37 (2018)
External debt stocks, total (DOD, current US\$):	\$22,348,725,210.10 (2018)
Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP):	17.85% (2018)
Current account balance (BoP, current US\$):	\$0.67 billion (2018)
Inflation, consumer prices (annual %):	3.75% (2018)
Labor force, total:	7,246,495 (2019)
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate):	2.75% (2019)
Imports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$21.72 billion (2018)
Exports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$14.22 billion (2018)

GDP Composition %

Agriculture Services Industry Manufacturing



**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	144 / 180
Global Competitiveness Index	98 / 141
Global Enabling Trade Index	69 / 136
Index of Economic Freedom	77 / 179
International Logistics Performance Index (LPI)	125 / 160
Inward FDI Potential Index	100 / 139
KOF Index of Globalization	77 / 185
Networked Readiness Index (NRI)	103 / 139
Open Budget Index	25 / 115

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

- Financial support from the US and multilateral lenders
- Free trade agreements with the US and EU
- Geographic proximity to the US and Mexico
- High potential for tourism, agriculture (bananas, coffee, sugar), mining, hydroelectric and geothermal energy

Weaknesses

- Social and political instability
- Poor infrastructure
- Vulnerable to external shocks (natural disasters and commodity prices)
- Heavily reliant on low value-added industry and expatriate remittances
- Low fiscal revenues
- Rural poverty, inequalities, under-employment, informal economy, ethnic divisions
- Security issues related to drug trafficking

U.S. Embassy

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