

Introduction

Mauritania is a country in North Africa and is bordered by the North Atlantic Ocean, Algeria, Mali, Senegal, and Western Sahara. The government system is a military junta; the chief of state is the president, and the head of government is the prime minister. Mauritania has a traditional economic system in which the majority of the population engages in subsistence agriculture and livestock. Mauritania is a member of the League of Arab States (Arab League).



Location: Western Africa

Capital City: Nouakchott (GMT)

Chief of State: President Mohamed Ould Cheikh el Ghazouani

Head of Govt.: Prime Minister Mohamed Ould Bilal

Currency: Ouguiya (MRO)

Major Languages: Arabic (official and national), Pular, Soninke, Wolof (all national languages), French

Note: The spoken Arabic in Mauritania differs considerably from the modern standard Arabic used for official written purposes or in the media; the Mauritanian dialect, which incorporates many Berber words, is referred to as Hassaniya

Primary Religions: Muslim (official) 100%

Calling Code: 222

Voltage: 220

Key Websites

Investment Promotion investinmauritania.gov.mr
Agency:

Key Economic Facts

Income Level (by per capita GNI):	Lower Middle Income
Level of Development:	Developing
GDP, PPP (current international \$):	\$30.43 billion (2022)
GDP growth (annual %):	5.20% (2022)
GDP per capita, PPP (current international \$):	\$6,424.12 (2022)
External debt stocks, total (DOD, current US\$):	\$4,818,826,891.60 (2021)
Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP):	5.28% (2021)
Current account balance (BoP, current US\$):	-\$0.81 billion (2021)
Inflation, consumer prices (annual %):	9.53% (2022)
Labor force, total:	1,129,487 (2022)
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate):	11.11% (2022)
Imports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$8.06 billion (2022)
Exports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$4.82 billion (2022)

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	137 / 178
Global Competitiveness Index	134 / 141
Global Enabling Trade Index	131 / 136
Index of Economic Freedom	117 / 176
International Logistics Performance Index (LPI)	135 / 160
KOF Index of Globalization	110 / 185
Networked Readiness Index (NRI)	136 / 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: A4 - The business environment is acceptable. Corporate financial information is sometimes neither readily available nor sufficiently reliable. Debt collection is not always efficient and the institutional framework has shortcomings. Intercompany transactions may thus run into appreciable difficulties in the acceptable but occasionally unstable environments rated A4.

Strengths

- Much lower risk of jihadism than its Sahelian neighbours
- Financial support from bilateral and multilateral partners
- Degree of macroeconomic stability, even in difficult circumstances
- Mineral resources (iron ore, gold, copper, uranium) and fisheries
- Energy potential (gas, green hydrogen)
- Relatively large domestic budget resources

Weaknesses

- Poor governance: high levels of corruption, lack of insolvency procedures
- Undiversified economy, vulnerable to fluctuations in commodity prices and the weather (recurring drought)
- Less inclusive growth, weak education system, high unemployment rate (10%), high poverty rate (57% of the population lives in multidimensional poverty)
- Very little arable land, over two-thirds of the country's surface area is desert
- Persistent community divisions: discrimination against the Harratin population, or black Moors who make up 40% of the population and are the descendants of slaves from the Beïdanes, the white Moors

U.S. Embassy

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