

## 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

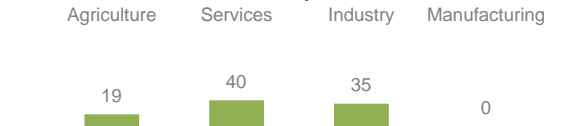
## Key Websites

Investment Promotion [investinmauritania.gov.mr](http://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 %



*\*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: 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

- Lower terrorist risk than its Sahelian neighbors
- Support from donors and international organizations
- Macroeconomic stability, to some degree, even in challenging circumstances
- Mineral (iron ore, gold, copper) and fishery resources
- Energy potential (gas, oil, renewables)
- Relatively significant domestic budgetary resources

### Weaknesses

- Poor governance including high levels of corruption, non-existent insolvency treatment
- Under-diversified economy is vulnerable to fluctuations in commodity prices
- Growth not very inclusive, weak education system and high unemployment
- Limited formal economy
- Very little arable land, as more than 2/3 of country surface is desert
- Exposure to volatile weather patterns
- Persistent community tensions: discrimination against the Haratines, or black Moors, who make up 30% of the population and are descended from slaves of the Beydanes, also known as white Moors

## U.S. Embassy

U.S. Embassy Nouakchott  
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<https://mr.usembassy.gov>