

## 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 Abdel Aziz

**Head of Govt.:** Prime Minister Yahya Ould Hademine

**Currency:** Ouguiya (MRO)

**Major Languages:** <p>Arabic (official and national), Pulaar, Soninke, Wolof (all national languages), French, Hassaniya</p>

**Primary Religions:** <p>Muslim (official) 100%</p>

**Calling Code:** 222

**Voltage:** 220

## Key Websites

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

## Key Economic Facts

Income Level (by per capita GNI):	Lower Middle Income
Level of Development:	Developing
GDP, PPP (current international \$):	\$17.46 billion (2017)
GDP growth (annual %):	3.50% (2017)
GDP per capita, PPP (current international \$):	\$3,949.68 (2017)
External debt stocks, total (DOD, current US\$):	\$4,230,832,655.50 (2017)
Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP):	6.02% (2016)
Current account balance (BoP, current US\$):	-\$0.71 billion (2017)
Inflation, consumer prices (annual %):	2.25% (2017)
Labor force, total:	1,312,118 (2017)
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate):	9.88% (2017)
Imports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$3.32 billion (2017)
Exports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$2.17 billion (2017)

## 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	143 / 178
Global Competitiveness Index	130 / 139
Global Enabling Trade Index	131 / 136
Index of Economic Freedom	119 / 179
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: 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: D** - The business environment is very difficult. Corporate financial information is rarely available and when available usually unreliable. The legal system makes debt collection very unpredictable. The institutional framework has very serious weaknesses. Intercompany transactions can thus be very difficult to manage in the highly risky environments rated D.

### Strengths

- Supported by donors and international organizations
- Rich in minerals and fisheries resources
- Energy potential (gas, renewables)

### Weaknesses

- Persistent political and security instability
- Poorly diversified economy, vulnerable to commodity price fluctuations
- Growth not very inclusive with high unemployment, especially among young people
- Limited formal economy

## U.S. Embassy

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