

## Introduction

Nicaragua is a country located in Central America bordering Costa Rica and Honduras. The geography of Nicaragua is coastal plains rising to central interior mountains. The government system is a republic; the chief of state and the head of government is the president. Nicaragua has a mixed economic system which includes a variety of private freedom, combined with centralized economic planning and government regulation.



**Location:** Central America

**Capital City:** Managua (-6 GMT)

**Chief of State:** President José Daniel Ortega Saavedra

**Head of Govt.:** President José Daniel Ortega Saavedra

**Currency:** Gold cordoba (NIO)

**Major Languages:** Spanish (official) 95.3%, Miskito 2.2%, Mestizo of the Caribbean coast 2%, other 0.5%

**Primary Religions:** Roman Catholic 58.5%, Protestant 23.2% (Evangelical 21.6%, Moravian 1.6%), Jehovah's Witnesses 1.6%, other 1.6%, none 15.7%

**Calling Code:** 505

**Voltage:** 120

## Key Websites

Main Government Page: [presidencia.gob.ni](http://presidencia.gob.ni)

Commerce Ministry: [mific.gob.ni](http://mific.gob.ni)

## Key Economic Facts

Income Level (by per capita GNI):	Lower Middle Income
Level of Development:	Developing
GDP, PPP (current international \$):	\$36.32 billion (2017)
GDP growth (annual %):	4.86% (2017)
GDP per capita, PPP (current international \$):	\$5,842.17 (2017)
External debt stocks, total (DOD, current US\$):	\$10,990,903,000.00 (2016)
Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP):	13.72% (2017)
Current account balance (BoP, current US\$):	-\$0.69 billion (2017)
Inflation, consumer prices (annual %):	3.52% (2016)
Labor force, total:	2,939,653 (2017)
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate):	4.42% (2017)
Imports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$7.66 billion (2017)
Exports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$5.70 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	151 / 178
Global Competitiveness Index	93 / 137
Global Enabling Trade Index	76 / 136
Index of Economic Freedom	99 / 180
International Logistics Performance Index (LPI)	102 / 160
Inward FDI Potential Index	113 / 139
KOF Index of Globalization	104 / 185
Networked Readiness Index (NRI)	131 / 139
Open Budget Index	62 / 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

- Mineral (gold) and agricultural (coffee, sugar, meat) resources
- Membership in Central America/United States and Central America/EU free trade zones
- Cautious economic policy
- Stable financial system
- Support from the international community
- Low crime rates compared with other countries in the region

### Weaknesses

- Highly vulnerable to natural disasters (cyclones, earthquakes)
- Healthcare and education shortcomings and persistent poverty rate
- Inadequate infrastructure (energy, transport)
- Structurally large current account deficit
- Dependence on international aid, particularly from Venezuela
- Institutional failings: concentration of power within the executive and the Sandinista party, corruption

## U.S. Embassy

U.S. Embassy Managua  
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 in Managua, Nicaragua  
 Phone: (505) 2252-7100

<https://ni.usembassy.gov>