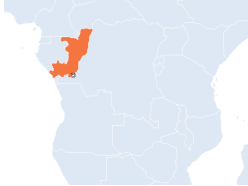


Introduction

The Republic of Congo is a country in Central Africa. Neighboring countries include Angola, Gabon, Cameroon, Central African Republic, and Democratic Republic of the Congo. The southwest of the country is a coastal plain, and the interior of the country consists of central plateau. The government system is a republic; the chief of state and head of government is the president. The Republic of the Congo has a mixed economic system which includes a variety of private freedom, combined with centralized economic planning and government regulation. Republic of the Congo is a member of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS).



Location: Middle Africa

Capital City: Brazzaville (+1 GMT)

Chief of State: President Denis Sassou-Nguesso

Head of Govt.: Vacant

Currency: Communauté Financière Africaine franc (XAF)

Major Languages: French (official), Lingala and Monokutuba (lingua franca trade languages), many local languages and dialects (of which Kikongo is the most widespread)

Primary Religions: Roman Catholic 33.1%, Awakening Churches/Christian Revival 22.3%, Protestant 19.9%, Salutiste 2.2%, Muslim 1.6%, Kimbanguiste 1.5%, other 8.1%, none 11.3%

Calling Code: 242

Voltage: 230

Key Websites

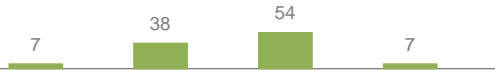
Main Government Page: presidence.cg

Key Economic Facts

Income Level (by per capita GNI):	Lower Middle Income
Level of Development:	Developing
GDP, PPP (current international \$):	\$29.64 billion (2018)
GDP growth (annual %):	1.03% (2018)
GDP per capita, PPP (current international \$):	\$5,652.08 (2018)
External debt stocks, total (DOD, current US\$):	\$4,455,512,969.40 (2017)
Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP):	6.52% (2017)
Current account balance (BoP, current US\$):	-\$3.59 billion (2016)
Inflation, consumer prices (annual %):	0.45% (2017)
Labor force, total:	2,101,890 (2018)
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate):	10.38% (2018)
Imports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$6.31 billion (2018)
Exports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$11.14 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	161 / 178
Index of Economic Freedom	175 / 179
International Logistics Performance Index (LPI)	115 / 160
Inward FDI Potential Index	95 / 139
KOF Index of Globalization	108 / 185

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: 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

- Abundant natural resources (oil, iron ore, potash, phosphates, wood); agricultural potential
- Potential economic diversification with opening of free-trade zones

Weaknesses

- Heavy reliance on oil and gas, and on China
- Lack of infrastructures; lag in poverty reduction
- Poor business climate and weak governance
- Lack of transparency in terms of its debts; uncertainties about interest payments

U.S. Embassy

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