

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 a 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.: Prime Minister Anatole Collinet Makosso

Currency: Communauté Financière Africaine franc (XAF)

Major Languages: French (official), French 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%, Salustiste 2.2%, Muslim 1.6%, Kimbanguiste 1.5%, other 8.1%, none 11.3%

Calling Code: 242

Voltage: 230

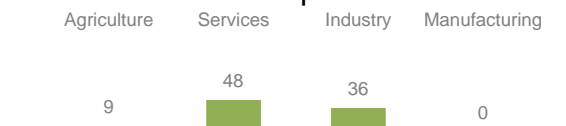
Key Websites

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 \$):	\$22.63 billion (2022)
GDP growth (annual %):	1.55% (2022)
GDP per capita, PPP (current international \$):	\$3,790.71 (2022)
External debt stocks, total (DOD, current US\$):	\$6,965,719,977.40 (2021)
Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP):	8.06% (2019)
Current account balance (BoP, current US\$):	\$1.44 billion (2020)
Inflation, consumer prices (annual %):	3.04% (2022)
Labor force, total:	2,378,882 (2022)
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate):	21.80% (2022)
Imports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$5.88 billion (2022)
Exports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$10.44 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	159 / 178
Index of Economic Freedom	156 / 176
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: 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: E - The highest possible risk in terms of business climate. Due to a lack of available financial information and an unpredictable legal system, doing business in this country is extremely difficult.

Strengths

- Abundant mineral resources (copper, cobalt, diamond, gold, tin, etc.)
- Significant hydroelectric potential
- Second-largest tropical forest in the world and vast biodiversity
- International involvement and regional cooperation in resolving conflicts in the Great Lakes region

Weaknesses

- Weak infrastructure (transport, energy, telecommunications)
- Precarious security and humanitarian situation, with numerous armed militias in the east of the country
- Risk of a new Ebola outbreak
- Extremely dependent on commodity prices
- Poor governance

U.S. Embassy

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