Introduction

Sudan is a country located in Northern Africa bordering the Red Sea. Neighboring countries include Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Libya, and South Sudan. The geography of Sudan is generally flat with mountains in the east and west and annual flooding in the south due to the Nile River system. The government system is a federal republic; the chief of state and head of government is the president. Sudan has a largely traditional economy in which the majority of the citizens rely on agriculture, and there is limited central planning by the government. Sudan is a member of the League of Arab States (Arab League) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).

Location: Northern Africa
Capital City: Khartoum (+3 GMT)
Chief of State: Abd-Al-Fatah Al-Burhan Abd-Al-Rahman
Head of Govt.: Abd-Al-Fatah Al-Burhan Abd-Al-Rahman
Currency: Sudan Pound (SDG)
Major Languages: Arabic (official), English (official), Nubian, Ta Bedawie, Fur
Primary Religions: Sunni Muslim, small Christian minority
Calling Code: 249
Voltage: 230

Key Economic Facts

Income Level (by per capita GNI): Lower Middle Income
Level of Development: Developing
GDP, PPP (current international $): $197.62 billion (2022)
GDP growth (annual %): -0.95% (2022)
GDP per capita, PPP (current international $): $4,216.02 (2022)
External debt stocks, total (DOD, current US$): $22,165,390,604.10 (2021)
Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP): 7.80% (2015)
Current account balance (BoP, current US$): -$4.44 billion (2022)
Inflation, consumer prices (annual %): 138.81% (2022)
Labor force, total: 13,501,917 (2022)
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate): 18.73% (2022)
Imports of goods and services (current US$): $0.58 billion (2022)
Exports of goods and services (current US$): $0.81 billion (2022)

GDP Composition %

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Agriculture</th>
<th>Services</th>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Manufacturing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GDP Composition %</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Although Manufacturing is included in the Industry figures, it is also separately reported because it plays a critical role in economy.*

Rankings

<table>
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<td>Open Budget Index</td>
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</table>

Risk Assessment (Provided by Coface)

Country rating: E - The highest-risk political and economic situation and the most difficult business environment. Corporate default is likely.

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

- Untapped agricultural (extensive arable land) and mineral (gold and oil) resources
- Strategic position between the Middle East and West Africa
- Gradual easing since 2017 of sanctions imposed by the U.S. in 1997 completed with removal from the U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism (December 2020), making access to multilateral funding possible again
- International financial support
- Successful implementation of an economic reform program in partnership with the IMF between June 2020 and September 2021
- Accepted into the IMF’s Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative in June 2021
- Improved diplomatic relations with South Sudan (ceasefire signed in 2018); relations resumed with Israel

Weaknesses

- Democratic transition process and economic stabilization severely weakened by the October 2021 coup
- Dependence on agriculture (peanuts, sesame, cattle, cotton), oil, gold and international aid
- Persistent human and food insecurity
- High levels of unemployment (especially among young people) and poverty
- Numerous rebel groups in several provinces, persistent inter-community conflicts in Darfur
- Significant deficiencies in business environment and governance; endemic corruption (174th out of 198 in Transparency International’s Corruption Perceptions Index 2020)
Lack of investment in infrastructure
External debt, much of which in arrears, is unsustainable, despite being halved from USD 60 billion to USD 28 billion under the HIPC Initiative
Extremely low foreign exchange reserves
Sickly banking system and weak central bank independence

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