





CAPITAL CITY: KINSHASA

## Key Facts



**POPULATION**  
110.8 million (2024)



**CURRENT GDP**  
US\$ 66.3 billion (2023)



**LEADER**  
Félix Tshisekedi



**PRIMARY EXPORT**  
Refined Copper  
US\$ 16.3 billion (2022)

# CFC COUNTRY FACTSHEET : Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), one of Africa's largest countries by land area, holds immense potential for economic prosperity, thanks to its rich natural resources, including vast tracts of arable land, abundant water resources, and a wealth of minerals. However, political instability, weak institutional frameworks, poor governance, and recurrent violence have hindered the country from establishing a diversified and resilient economy.

With strategic reforms, improved governance, and policy frameworks aimed at transparency and inclusion, the DRC has the potential to leverage its natural wealth to drive development and contribute significantly to global environmental goals.



**INTERESTS & CURRENCY**  
**EXCHANGE RATES**

**Central Bank**  
Rate : 25%

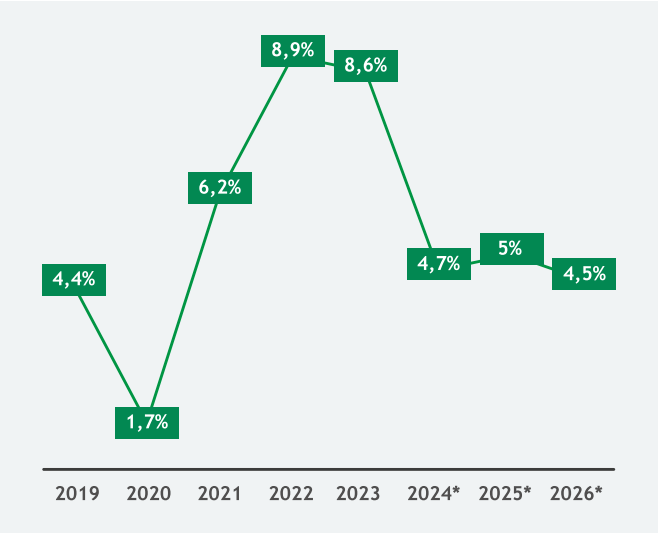
**Currency**  
Congolese franc (FC/CDF)

**USD 1 = CDF 2 846,2671**
**EUR 1 = 3001,9797**

Source : Banque Centrale du Congo, December 2024



## GDP GROWTH



- 20%

Inflation (2023)
- 1.5%

Unemployment rate (2020)
- 3.3%

Demographic growth (2024)
- 6.3%

Current account (2023)
- US\$ 1.7 billion

FDI (Net Inflows) (2023)
- 60 years

Life expectancy (2021)
- US\$ 649

GDP per capita (2023)
- 81%

Literacy Rate (2020)

Sources: World Bank data, IMF, Reuters

## What are the most attractive industries ?

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has several industries that present potential opportunities for investment and growth such as:

**Mining:** The DRC has significant mineral resources, including copper, cobalt, gold, and diamonds. The mining industry accounts for a significant portion of the country's GDP and exports.

**Agriculture:** The DRC has fertile land and a favorable climate for agriculture. The country produces crops such as coffee, palm oil, and cocoa, which are in high demand globally.

**Energy:** The DRC has significant hydropower potential, with the Congo river offering the potential for large scale hydroelectric power generation. The government is also exploring the potential for solar and wind power projects.

## DRC's International Membership

- South African Development Community (SADC)
- World Trade Organisation (WTO)
- Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (ECGLC)
- Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)
- Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)
- Organisation for Harmonisation of Business Law in Africa (OHADA)



### Leading Companies in DRC

1. Mine de Tenke Fungurume (Mining)
2. Gécamines (Mining)
3. Feronia Inc (Agribusiness)
4. Rawbank (Banking)

## What is the tax regime in DRC?

### Corporate income tax rate:

- The general corporate income tax rate of **30%** applies to DRC-incorporated companies, as well as to subsidiaries or branches of a foreign company established in the DRC.
- Mining companies also are subject to a **30%** tax rate.

### Withholding tax (WHT):

Payments	Rate for Resident	Rate for Non Resident
Dividends <sup>1</sup>	10%/20%	10%/20%
Interest	N/A	0%/20%
Royalties <sup>2</sup>	20%	20%

<sup>1</sup> A reduced 10% WHT rate for dividends is applied in the mining sector.  
<sup>2</sup> Interest paid by mining companies for loans borrowed in foreign currency abroad are exempt from WHT.

### Personal income tax rate:

- Individual income tax is levied at progressive rates from **3%** to **40%** and applies to both residents and nonresidents.
- Individuals carrying on a business activity are subject to the corporate income tax rate of **30%**.

### Value Added Tax:

- The standard rate is **16%**. The export of goods and related transactions is zero-rated.

## Tax treaties

Relief from double taxation is available under the DRC's two tax treaties:

COUNTRY	DIVIDENDS	INTEREST	ROYALTIES
Belgium	10%/15%	0%/10%	10%
South Africa	5%/15%	0%/10%	10%



# Investment incentives offered in DRC

## Investment Incentives

### Tax incentives:

DRC offers various tax and customs incentives under the Investment Code to qualifying companies, excluding foreign branches and sectors like mining, oil, banking, insurance, and arms. Eligible investors must meet certain criteria such as : establishing a qualifying Congolese company, investing at least **US\$1 million...**).

Incentives include corporate tax exemptions (**3-5 years, depending on location**), higher depreciation rates for socioeconomic investments, and exemptions from capital-related duties, land, and building taxes. Approval involves ANAPI and the Ministers of Finance and Planning.

### Special Economic Zone (SEZ):

Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the DRC aim to attract investment by offering distinct tax and customs incentives, which are not cumulative with the Investment Code. Developers and SEZ companies enjoy:

- **Tax Incentives:** Total or partial tax exemptions for varying durations tied to their SEZ status.
- **Customs Incentives:** Full exemption on import duties for machinery, tools, construction materials, and production inputs not available locally.
- **Other Tax Incentives:** A 50% reduction in central and local taxes, duties, and public levies.

Certain sectors, including mining, banking, insurance, and telecommunications, are excluded from these benefits.

## As a foreigner, do I need a work permit ?

For short-term contracts, employees only have to request an ordinary 3-month visa at the Congolese embassy in their country of origin. If the contract is for 6 months or longer, the employer must request a work permit and a resident visa for the individual, which are valid for up to two years.



### Useful Links / Sources



1. [World Bank Open Data](#)
2. [Deloitte Guide to fiscal information](#)
3. [UNCTAD World Investment report](#)