[Template:Other uses](/wiki/Template:Other_uses" \o "Template:Other uses) [Template:Pp-move-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-move-indef) [Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates) [Template:Coord](/wiki/Template:Coord) [Template:Infobox country](/wiki/Template:Infobox_country) **Angola** [Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en), officially the **Republic of Angola** ([Template:Lang-pt](/wiki/Template:Lang-pt) [Template:IPA-pt](/wiki/Template:IPA-pt); [Kikongo](/wiki/Kikongo), [Kimbundu](/wiki/Kimbundu) and [Umbundu](/wiki/Umbundu): *Repubilika ya Ngola*), is a [country](/wiki/Country) in [Southern Africa](/wiki/Southern_Africa). It is the seventh-largest country in [Africa](/wiki/Africa), and is bordered by [Namibia](/wiki/Namibia) to the south, the [Democratic Republic of the Congo](/wiki/Democratic_Republic_of_the_Congo) to the north and east, [Zambia](/wiki/Zambia) to the east, and the [Atlantic Ocean](/wiki/Atlantic_Ocean) to west. The [exclave](/wiki/Exclave) province of [Cabinda](/wiki/Cabinda_Province) has borders with the [Republic of the Congo](/wiki/Republic_of_the_Congo) and the [Democratic Republic of the Congo](/wiki/Democratic_Republic_of_the_Congo). The capital and largest city of Angola is [Luanda](/wiki/Luanda).

Although its territory has been inhabited since the [Paleolithic Era](/wiki/Paleolithic_Era), modern Angola originates in [Portuguese colonization](/wiki/Portuguese_colonization_of_Africa), which began with, and was for centuries limited to, coastal settlements and trading posts established beginning in the 16th century. In the 19th century, European settlers slowly and hesitantly began to establish themselves in the interior. As a [Portuguese colony](/wiki/Portuguese_West_Africa), Angola did not encompass its present borders until the early 20th century, following resistance by groups such as the [Cuamato](/wiki/Cuamato), the [Kwanyama](/wiki/Oukwanyama) and the [Mbunda](/wiki/Mbunda_people). Independence was achieved in 1975 after the [protracted liberation war](/wiki/Angolan_War_of_Independence). That same year, Angola descended into an intense [civil war](/wiki/Angolan_Civil_War) that lasted until 2002. It has since become a relatively stable [unitary](/wiki/Unitary_state) [presidential republic](/wiki/Presidential_republic).

Angola has vast [mineral](/wiki/Mineral_reserve) and [petroleum reserves](/wiki/Petroleum_reserves), and its economy is among the fastest growing in the world, especially since the end of the civil war. In spite of this, the standard of living remains low for the majority of the population, and [life expectancy](/wiki/Life_expectancy) and [infant mortality rates](/wiki/Infant_mortality) in Angola are among the worst in the world.[[1]](#cite_note-1) Angola's economic growth is highly uneven, with the majority of the nation's [wealth concentrated](/wiki/Wealth_concentration) in a disproportionately small sector of the population.[[2]](#cite_note-2) Angola is a member state of the [United Nations](/wiki/United_Nations), [OPEC](/wiki/OPEC), [African Union](/wiki/African_Union), the [Community of Portuguese Language Countries](/wiki/Community_of_Portuguese_Language_Countries), the [Latin Union](/wiki/Latin_Union) and the [Southern African Development Community](/wiki/Southern_African_Development_Community). A highly multiethnic country, Angola's 24.3 million people span various tribal groups, customs, and traditions. Angolan culture reflects centuries of Portuguese rule, namely in the predominance of the [Portuguese language](/wiki/Portuguese_language) and [Roman Catholicism](/wiki/Roman_Catholicism), combined with diverse indigenous influences.

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## Etymology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

The name *Angola* comes from the [Portuguese](/wiki/Portuguese_language) colonial name [*Reino de Angola*](/wiki/Angola_(Portugal)) *(Kingdom of Angola)*, appearing as early as [Dias de Novais's](/wiki/Dias_de_Novais) 1571 charter.[[3]](#cite_note-3) The [toponym](/wiki/Toponym) was derived by the Portuguese from the title [*ngola*](/wiki/List_of_Ngolas_of_Ndongo) held by the kings of [Ndongo](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Ndongo). Ndongo was a kingdom in the highlands, between the [Kwanza](/wiki/Kwanza_River) and [Lukala Rivers](/wiki/Lukala_River), nominally tributary to the [king of Kongo](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Kongo) but which was seeking greater independence during the 16th century.

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

### Early migrations and political units[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[thumb|left|Territory comprising](/wiki/File:KingdomNdongo1711.png) [Kingdom of Ndongo](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Ndongo), present-day Angola

[Khoi](/wiki/Khoi) and [San](/wiki/San_people) [hunter-gatherers](/wiki/Hunter-gatherer) are the earliest known modern human inhabitants of the area. They were largely absorbed or replaced by [Bantu peoples](/wiki/Bantu_peoples) during the [Bantu migrations](/wiki/Bantu_expansion), though small numbers remain in parts of southern Angola to the present day. The Bantu came from the north, probably from somewhere near the present-day Republic of [Cameroon](/wiki/Cameroon).

During this time, the Bantu established a number of political units ("kingdoms", "empires") in most parts of what today is Angola. The best known of these is the [Kingdom of the Kongo](/wiki/Kingdom_of_the_Kongo) that had its centre in the northwest of contemporary Angola, but included important regions in the west of present-day [Democratic Republic](/wiki/Democratic_Republic_of_the_Congo) and [Republic of Congo](/wiki/Republic_of_Congo) and in southern [Gabon](/wiki/Gabon). It established trade routes with other trading cities and civilisations up and down the coast of southwestern and West Africa and even with the [Great Zimbabwe](/wiki/Great_Zimbabwe) [Mutapa Empire](/wiki/Mutapa_Empire), but engaged in little or no transoceanic trade.[[4]](#cite_note-4) To its south lay the [Kingdom of Ndongo](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Ndongo), from which the area of the later Portuguese colony was sometimes known as **Dongo**.[Template:Sfnp](/wiki/Template:Sfnp)

### Portuguese colonization[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Queen_Nzinga_1657.png)[Queen Nzinga](/wiki/Queen_Nzinga) in peace negotiations with the Portuguese governor in [Luanda](/wiki/Luanda), 1657. [thumb|left||An image depicting Portuguese encounter with Kongo Royal family](/wiki/File:Kongo_audience.jpg) The region now known as Angola was reached by the [Portuguese](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Portugal) [explorer](/wiki/Age_of_Discovery) [Diogo Cão](/wiki/Diogo_Cão) in 1484.[Template:Sfnp](/wiki/Template:Sfnp) The year before, the Portuguese had established relations with the [Kingdom of Kongo](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Kongo), which stretched at the time from modern [Gabon](/wiki/Gabon) in the north to the [Kwanza River](/wiki/Kwanza_River) in the south. The Portuguese established their primary early trading post at [Soyo](/wiki/Soyo), which is now the northernmost city in Angola apart from the [Cabinda enclave](/wiki/Cabinda_enclave). [Paulo Dias de Novais](/wiki/Paulo_Dias_de_Novais) founded São Paulo de Loanda ([Luanda](/wiki/Luanda)) in 1575 with a hundred families of settlers and four hundred soldiers. [Benguela](/wiki/Benguela) was fortified in 1587 and elevated to a township in 1617.

The Portuguese established several other settlements, forts, and trading posts along the Angolan coast, principally trading in [Angolan slaves](/wiki/Slavery_in_Angola) for [Brazilian](/wiki/Captaincies_of_Brazil) [plantations](/wiki/Plantations_in_the_American_South). Local slave dealers provided a large number of slaves for the [Portuguese Empire](/wiki/Portuguese_Empire),<ref name=Fleisch>[Template:Cite encyclopedia](/wiki/Template:Cite_encyclopedia)</ref> usually sold in exchange for manufactured goods from Europe.[[5]](#cite_note-5)[[6]](#cite_note-6) This part of the [Atlantic slave trade](/wiki/Atlantic_slave_trade) continued until after [Brazil's](/wiki/Empire_of_Brazil) [independence](/wiki/Independence_of_Brazil) in the 1820s.

Despite Portugal's nominal claims, as late as the 19th century, their control over the interior country of Angola was minimal,[Template:Sfnp](/wiki/Template:Sfnp) but the 16th century saw them gain control of the coast through a series of treaties and wars. Life for European colonists was difficult and progress slow. [Iliffe](/wiki/John_Iliffe_(historian)) notes that "Portuguese records of Angola from the 16th century show that a great [famine](/wiki/Famine) occurred on average every seventy years; accompanied by epidemic disease, it might kill one-third or one-half of the population, destroying the demographic growth of a generation and forcing colonists back into the river valleys".[[7]](#cite_note-7) Amid the [Portuguese Restoration War](/wiki/Portuguese_Restoration_War), the Dutch occupied [Luanda](/wiki/Luanda) in 1641, using alliances with local peoples against Portuguese holdings elsewhere. A fleet under [Salvador de Sá](/wiki/Salvador_de_Sá) retook Luanda for Portugal in 1648; reconquest of the rest of the territory was completed by 1650. New treaties with [Kongo](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Kongo) were signed in 1649; others with [Njinga's](/wiki/Nzinga_of_Ndongo_and_Matamba) Kingdom of [Matamba](/wiki/Matamba) and [Ndongo](/wiki/Ndongo) followed in 1656. The conquest of [Pungo Andongo](/wiki/Pungo_Andongo) in 1671 was the last major Portuguese expansion from Luanda, as attempts to invade Kongo in 1670 and Matamba in 1681 failed. Portugal also expanded inward from Benguela, but until the late 19th century the inroads from Luanda and Benguela were very limited.[Template:Sfnp](/wiki/Template:Sfnp) Portugal had neither the intention nor the means to carry out a large scale territorial occupation and colonization.

[thumb|Portuguese troops heading for Angola during](/wiki/File:Embarque_tropas_para_angola_1.jpg) [World War I](/wiki/German_campaign_in_Angola). Development of the hinterland began after the [Berlin Conference](/wiki/Berlin_Conference) in 1885 fixed the colony's borders, and British and Portuguese investment fostered mining, railways, and agriculture based on various forced-labour and voluntary labour systems.(See also [Chibalo](/wiki/Chibalo).) Full Portuguese administrative control of the hinterland did not establish itself until the beginning of the 20th century. Portugal had a minimalist presence in Angola for nearly five hundred years, and early calls for independence provoked little reaction amongst the population who had no social identity related to the territory as a whole.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) More overtly political and "nationalist" organisations first appeared in the 1950s and began to make demands for [self-determination](/wiki/Self-determination), especially in international forums such as the [Non-Aligned Movement](/wiki/Non-Aligned_Movement).

The [Portuguese regime](/wiki/Estado_Novo_(Portugal)), meanwhile, refused to accede to the demands for independence, provoking an armed conflict that started in 1961 when freedom fighters attacked both white and black civilians in cross-border operations in northeastern Angola. The war came to be known as the [Colonial War](/wiki/Portuguese_Colonial_War). In this struggle, the principal protagonists included, the [People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola](/wiki/People's_Movement_for_the_Liberation_of_Angola) (MPLA), founded in 1956, the [National Front for the Liberation of Angola](/wiki/National_Front_for_the_Liberation_of_Angola) (FNLA), which appeared in 1961 and the [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola](/wiki/National_Union_for_the_Total_Independence_of_Angola) (UNITA), founded in 1966.

After many years of conflict that led to the weakening of all the insurgent parties, Angola gained its independence on 11 November 1975, after the [1974 coup d'état](/wiki/Carnation_Revolution) in Lisbon, Portugal, which overthrew the Portuguese regime headed by [Marcelo Caetano](/wiki/Marcelo_Caetano).

Portugal's [new revolutionary leaders](/wiki/Movimento_das_Forças_Armadas) began in 1974 a process of political change at home and accepted independence for its former colonies abroad. In Angola a fight for dominance broke out immediately between the three nationalist movements. The events prompted a mass exodus of Portuguese citizens, creating up to 300 000 destitute Portuguese [refugees](/wiki/Refugee)—the [*retornados*](/wiki/White_African#Portuguese_in_Africa).[[8]](#cite_note-8) The new Portuguese government tried to mediate an understanding between the three competing movements, and succeeded in getting them to agree, on paper, to form a common government. But in the end none of the African parties respected the commitments made, and military force resolved the issue.

### Independence and civil war[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[thumb|Monument to the memory of](/wiki/File:View_over_Lunda_3.JPG) [Agostinho Neto](/wiki/Agostinho_Neto) and the [Angolan struggle for independence](/wiki/Angolan_War_of_Independence), in Luanda

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) After it gained independence in November 1975, Angola experienced a devastating civil war which lasted several decades (with some interludes). It claimed millions of lives and produced many refugees; it came to an end only in 2002.[[9]](#cite_note-9) Following [negotiations held in Portugal](/wiki/Alvor_Agreement), itself experiencing severe social and political turmoil and uncertainty due to the [April 1974 revolution](/wiki/Carnation_Revolution), Angola's three main guerrilla groups agreed to establish a transitional government in January 1975. Within two months, however, the FNLA, MPLA and UNITA had started fighting each other and the country began splitting into zones controlled by rival armed political groups. The [MPLA](/wiki/MPLA) gained control of the capital [Luanda](/wiki/Luanda) and much of the rest of the country. With the support of the United States, Zaïre and South Africa intervened militarily in favour of the FNLA and UNITA with the intention of taking Luanda before the declaration of independence.[[10]](#cite_note-10)[[11]](#cite_note-11) In response, Cuba intervened in favor of the MPLA (see: [Cuba in Angola](/wiki/Cuba_in_Angola)), which became a flash point for the [Cold War](/wiki/Cold_War).

With Cuban support, the MPLA held Luanda and declared independence on 11 November 1975, with [Agostinho Neto](/wiki/Agostinho_Neto) becoming the first president, though the civil war continued. At this time, most of the half-million Portuguese who lived in Angola – and who had accounted for the majority of the skilled work in the public administration, agriculture, industries and trade – fled the country, leaving its once prosperous and growing economy in a state of bankruptcy.[[12]](#cite_note-12) For most of 1975–1990, the MPLA organised and maintained a socialist régime.[[13]](#cite_note-13) In 1990, when the Cold War ended, MPLA abandoned its ties to the [Marxist–Leninist](/wiki/Marxist–Leninist) ideology and declared [social democracy](/wiki/Social_democracy) to be its official ideology,[[14]](#cite_note-14) going on to win the 1992 general election. However, eight opposition parties rejected the elections as [rigged](/wiki/Rigged_election),<ref name=Multiple1992>National Society for Human Rights, *Ending the Angolan Conflict*, Windhoek, Namibia, 3 July 2000 (opposition parties, massacres); John Matthew, Letters, *The Times*, UK, 6 November 1992 (election observer); NSHR, Press Releases, 12 September 2000, 16 May 2001 (MPLA atrocities).</ref> sparking the [Halloween massacre](/wiki/Halloween_massacre_(Angola)).

### Ceasefire with UNITA[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Cabinda,_R._Congo,_D.R._Congo,_Angola.png)[Template:LegendTemplate:LegendTemplate:LegendTemplate:Legend](/wiki/Template:Legend) [Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

On 22 March 2002, [Jonas Savimbi](/wiki/Jonas_Savimbi), the leader of UNITA, was killed in combat with government troops. A cease-fire was reached by the two factions shortly afterwards.<ref name=CIA/> UNITA gave up its armed wing and assumed the role of major opposition party, although in the knowledge that in the present regime a legitimate democratic election was impossible. Although the political situation of the country began to stabilize, regular democratic processes were not established before the [Elections in Angola](/wiki/Elections_in_Angola) in 2008 and 2012 and the adoption of a new [Constitution of Angola](/wiki/Constitution_of_Angola) in 2010, all of which strengthened the prevailing [Dominant-party system](/wiki/Dominant-party_system). MPLA head officials continue e.g. to be given senior positions in top level companies or other fields, although a few outstanding UNITA figures are given some shares in the economic as well as in the military share.[[15]](#cite_note-15) Among Angola's major problems are a serious humanitarian crisis (a result of the prolonged war), the abundance of [minefields](/wiki/Minefield), the continuation of the political, and to a much lesser degree, military activities in favour of the independence of the northern [exclave](/wiki/Exclave) of [Cabinda](/wiki/Cabinda_(province)), carried out in the context of the protracted [Cabinda Conflict](/wiki/Cabinda_Conflict) by the [Frente para a Libertação do Enclave de Cabinda](/wiki/Frente_para_a_Libertação_do_Enclave_de_Cabinda), but most of all, the dilapidation of the country's rich mineral resources by the regime. While most of the internally displaced have now settled around the capital, in the so-called "Musseques", the general situation for Angolans remains desperate.[[16]](#cite_note-16)[[17]](#cite_note-17) [Drought](/wiki/Drought) in 2016 is the worst global food crisis in [Southern Africa](/wiki/Southern_Africa) for 25 years. Drought is affecting 1.4 million people across 7 of Angola’s 18 provinces. Food prices have risen and acute [malnutrition](/wiki/Malnutrition) rates have doubled, with more than 95,000 children being affected. [Food insecurity](/wiki/Food_insecurity) is expected to worsen from July to the end of the year.[[18]](#cite_note-18)

## Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[thumb||Coatinha beach in](/wiki/File:Beach_of_Coatinha_in_Benguela,_Angola.jpg) [Benguela](/wiki/Benguela), Angola [thumb|Miradouro da Lua, which can be translated as Watchpoint of the Moon, situated at the coast](/wiki/File:Miradouro_da_Lua_(Angola).jpg) [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) south of Luanda, Angola [thumb|Topographic map of Angola.](/wiki/File:Angola_Topography.png) [Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

At [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert),[[19]](#cite_note-19) Angola is the world's twenty-third largest country. It is comparable in size to Mali, or twice the size of France or Texas. It lies mostly between latitudes [4°](/wiki/4th_parallel_south) and [18°S](/wiki/18th_parallel_south), and longitudes [12°](/wiki/12th_meridian_east) and [24°E](/wiki/24th_meridian_east).

Angola is bordered by [Namibia](/wiki/Namibia) to the south, [Zambia](/wiki/Zambia) to the east, the [Democratic Republic of the Congo](/wiki/Democratic_Republic_of_the_Congo) to the north-east, and the [South Atlantic Ocean](/wiki/South_Atlantic_Ocean) to the west. The coastal [exclave](/wiki/Exclave) of [Cabinda](/wiki/Cabinda_(province)) in the north, borders the [Republic of the Congo](/wiki/Republic_of_the_Congo) to the north, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the south.[[20]](#cite_note-20) Angola's capital, [Luanda](/wiki/Luanda), lies on the Atlantic coast in the northwest of the country.

## Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|Angola map of Köppen climate classification.](/wiki/File:Angola_map_of_Köppen_climate_classification.svg) [thumb|Promenade on](/wiki/File:Marginal_Avenida_4_de_Fevreiro_Luanda_March_2013_02.JPG) [Luanda](/wiki/Luanda) Bay

Angola has three seasons, a dry season which lasts from May to October, a transitional season with some rain from November to January and a hot, rainy season from February to April. April is the wettest month.[[21]](#cite_note-21)[[22]](#cite_note-22)

## Politics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Vladimir_Putin_with_Jose_Eduardo_dos_Santos-1.jpg)[José Eduardo dos Santos](/wiki/José_Eduardo_dos_Santos) meets with [Vladimir Putin](/wiki/Vladimir_Putin) Angola's motto is *Virtus Unita Fortior*, a [Latin](/wiki/Latin) phrase meaning "Virtue is stronger when united". The Angolan government is composed of three branches of government: executive, legislative, and judicial. The executive branch of the government is composed of the President, the Vice-Presidents and the Council of Ministers. The legislative branch comprises a 220-seat [unicameral](/wiki/Unicameralism) legislature elected from both provincial and nationwide constituencies. For decades, political power has been concentrated in the presidency.

The [Constitution of 2010](/wiki/Constitution_of_Angola) establishes the broad outlines of government structure and delineates the rights and duties of citizens. The legal system is based on Portuguese and customary law but is weak and fragmented, and courts operate in only 12 of more than 140 municipalities.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) A Supreme Court serves as the appellate tribunal; a Constitutional Court does not hold the powers of judicial review.[[23]](#cite_note-23) Governors of the 18 provinces are appointed by the president.

After the end of the Civil War the regime came under pressure from within as well as from the international community to become more democratic and less authoritarian. Its reaction was to implement a number of changes without substantially changing its character.[[24]](#cite_note-24) Angola is classified as 'not free' by [Freedom House](/wiki/Freedom_House) in the [Freedom in the World](/wiki/Freedom_in_the_World) 2014 report.<ref name=freedomhouse>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The report noted that the [August 2012 parliamentary elections](/wiki/Angolan_legislative_election,_2012), in which the ruling [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola](/wiki/Popular_Movement_for_the_Liberation_of_Angola) won more than 70% of the vote, suffered from serious flaws, including outdated and inaccurate voter rolls.<ref name=freedomhouse/> Voter turnout dropped from 80% in 2008 to 60%.<ref name=freedomhouse/>

Angola scored poorly on the 2013 [Ibrahim Index of African Governance](/wiki/Ibrahim_Index_of_African_Governance). It was ranked 39 out of 52 [sub-Saharan African](/wiki/Sub-Saharan_Africa) countries, scoring particularly badly in the areas of participation and human rights, sustainable economic opportunity, and human development. The Ibrahim Index uses a number of variables to compile its list which reflects the state of governance in Africa.[[25]](#cite_note-25) The [new constitution](/wiki/Constitution_of_Angola), adopted in 2010, further sharpened the authoritarian character of the regime. In the future, there will be no presidential elections; the president and the vice-president of the political party which wins the parliamentary elections automatically become president and vice-president of Angola.[[26]](#cite_note-26) Through a variety of mechanisms, the state president controls all the other organs of the state, so that separation of powers is not maintained. As a consequence, Angola no longer has a presidential system in the sense of the systems existing, e.g., in the [USA](/wiki/Federal_government_of_the_United_States) or in [France](/wiki/French_government). In terms of the classifications used in constitutional law, its regime is considered one of several authoritarian regimes in Africa.[[27]](#cite_note-27) On 16 October 2014, Angola was elected for the second time as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, with 190 favourable votes out of 193. The mandate begins on 1 January 2015 and lasts for two years.[[28]](#cite_note-28) Also in that month, the country took on the leadership of the Group of African Ministers and Governors at the [International Monetary Fund](/wiki/International_Monetary_Fund) and the [World Bank](/wiki/World_Bank), following the debates at the annual meetings of both entities.[[29]](#cite_note-29) Since January 2014 the Republic of Angola has held the presidency of the [International Conference on the Great Lakes Region](/wiki/International_Conference_on_the_Great_Lakes_Region) (ICGLR).[[30]](#cite_note-30) In 2015, the executive secretary of ICGLR, [Ntumba Luaba](/wiki/Ntumba_Luaba), said that Angola is the example to be followed by members of the organization, because of the significant progress made over the 12 years of peace, particularly in terms of socioeconomic and political-military stability.[[31]](#cite_note-31)

### Military[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[thumb|Angolan Air Force Ilyushin Il-76TD Karpezo-1](/wiki/File:Angolan_Air_Force_Ilyushin_Il-76TD_Karpezo-1.jpg) [Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) The Angolan Armed Forces (AAF) is headed by a Chief of Staff who reports to the Minister of Defense. There are three divisions—the Army (Exército), Navy (Marinha de Guerra, MGA), and [National Air Force](/wiki/National_Air_Force_of_Angola) (Força Aérea Nacional, FAN). Total manpower is about 110,000.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) Its equipment includes Russian-manufactured fighters, bombers, and transport planes. There are also Brazilian-made EMB-312 Tucano for training role, Czech-made L-39 for training and bombing role, Czech Zlin for training role and a variety of western made aircraft such as C-212\Aviocar, Sud Aviation Alouette III, etc. A small number of AAF personnel are stationed in the [Democratic Republic of the Congo](/wiki/Democratic_Republic_of_the_Congo) (Kinshasa) and the [Republic of the Congo](/wiki/Republic_of_the_Congo) (Brazzaville).

### Police[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

The National Police departments are Public Order, Criminal Investigation, Traffic and Transport, Investigation and Inspection of Economic Activities, Taxation and Frontier Supervision, Riot Police and the Rapid Intervention Police. The National Police are in the process of standing up an air wing, which will provide helicopter support for operations. The National Police are developing their criminal investigation and forensic capabilities. The force has an estimated 6,000 patrol officers, 2,500 taxation and frontier supervision officers, 182 criminal investigators and 100 financial crimes detectives and around 90 economic activity inspectors.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

The National Police have implemented a modernization and development plan to increase the capabilities and efficiency of the total force. In addition to administrative reorganization, modernization projects include procurement of new vehicles, aircraft and equipment, construction of new police stations and forensic laboratories, restructured training programs and the replacement of [AKM rifles](/wiki/AKM_rifle) with 9 mm [Uzis](/wiki/Uzi) for officers in urban areas.

[thumb|Chief inspector of Angola's National Police](/wiki/File:Angola_transito.jpg)

### Justice[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

In 2014, a new penal code took effect in Angola. The classification of money-laundering as a crime is one of the novelties in the new legislation.[[32]](#cite_note-32)

## Administrative divisions[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[thumb|Map of Angola with the provinces numbered](/wiki/File:Angola_Provinces_numbered_300px.png) [Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

[Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), Angola is divided into [eighteen provinces](/wiki/Provinces_of_Angola) (*províncias*) and [162 municipalities](/wiki/Municipalities_of_Angola). The municipalities are further divided into 559 communes (townships).[[33]](#cite_note-33) The provinces are:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. [Bengo](/wiki/Bengo_(province)) 2. [Benguela](/wiki/Benguela_Province) 3. [Bié](/wiki/Bié_(province)) 4. [Cabinda](/wiki/Cabinda_(province)) 5. [Cuando Cubango](/wiki/Cuando_Cubango) 6. [Cuanza Norte](/wiki/Cuanza_Norte) 7. [Cuanza Sul](/wiki/Cuanza_Sul) 8. [Cunene](/wiki/Cunene_(province)) 9. [Huambo](/wiki/Huambo_Province) | <ol start=10> <li>[Huíla](/wiki/Huíla_Province) <li>[Luanda](/wiki/Luanda_Province) <li>[Lunda Norte](/wiki/Lunda_Norte) <li>[Lunda Sul](/wiki/Lunda_Sul) <li>[Malanje](/wiki/Malanje_Province) <li>[Moxico](/wiki/Moxico_(province)) <li>[Namibe](/wiki/Namibe_Province) <li>[Uíge](/wiki/Uíge_Province) <li>[Zaire](/wiki/Zaire_Province) </ol> |

### Exclave of Cabinda[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|Flag of the](/wiki/File:Flag_of_Cabinda.svg) [Front for the Liberation of the Enclave of Cabinda (FLEC)](/wiki/Front_for_the_Liberation_of_the_Enclave_of_Cabinda)

With an area of approximately [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), the Northern Angolan province of Cabinda is unusual in being separated from the rest of the country by a strip, some [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) wide, of the [Democratic Republic of Congo](/wiki/Democratic_Republic_of_Congo) along the lower [Congo river](/wiki/Congo_river). Cabinda borders the [Congo Republic](/wiki/Congo_Republic) to the north and north-northeast and the DRC to the east and south. The town of Cabinda is the chief population center.

According to a 1995 census, Cabinda had an estimated population of 600,000, approximately 400,000 of whom live in neighboring countries. Population estimates are, however, highly unreliable. Consisting largely of tropical forest, Cabinda produces hardwoods, coffee, cocoa, crude rubber and palm oil. The product for which it is best known, however, is its oil, which has given it the nickname, "the Kuwait of Africa". Cabinda's petroleum production from its considerable offshore reserves now accounts for more than half of Angola's output.[[34]](#cite_note-34) Most of the oil along its coast was discovered under [Portuguese rule](/wiki/Portuguese_Angola) by the Cabinda Gulf Oil Company (CABGOC) from 1968 onwards.

Ever since [Portugal](/wiki/Portugal) handed over sovereignty of its former overseas province of Angola to the local independence groups (MPLA, UNITA, and FNLA), the territory of Cabinda has been a focus of separatist guerrilla actions opposing the [Government of Angola](/wiki/Government_of_Angola) (which has employed its military forces, the FAA—Forças Armadas Angolanas) and Cabindan separatists. The [Front for the Liberation of the Enclave of Cabinda](/wiki/Front_for_the_Liberation_of_the_Enclave_of_Cabinda)-[Armed Forces of Cabinda](/wiki/Forças_Armadas_de_Cabinda) (FLEC-FAC) announced a virtual Federal Republic of Cabinda under the Presidency of N'Zita Henriques Tiago. One of the characteristics of the Cabindan independence movement is its constant fragmentation, into smaller and smaller factions.

## Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|A booming economy due to oil revenues and stable politics, Angola has seen an increase in its international trading sector](/wiki/File:First_WAFMAX_in_Angola_3_(8222830479).jpg) [thumb|right|200px|Downtown Luanda](/wiki/File:Luanda-Sonangol.jpg) [thumb|](/wiki/File:TAAG_777-3M2ER.jpg)[TAAG Angolan Airlines](/wiki/TAAG_Angolan_Airlines) is Angola's national airline

Angola has a rich subsoil heritage, from diamonds, oil, gold, copper, and a rich wildlife (dramatically impoverished during the civil war), forest, and fossils. Since independence, oil and diamonds have been the most important economic resource. Smallholder and plantation agriculture have dramatically dropped because of the [Angolan Civil War](/wiki/Angolan_Civil_War), but have begun to recover after 2002. The transformation industry that had come into existence in the late colonial period collapsed at independence, because of the exodus of most of the ethnic Portuguese population, but has begun to reemerge (with updated technologies), partly because of the influx of new Portuguese entrepreneurs. Similar developments can be verified in the service sector.

Overall, Angola's economy has undergone a period of transformation in recent years, moving from the disarray caused by a quarter century of civil war to being the fastest growing economy in Africa and one of the fastest in the world, with an average GDP growth of 20 percent between 2005 and 2007.[[35]](#cite_note-35) In the period 2001–10, Angola had the world's highest [annual average GDP growth](/wiki/Annual_average_GDP_growth), at 11.1 percent. In 2004, China's [Eximbank](/wiki/Eximbank) approved a $2 billion line of credit to Angola. The loan is being used to rebuild Angola's infrastructure, and has also limited the influence of the [International Monetary Fund](/wiki/International_Monetary_Fund) in the country.[[36]](#cite_note-36) China is Angola's biggest trade partner and export destination as well as the fourth-largest importer. Bilateral trade reached $27.67 billion in 2011, up 11.5 percent year-on-year. China's imports, mainly crude oil and diamonds, increased 9.1 percent to $24.89 billion while China's exports, including mechanical and electrical products, machinery parts and construction materials, surged 38.8 percent.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) The overabundance of oil led to a local unleaded gasoline "pricetag" of [£](/wiki/Pound_sterling)0.37 per gallon.[[37]](#cite_note-37) *The Economist* reported in 2008 that diamonds and oil make up 60 percent of Angola's economy, almost all of the country's revenue and are its dominant exports.[[38]](#cite_note-38) Growth is almost entirely driven by rising [oil production](/wiki/Extraction_of_petroleum) which surpassed [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in late 2005 and was expected to grow to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) by 2007. Control of the [oil industry](/wiki/Petroleum_industry) is consolidated in [Sonangol Group](/wiki/Sonangol_Group), a conglomerate which is owned by the Angolan government. In December 2006, Angola was admitted as a member of [OPEC](/wiki/OPEC).[[39]](#cite_note-39) However, operations in [diamond mines](/wiki/List_of_diamond_mines) include partnerships between state-run [Endiama](/wiki/Endiama) and mining companies such as [ALROSA](/wiki/ALROSA) which continue operations in Angola.[[40]](#cite_note-40) The economy grew 18% in 2005, 26% in 2006 and 17.6% in 2007. However, due to the global recession the economy contracted an estimated −0.3% in 2009.<ref name=CIA/> The security brought about by the 2002 peace settlement has led to the resettlement of 4 million displaced persons, thus resulting in large-scale increases in agriculture production.

Although the country's economy has developed significantly since achieving political stability in 2002, mainly thanks to the fast-rising earnings of the oil sector, Angola faces huge social and economic problems. These are in part a result of the almost continual state of conflict from 1961 onwards, although the highest level of destruction and socio-economic damage took place after the 1975 independence, during the long years of [civil war](/wiki/Angolan_civil_war). However, high poverty rates and blatant social inequality are chiefly the outcome of a combination of a persistent political authoritarianism, of "neo-patrimonial" practices at all levels of the political, administrative, military, and economic apparatuses, and of [a pervasive corruption](/wiki/Corruption_in_Angola).[[41]](#cite_note-41)[[42]](#cite_note-42) The main beneficiary of this situation is a social segment constituted since 1975, but mainly during the last decades, around the political, administrative, economic, and military power holders, which has accumulated (and continues accumulating) enormous wealth.[[43]](#cite_note-43) "Secondary beneficiaries" are the middle strata which are about to become social classes. However, overall almost half the population has to be considered as poor, but in this respect there are dramatic differences between the countryside and the cities (where by now slightly more than 50% of the people live).

An inquiry carried out in 2008 by the Angolan Instituto Nacional de Estatística has it that in the rural areas roughly 58% must be classified as "poor", according to UN norms, but in the urban areas only 19%, while the overall rate is 37%.[[44]](#cite_note-44) In the cities, a majority of families, well beyond those officially classified as poor, have to adopt a variety of survival strategies.[[45]](#cite_note-45) At the same time, in urban areas social inequality is most evident, and assumes extreme forms in the capital, Luanda.[[46]](#cite_note-46) In the [Human Development Index](/wiki/Human_Development_Index) Angola constantly ranks in the bottom group.[[47]](#cite_note-47) According to [The Heritage Foundation](/wiki/The_Heritage_Foundation), a conservative American [think tank](/wiki/Think_tank), oil production from Angola has increased so significantly that Angola now is China's biggest supplier of oil.[[48]](#cite_note-48) “China has extended three multibillion dollar lines of credit to the Angolan government; two loans of $2 billion from China Exim Bank, one in 2004, the second in 2007, as well as one loan in 2005 of $2.9 billion from China International Fund Ltd.” [[49]](#cite_note-49) Growing oil revenues have also created opportunities for [corruption](/wiki/Corruption_in_Angola): according to a recent [Human Rights Watch](/wiki/Human_Rights_Watch) report, 32 billion US dollars disappeared from government accounts from 2007 to 2010.[[50]](#cite_note-50) Furthermore, Sonangol, the state run oil company has in control 51% of Cabinda’s oil. Due to this market control the company ends up determining the profit given to the government and the taxes paid. The council of foreign affairs states that the World Bank mentioned that Sonangol " is a taxpayer, it carries out quasi-fiscal activities, it invests public funds, and, as concessionaire, it is a sector regulator. This multifarious work program creates conflicts of interest and characterizes a complex relationship between Sonangol and the government that weakens the formal budgetary process and creates uncertainty as regards the actual fiscal stance of the state."[[51]](#cite_note-51) Before independence in 1975, [Angola](/wiki/Angola_(Portugal)) was a breadbasket of southern Africa and a major exporter of [bananas](/wiki/Bananas), coffee and [sisal](/wiki/Sisal), but [three decades of civil war](/wiki/Angolan_Civil_War) (1975–2002) destroyed the fertile countryside, leaving it littered with landmines and driving millions into the cities. The country now depends on expensive food imports, mainly from South Africa and [Portugal](/wiki/Portugal), while more than 90 percent of farming is done at family and subsistence level. Thousands of Angolan small-scale farmers are trapped in poverty.[[52]](#cite_note-52) The enormous differences between the regions pose a serious structural problem in the Angolan economy. This is best illustrated by the fact that about one third of the economic activities is concentrated in Luanda and the neighbouring Bengo province, while several areas of the interior are characterized by stagnation and even regression.[[53]](#cite_note-53) One of the economic consequences of the social and regional disparities is a sharp increase in Angolan private investments abroad. The small fringe of Angolan society where most of the accumulation takes place seeks to spread its assets, for reasons of security and profit. For the time being, the biggest share of these investments is concentrated in Portugal where the [Angolan presence](/wiki/Angolans_in_Portugal) (including that of the family of the state president) in banks as well as in the domains of energy, [telecommunications](/wiki/Telecommunications_in_Angola), and mass media has become notable, as has the acquisition of vineyards and orchards as well as of touristic enterprises.[[54]](#cite_note-54) [Sub-Saharan Africa](/wiki/Sub-Saharan_Africa) nations are globally achieving impressive improvements in well-being, according to a report by [Tony Blair](/wiki/Tony_Blair) Africa Governance Initiative and [The Boston Consulting Group](/wiki/The_Boston_Consulting_Group).[[55]](#cite_note-55) Angola has upgraded critical infrastructure, an investment made possible by funds from the nation's development of oil resources. According to this report, just slightly more than ten years after the end of the [civil war](/wiki/Angolan_Civil_War) Angola's standard of living has overall greatly improved. Life expectancy, which was just 46 years in 2002, reached 51 in 2011. Mortality rates for children fell from 25 percent in 2001 to 19 percent in 2010 and the number of students enrolled in primary school has tripled since 2001.[[56]](#cite_note-56) However, at the same time the social and economic inequality that has characterised the country since long has not diminished, but on the contrary deepened in all respects.

With a stock of assets corresponding to 70 billion USD (6.8 billion Kz), Angola is now the third largest financial market in sub-Saharan Africa, surpassed only by [Nigeria](/wiki/Nigeria) and South Africa. According to the Angolan Minister of Economy, [Abraão Gourgel](/wiki/Abraão_Gourgel), the financial market of the country grew modestly from 2002 and now lies in third place at the level of sub-Saharan Africa.[[57]](#cite_note-57) Angola's economy is expected to grow by 3.9 percent in 2014 said the [International Monetary Fund](/wiki/International_Monetary_Fund) (IMF). According to the Fund, robust growth in the nonoil economy, mainly driven by a very good performance in the agricultural sector, is expected to offset a temporary drop in oil production.[[58]](#cite_note-58) Angola's financial system is maintained by the [National Bank of Angola](/wiki/National_Bank_of_Angola) and managed by governor [Jose de Lima Massano](/wiki/No:Jose_de_Lima_Massano). According to a study on the banking sector, carried out by [Deloitte](/wiki/Deloitte), the monetary policy led by [Banco Nacional de Angola](/wiki/Banco_Nacional_de_Angola) (BNA), the Angolan national bank, allowed a decrease in the inflation rate put at 7.96% in December 2013, which contributed to the sector's growth trend.[[59]](#cite_note-59) According to estimates released by Angola's central bank, the country's economy should grow at an annual average rate of 5 percent over the next four years, boosted by the increasing participation of the private sector.[[60]](#cite_note-60) On 19 December 2014, the Capital Market in Angola started. [BODIVA](/wiki/Angola_Stock_Exchange) (Angola Securities and Debt Stock Exchange, in English) received the secondary public debt market, and it is expected to start the corporate debt market by 2015, but the stock market should only be a reality in 2016.[[61]](#cite_note-61)

### Agriculture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

Agriculture and forestry is an area of opportunity for the country. “Angola requires 4.5 million tonnes a year of grain but only grows about 55% of the corn it needs, 20% of the rice and just 5% of its required wheat”(African economic Outlook)[[62]](#cite_note-62) but “less than 3 percent of Angola's abundant fertile land is cultivated and the economic potential of the forestry sector remains largely unexploited” (World Bank).[[63]](#cite_note-63) From this fact we can appreciate the capacity that Angola has to increase production not only for the national market but also for the international one. Investing in this sector can help reduce employment and more specifically in the rural areas. This will undoubted have consequences on the living standard of rural civilians.

### Transport[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Aeroport-4-de-Fevereiro-Chegadas_LWS1962.JPG)[Quatro de Fevereiro Luanda Airport](/wiki/Luanda_Airport) arrivals

Transport in Angola consists of:

* Three separate [railway systems](/wiki/Rail_transport_in_Angola) totalling 2,761 km (1,715 mi)
* [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of highway of which [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) is paved
* 1,295 navigable inland waterways
* Eight major [sea ports](/wiki/Sea_port)
* 243 [airports](/wiki/List_of_airports_in_Angola), of which 32 are paved.

Travel on highways outside of towns and cities in Angola (and in some cases within) is often not best advised for those without four-by-four vehicles. While a reasonable road infrastructure has existed within Angola, time and the war have taken their toll on the road surfaces, leaving many severely potholed, littered with broken asphalt. In many areas drivers have established alternate tracks to avoid the worst parts of the surface, although careful attention must be paid to the presence or absence of landmine warning markers by the side of the road. The Angolan government has contracted the restoration of many of the country's roads. The road between Lubango and Namibe, for example, was completed recently with funding from the European Union, and is comparable to many European main routes. Progress to complete the road infrastructure is likely to take some decades, but substantial efforts are already being made in the right directions.

Transport is an important aspect in Angola because it is strategically located and it could become a regional logistics hub. In addition Angola has some of the most important and biggest ports and so it is vital to connect them to the interior of the country as well as to neighbouring countries.

### Telecommunications[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

The [telecommunications](/wiki/Telecommunications) industry is considered one of the main strategic sectors in Angola.[[64]](#cite_note-64) In October 2014, the building of a [optic fiber](/wiki/Optic_fiber) underwater cable was announced.[[65]](#cite_note-65) This project aims to turn Angola into a continental hub, thus improving Internet connections both nationally and internationally.[[66]](#cite_note-66) On 11 March 2015, the First Angolan Forum of Telecommunications and Information Technology was held, in [Luanda](/wiki/Luanda) under the motto "The challenges of telecommunications in the current context of Angola".[[67]](#cite_note-67) The purpose of this forum was to promote the debate on topical issues on telecommunications in Angola and worldwide.[[68]](#cite_note-68) A study about this sector was also presented at this forum, and some of its conclusions were: Angola had the first telecommunications operator in Africa to test the High Speed Internet technology (LTE-Advanced with speeds up to 400Mbit/s); It has a mobile penetration rate of about 75%; There are about 3.5 million smartphones in the Angolan market; There are about [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of optical fiber installed in the country.[[69]](#cite_note-69)[[70]](#cite_note-70) The first Angolan satellite, AngoSat-1, will be ready for launch into orbit in 2017[[71]](#cite_note-71) and it will ensure telecommunications throughout the country.[[72]](#cite_note-72) According to Aristides Safeca, Secretary of State for Telecommunications, the satellite will provide telecommunications services, TV, internet and [e-government](/wiki/E-government) and will remain into orbit "at best" for 18 years.[[73]](#cite_note-73)

### Technology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

The management of the domain '.ao' on web pages, will go from [Portugal](/wiki/Portugal) to Angola in 2015, following the approval of a new legislation by the Angolan Government.[[74]](#cite_note-74) The joint decree of the minister of Telecommunications and Information Technologies, José Carvalho da Rocha, and the minister of Science and Technology, Maria Cândida Pereira Teixeira, states that "under the massification" of that Angolan domain, "conditions are created for the transfer of the domain root '.ao' of Portugal to Angola".[[75]](#cite_note-75)

## Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

Angola has a population of 24,383,301 inhabitants according to the preliminary results of its 2014 census, the first one conducted or carried out since 15 December 1970.<ref name=unpop/> It is composed of [Ovimbundu](/wiki/Ovimbundu) (language [Umbundu](/wiki/Umbundu)) 37%, [Ambundu](/wiki/Northern_Mbundu_people) (language [Kimbundu](/wiki/Kimbundu)) 25%, [Bakongo](/wiki/Bakongo) 13%, and 32% other ethnic groups (including the [Chokwe](/wiki/Chokwe_people), the [Ovambo](/wiki/Ovambo_people), the [Ganguela](/wiki/Ganguela) and the [Xindonga](/wiki/Xindonga)) as well as about 2% *mestiços* (mixed European and African), 1.4% Chinese and 1% European.<ref name=CIA/> The Ambundu and Ovimbundu nations combined form a majority of the population, at 62%.[[76]](#cite_note-76) The population is forecast to grow to over 60 million people to 2050, 2.7 times the 2014 population.[[77]](#cite_note-77) However, in March 23, 2016, official data revealed by Angola's National Statistic Institute - Instituto Nacional de Estatística (INE), states that Angola has a population of 25.789.024 inhabitants.

It is estimated that Angola was host to 12,100 refugees and 2,900 asylum seekers by the end of 2007. 11,400 of those refugees were originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo, who arrived in the 1970s.[[78]](#cite_note-78) [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of) there were an estimated 400,000 [Democratic Republic of the Congo](/wiki/Democratic_Republic_of_the_Congo) migrant workers,[[79]](#cite_note-79) at least 220,000 [Portuguese](/wiki/Portuguese_Angolans),[[80]](#cite_note-80) and about 259,000 [Chinese living in Angola](/wiki/Chinese_people_in_Angola).[[81]](#cite_note-81) Since 2003, more than 400,000 [Congolese](/wiki/Democratic_Republic_of_the_Congo) migrants have been expelled from Angola.[[82]](#cite_note-82) Prior to independence in 1975, Angola had a community of approximately 350,000 Portuguese,[[83]](#cite_note-83) but the vast majority left after independence and the ensuing civil war. However, Angola has recovered its Portuguese minority in recent years; currently, there are about 200,000 registered with the consulates, and increasing due to the debt crisis in Portugal and the relative prosperity in Angola.[[84]](#cite_note-84) The Chinese population stands at 258,920, mostly composed of temporary migrants.[[85]](#cite_note-85) Also, there is a small [Brazilian](/wiki/Brazil) community of about 5,000 people.[[86]](#cite_note-86) The [total fertility rate](/wiki/Total_fertility_rate) of Angola is 5.54 children born per woman (2012 estimates), the 11th highest in the world.<ref name=CIA>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

### Languages[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|upright=1.7|Angola is a member of](/wiki/File:CPLP_map-pt.svg) [CPLP](/wiki/CPLP) – Community of Portuguese-speaking nations

The languages in Angola are those originally spoken by the different ethnic groups and [Portuguese](/wiki/Portuguese_language), introduced during the Portuguese colonial era. The indigenous languages with the largest usage are [Umbundu](/wiki/Umbundu), [Kimbundu](/wiki/Kimbundu), and [Kikongo](/wiki/Kikongo), in that order. Portuguese is the official language of the country.

Mastery of the official language is probably more extended in Angola than it is elsewhere in Africa, and this certainly applies to its use in everyday life. Moreover, and above all, the proportion of native (or near native) speakers of the language of the former colonizer, turned official after independence, is no doubt considerably higher than in any other African country.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

There are three intertwined historical reasons for this situation.

1. In the Portuguese "bridgeheads" [Luanda](/wiki/Luanda) and [Benguela](/wiki/Benguela), which existed on the coast of what today is Angola since the 15th and 16th century, respectively, Portuguese was spoken not only by the Portuguese and their *mestiço* descendents, but—especially in and around Luanda—by a significant number of Africans, although these always remained native speakers of their local African language.
2. Since the Portuguese conquest of the present territory of Angola, and especially since its "effective occupation" in the mid-1920s, schooling in Portuguese was slowly developed by the colonial state as well as by Catholic and Protestant missions. The rhythm of this expansion was considerably accelerated during the late colonial period, 1961–1974, so that by the end of the colonial period children all over the territory (with relatively few exceptions) had at least some access to the Portuguese language.[[87]](#cite_note-87)#In the same late colonial period, the legal discrimination of the black population was abolished, and the state apparatus in fields like health, education, social work, and rural development was enlarged. This entailed a significant increase in jobs for Africans, under the condition that they spoke Portuguese.

As a consequence of all this, the African "lower middle class" which at that stage formed in Luanda and other cities began to often prevent their children from learning the local African language, in order to guarantee that they learned Portuguese as their native language. At the same time, the white and "mestiço" population, where some knowledge of African languages could previously often be found, neglected this aspect more and more, to the point of frequently ignoring it totally. After independence, these tendencies continued, and were even strengthened, under the rule of the MPLA which has its main social roots exactly in those social segments where the mastery of Portuguese as well as the proportion of native Portuguese speakers was highest. This became a political side issue, as FNLA and UNITA, given their regional constituencies, came out in favour of a greater attention to the African languages, and as the FNLA favoured French over Portuguese.

The dynamics of the language situation, as described above, were additionally fostered by the massive migrations triggered by the Civil War. [Ovimbundu](/wiki/Ovimbundu), the most populous ethnic group and the most affected by the war, appeared in great numbers in urban areas outside their areas, especially in Luanda and surroundings. At the same time, a majority of the [Bakongo](/wiki/Bakongo) who had fled to the [Democratic Republic of Congo](/wiki/Democratic_Republic_of_Congo) in the early 1960s, or of their children and grandchildren, returned to Angola, but mostly did not settle in their original "habitat", but in the cities—and again above all in Luanda. As a consequence, more than half the population is now living in the cities which, from the linguistic point of view, have become highly heterogeneous. This means, of course, that Portuguese as the overall national language of communication is by now of paramount importance, and that the role of the African languages is steadily decreasing among the urban population—a trend which is beginning to spread into rural areas as well.

The exact numbers of those fluent in Portuguese or who speak Portuguese as a first language are unknown, although a census is expected to be carried out in July–August 2013.[[88]](#cite_note-88)[Template:Update after](/wiki/Template:Update_after) Quite a number of voices demand the recognition of "Angolan Portuguese" as a specific variant, comparable to those spoken in Portugal or in Brazil. However, while there exists a certain number of idiomatic particularities in everyday Portuguese, as spoken by Angolans, it remains to be seen whether or not the Angolan government comes to the conclusion that these particularities constitute a configuration that justifies the claim to be a new language variant.

### Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|Ethnic groups of Angola 1970 (with areas where the so-called "Ganguela" groups are dominant, marked green)](/wiki/File:Angola_Ethnic_map_1970.svg)

There are about 1000 mostly Christian religious communities in Angola.[[89]](#cite_note-89) While reliable statistics are nonexistent, estimates have it that more than half of the population are Catholics, while about a quarter adhere to the Protestant churches introduced during the colonial period: the [Congregationalists](/wiki/Congregationalist) mainly among the [Ovimbundu](/wiki/Ovimbundu) of the Central Highlands and the coastal region to its West, the [Methodists](/wiki/Methodists) concentrating on the [Kimbundu](/wiki/Kimbundu) speaking strip from Luanda to Malanje, the [Baptists](/wiki/Baptists) almost exclusively among the [Bakongo](/wiki/Bakongo) of the Northwest (now present in Luanda as well) and dispersed [Adventists](/wiki/Adventists), [Reformed](/wiki/Reformed) and [Lutherans](/wiki/Lutherans).[[90]](#cite_note-90)[[91]](#cite_note-91) In Luanda and region there subsists a nucleus of the "[syncretic](/wiki/Syncretic)" [Tocoists](/wiki/Tocoists) and in the northwest a sprinkling of [Kimbanguism](/wiki/Kimbanguism) can be found, spreading from the Congo/Zaïre. Since independence, hundreds of [Pentecostal](/wiki/Pentecostal) and similar communities have sprung up in the cities, where by now about 50% of the population is living; several of these communities/churches are of Brazilian origin.

The U.S. Department of State estimates the Muslim population at 80,000–90,000,[[92]](#cite_note-92) while the [Islamic Community of Angola](/wiki/Islam_in_Angola) puts the figure closer to 500,000.[[93]](#cite_note-93) Muslims consist largely of migrants from West Africa and the Middle East (especially [Lebanon](/wiki/Lebanon)), although some are local converts.[[94]](#cite_note-94) The Angolan government does not [legally recognize](/wiki/Islam_in_Angola#Legal_status) any Muslim organizations and often shuts down mosques or prevents their construction.<ref name=IRFR2012>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

In a study assessing nations' levels of religious regulation and persecution with scores ranging from 0 to 10 where 0 represented low levels of regulation or persecution, Angola was scored 0.8 on Government Regulation of Religion, 4.0 on Social Regulation of Religion, 0 on Government Favoritism of Religion and 0 on Religious Persecution.[[95]](#cite_note-95) Foreign [missionaries](/wiki/Missionary) were very active prior to independence in 1975, although since the beginning of the anti-colonial fight in 1961 the Portuguese colonial authorities expelled a series of Protestant missionaries and closed mission stations based on the belief that the missionaries were inciting pro-independence sentiments. Missionaries have been able to return to the country since the early 1990s, although security conditions due to the civil war have prevented them until 2002 from restoring many of their former inland mission stations.[[96]](#cite_note-96) The Catholic Church and some major Protestant denominations mostly keep to themselves in contrast to the "New Churches" which actively proselytize. Catholics, as well as some major Protestant denominations, provide help for the poor in the form of crop seeds, farm animals, medical care and education.[[97]](#cite_note-97)[[98]](#cite_note-98)

### Largest cities[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

[Template:Largest cities of Angola](/wiki/Template:Largest_cities_of_Angola)

## Culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

[thumb|](/wiki/File:African_Art,_Yombe_sculpture,_Louvre.jpg)[Yombe](/wiki/Yombe_people)-sculpture, 19th century [Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

In Angola, there is a Culture Ministry that is managed by Culture Minister Rosa Maria Martins da Cruz e Silva.[[99]](#cite_note-99)[[100]](#cite_note-100) [Portugal](/wiki/Portugal) has been present in [Angola for 400 years](/wiki/Portuguese_West_Africa), occupied the territory in the 19th and early 20th century, and ruled over it for about 50 years. As a consequence, both countries share cultural aspects: language ([Portuguese](/wiki/Portuguese_Language)) and main religion (Roman Catholic Christianity). The [*substrate*](/wiki/Substratum) of Angolan culture is African, mostly [Bantu](/wiki/Bantu_people), while [Portuguese culture](/wiki/Culture_of_Portugal) has been imported. The diverse ethnic communities – the [Ovimbundu](/wiki/Ovimbundu), [Ambundu](/wiki/Northern_Mbundu_people), [Bakongo](/wiki/Bakongo), [Chokwe](/wiki/Chokwe_people), [Mbunda](/wiki/Mbunda_people) and other peoples – maintain to varying degrees their own cultural traits, traditions and languages, but in the cities, where slightly more than half of the population now lives, a mixed culture has been emerging since colonial times – in [Luanda](/wiki/Luanda) since its foundation in the 16th century. In this urban culture, the Portuguese heritage has become more and more dominant. An African influence is evident in music and dance, and is moulding the way in which Portuguese is spoken, but is almost disappearing from the vocabulary. This process is well reflected in contemporary Angolan literature, especially in the works of [Pepetela](/wiki/Pepetela) and [Ana Paula Ribeiro Tavares](/wiki/Ana_Paula_Ribeiro_Tavares).

[Leila Lopes](/wiki/Leila_Lopes_(model)), [Miss Angola](/wiki/Miss_Angola) 2011, was crowned [Miss Universe 2011](/wiki/Miss_Universe_2011) in Brazil on 12 September 2011 making her the first Angolan to win the pageant.

In 2014, Angola resume the National Festival of Angolan Culture (FENACULT), after a 25-years break. The festival took place in all the provincial capitals of the country between 30 August and 20 September and had as theme "Culture as a Factor of Peace and Development".[[101]](#cite_note-101)

## Health[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

[thumb|Angolan woman with children outside health clinic](/wiki/File:Angolan_woman_with_children_outside_health_clinic_(5686703351).jpg) [Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Epidemics of [cholera](/wiki/Cholera), [malaria](/wiki/Malaria), [rabies](/wiki/Rabies) and African [hemorrhagic](/wiki/Hemorrhagic) fevers like [Marburg hemorrhagic fever](/wiki/Marburg_virus), are common diseases in several parts of the country. Many regions in this country have high incidence rates of [tuberculosis](/wiki/Tuberculosis) and high [HIV prevalence](/wiki/HIV/AIDS_in_Africa) rates. [Dengue](/wiki/Dengue), [filariasis](/wiki/Filariasis), [leishmaniasis](/wiki/Leishmaniasis), and [onchocerciasis](/wiki/Onchocerciasis) (river blindness) are other diseases carried by insects that also occur in the region. Angola has one of the highest [infant mortality rates](/wiki/Infant_mortality_rate) in the world and one of the world's lowest [life expectancies](/wiki/Life_expectancies). A 2007 survey concluded that low and deficient [niacin](/wiki/Niacin) status was common in Angola.[[102]](#cite_note-102) [Demographic and Health Surveys](/wiki/Demographic_and_Health_Surveys) is currently conducting several surveys in Angola on malaria, domestic violence and more.[[103]](#cite_note-103) In September 2014, the Angolan Institute for Cancer Control (IACC) was created by presidential decree, and it will integrate the National Health Service in Angola.[[104]](#cite_note-104) The purpose of this new center is to ensure the health and medical care in [oncology](/wiki/Oncology), policy implementation, programs and plans for prevention and specialized treatment.[[105]](#cite_note-105) This cancer institute will be assumed as a reference institution in the central and southern regions of Africa.[[106]](#cite_note-106) In 2014, Angola launched a national campaign of [vaccination](/wiki/Vaccination) against [measles](/wiki/Measles), extended to every child under ten years old and aiming to go to all 18 provinces in the country.[[107]](#cite_note-107) The measure is part of the Strategic Plan for the Elimination of Measles 2014–2020 created by the Angolan Ministry of Health which includes strengthening routine immunization, a proper dealing with measles cases, national campaigns, introducing a second dose of vaccination in the national routine vaccination calendar and active epidemiological surveillance for measles. This campaign took place together with the vaccination against [polio](/wiki/Polio) and [vitamin A](/wiki/Vitamin_A) supplementation.[[108]](#cite_note-108) The [yellow fever](/wiki/Yellow_fever) outbreak in Angola began in December 2015. More than 2,400 people have been infected since December, and 300 people have died from the yellow fever. The outbreak began in the capital of [Luanda](/wiki/Luanda) but now has spread to at least 14 of the 18 provinces in the country. This outbreak of the yellow fever is the worst in the southern African country in three decades.[[109]](#cite_note-109)

## Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

[thumb|Lyceum Salvador Correia in Luanda](/wiki/File:Lyceum_Salvador_Correia_in_Luanda,_Angola.jpg) [thumb|Kuito class, Angola](/wiki/File:Kuito_class.jpg)

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

Although by law education in Angola is compulsory and free for eight years, the government reports that a percentage of students are not attending due to a lack of school buildings and teachers.<ref name=ilab>"Botswana". [*2005 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor*](http://web.archive.org/web/20140109071239/http://www.dol.gov/ilab/media/reports/iclp/tda2005/tda2005.pdf). [Bureau of International Labor Affairs](/wiki/Bureau_of_International_Labor_Affairs), [U.S. Department of Labor](/wiki/U.S._Department_of_Labor) (2006). *This article incorporates text from this source, which is in the* [*public domain*](/wiki/Public_domain)*.</ref> Students are often responsible for paying additional school-related expenses, including fees for books and supplies.<ref name=ilab/>*

In 1999, the gross primary enrollment rate was 74 percent and in 1998, the most recent year for which data are available, the net primary enrollment rate was 61 percent.<ref name=ilab/> Gross and net enrollment ratios are based on the number of students formally registered in primary school and therefore do not necessarily reflect actual school attendance.<ref name=ilab/> There continue to be significant disparities in enrollment between rural and urban areas. In 1995, 71.2 percent of children ages 7 to 14 years were attending school.<ref name=ilab/> It is reported that higher percentages of boys attend school than girls.<ref name=ilab/> During the [Angolan Civil War](/wiki/Angolan_Civil_War) (1975–2002), nearly half of all schools were reportedly looted and destroyed, leading to current problems with overcrowding.<ref name=ilab/>

The Ministry of Education hired 20,000 new teachers in 2005 and continued to implement teacher trainings.<ref name=ilab/> Teachers tend to be underpaid, inadequately trained, and overworked (sometimes teaching two or three shifts a day).<ref name=ilab/> Some teachers may reportedly demand payment or bribes directly from their students.<ref name=ilab/> Other factors, such as the presence of landmines, lack of resources and identity papers, and poor health prevent children from regularly attending school.<ref name=ilab/> Although budgetary allocations for education were increased in 2004, the education system in Angola continues to be extremely under-funded.<ref name=ilab/>

According to estimates by the [UNESCO Institute for Statistics](/wiki/UNESCO_Institute_for_Statistics), the adult literacy rate in 2011 was 70.4%.<ref name=unescolit>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> 82.9% of males and 54.2% of women are literate as of 2001.[[110]](#cite_note-110) Since independence from Portugal in 1975, a number of Angolan students continued to be admitted every year at high schools, [polytechnical](/wiki/Politechnic) institutes, and universities in [Portugal](/wiki/Portugal), Brazil and [Cuba](/wiki/Cuba) through bilateral agreements; in general, these students belong to the elites.

In September 2014, the Angolan Ministry of Education announced an investment of 16 million Euros in the computerization of over 300 classrooms across the country. The project also includes training teachers at a national level, "as a way to introduce and use new information technologies in primary schools, thus reflecting an improvement in the quality of teaching."[[111]](#cite_note-111) In 2010, the Angolan government started building the [Angolan Media Libraries Network](/wiki/Angolan_Media_Libraries_Network), distributed throughout several provinces in the country to facilitate the people's access to information and knowledge. Each site has a bibliographic archive, multimedia resources and computers with Internet access, as well as areas for reading, researching and socializing.[[112]](#cite_note-112) The plan envisages the establishment of one media library in each Angolan province by 2017. The project also includes the implementation of several media libraries, in order to provide the several contents available in the fixed media libraries to the most isolated populations in the country.[[113]](#cite_note-113) At this time, the mobile media libraries are already operating in the provinces of Luanda, Malanje, Uíge, Cabinda and Lunda South. As for REMA, the provinces of Luanda, Benguela, Lubango and Soyo have currently working media libraries.[[114]](#cite_note-114)

## Sports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

Angola is the top [basketball team](/wiki/Angola_national_basketball_team) of [FIBA Africa](/wiki/FIBA_Africa), and a regular competitor at the [Summer Olympic Games](/wiki/Basketball_at_the_Summer_Olympics) and the [FIBA World Cup](/wiki/FIBA_World_Cup). The [Angola national football team](/wiki/Angola_national_football_team) qualified for the [2006 FIFA World Cup](/wiki/2006_FIFA_World_Cup), as this was their first appearance on the World Cup finals stage. They were eliminated after one defeat and two draws in the group stage. They won 3 [COSAFA Cups](/wiki/COSAFA_Cup) and finished runner up in [2011 African Nations Championship](/wiki/2011_African_Nations_Championship). Angola has participated in the [World Women's Handball Championship](/wiki/World_Women's_Handball_Championship) for several years. The country has also appeared in the [Summer Olympics](/wiki/Angola_at_the_Olympics) for seven years and both compete and have hosted the [FIRS Roller Hockey World Cup](/wiki/FIRS_Roller_Hockey_World_Cup). Angola is also often believed to have historic roots in the [martial art](/wiki/Martial_art) "[Capoeira Angola](/wiki/Capoeira_Angola)" and "[Batuque](/wiki/Batuque_(game))" which were practiced by [enslaved African Angolans](/wiki/Slavery_in_Angola) transported as part of the [Atlantic slave trade](/wiki/Atlantic_slave_trade).[[115]](#cite_note-115)

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

[Template:Portal](/wiki/Template:Portal)

* [Outline of Angola](/wiki/Outline_of_Angola)
* [Index of Angola-related articles](/wiki/Index_of_Angola-related_articles)

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## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

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* [Template:Citation](/wiki/Template:Citation).
* [Template:Citation](/wiki/Template:Citation).
* Much of the material in this article comes from the [CIA World Factbook](/wiki/CIA_World_Factbook) 2000 and the 2003 U.S. Department of State website. The information given there is, however, corrected and updated on the basis of the other sources indicated.

## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

[Template:Sister project links](/wiki/Template:Sister_project_links) [Template:Wikibooks](/wiki/Template:Wikibooks)

* [Template:Pt icon](/wiki/Template:Pt_icon) [Template:Official website](/wiki/Template:Official_website)
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* [Angola](http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/govpubs/for/angola.htm) from *UCB Libraries GovPubs*.
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