



Congo, Republic of the



Background Upon independence in 1960, the former French region of Middle Congo became the Republic of the Congo. From 1968 to 1992, the country was named the People's Republic of the Congo. A quarter-century of experimentation with Marxism was abandoned in 1990, and a democratically elected government took office in 1992, at which time the country reverted to "the Republic of the Congo" name. A two-year civil war that ended in 1999 restored to power former President Denis SASSOU-Nguesso, who had ruled from 1979 to 1992. A new constitution adopted three years later provided for a multi-party system and a seven-year presidential term, and the next elections retained SASSOU-Nguesso. After a year of renewed fighting, SASSOU-Nguesso and southern-based rebel groups agreed to a final peace accord in 2003. SASSOU-Nguesso was reelected in 2009 and, after passing a constitutional referendum allowing him to run for additional terms, was reelected again in 2016 and 2021. The Republic of the Congo is one of Africa's largest petroleum producers.

Capital name: Brazzaville

Government type presidential republic

Area total: 342,000 sq km

land: 341,500 sq km

water: 500 sq km

Climate tropical; rainy season (March to June); dry season (June to October); persistent high temperatures and humidity; particularly enervating climate astride the Equator

Natural resources petroleum, timber, potash, lead, zinc, uranium, copper, phosphates, gold, magnesium, natural gas, hydropower

Population total: 6,097,665 (2024 est.)

Population growth rate 2.38% (2024 est.)

Ethnic groups Kongo (Bakongo) 40.5%, Teke 16.9%, Mbochi 13.1%, foreigner 8.2%, Sangha 5.6%, Mbere/Mbeti/Kele 4.4%, Punu 4.3%, Pygmy 1.6%, Oubanguiens 1.6%, Duma 1.5%, Makaa 1.3%, other and unspecified 1% (2014-15 est.)

Religions Roman Catholic 33.1%, Awakening Churches/Christian Revival 22.3%, Protestant 19.9%, Salutiste 2.2%, Muslim 1.6%, Kimbanguist 1.5%, other 8.1%, none 11.3% (2007 est.)

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

Executive branch chief of state: President Denis SASSOU-Nguesso (since 1997)

head of government: Prime Minister Anatole Collinet MAKOSO (since 12 May 2021)

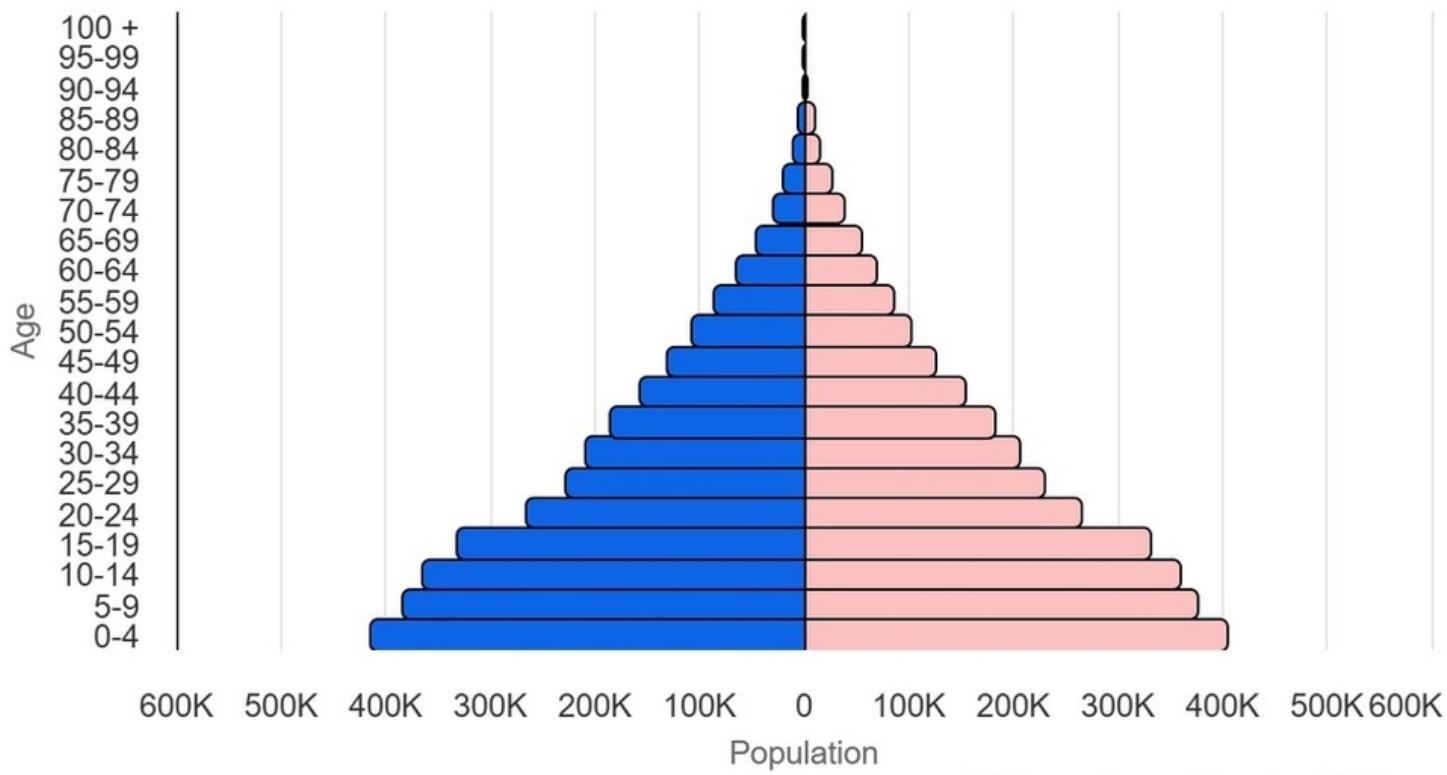
Legislative branch legislature name: Parliament (Parlement)

Diplomatic representation in the US chief of mission: Ambassador (vacant); Chargé d'Affaires Firmine BOUYIT (since 6 September 2025)

Diplomatic representation from the US chief of mission: Ambassador (vacant); Chargé d'Affaires Amanda S. JACOBSEN (since 18 July 2025)

Economic overview	primarily an oil- and natural resources-based economy; recovery from mid-2010s oil devaluation has been slow and curtailed by COVID-19; extreme poverty increasing, particularly in southern rural regions; attempting to implement recommended CEMAC reforms; increasing likelihood of debt default
Real GDP (purchasing power parity)	\$39.147 billion (2024 est.) \$38.163 billion (2023 est.) \$37.448 billion (2022 est.)
Real GDP per capita	\$6,200 (2024 est.) \$6,200 (2023 est.) \$6,200 (2022 est.)
Exports	\$7.752 billion (2021 est.) \$4.67 billion (2020 est.) \$7.855 billion (2019 est.)
Exports - partners	China 46%, UAE 23%, India 6%, Saudi Arabia 5%, Portugal 3% (2023)
Exports - commodities	crude petroleum, refined copper, gold, wood, refined petroleum (2023)
Imports	\$4.487 billion (2021 est.) \$3.279 billion (2020 est.) \$4.945 billion (2019 est.)
Imports - partners	China 24%, Angola 20%, Gabon 9%, France 6%, UAE 5% (2023)
Imports - commodities	ships, poultry, garments, iron pipes, refined petroleum (2023)

Population Pyramid

Congo (Brazzaville) (2024)

U.S. Census Bureau, International Database