



Mali



Background	<p>Present-day Mali is named after the Mali Empire that ruled the region between the 13th and 16th centuries. At its peak in the 14th century, it was the largest and wealthiest empire in West Africa and controlled an area about twice the size of modern-day France. Primarily a trading empire, Mali derived its wealth from gold and maintained several goldfields and trade routes in the Sahel. The empire also influenced West African culture through the spread of its language, laws, and customs, but by the 16th century, it had fragmented into mostly small chiefdoms. The Songhai Empire, previously a Mali dependency centered in Timbuktu, gained prominence in the 15th and 16th centuries. Under Songhai rule, Timbuktu became a large commercial center, well-known for its scholarship and religious teaching. Timbuktu remains a center of culture in West Africa today. In the late 16th century, the Songhai Empire fell to Moroccan invaders and disintegrated into independent sultanates and kingdoms.</p> <p>France, expanding from Senegal, seized control of the area in the 1890s and incorporated it into French West Africa as French Sudan. In 1960, French Sudan gained independence from France and became the Mali Federation. When Senegal withdrew after only a few months, the remaining area was renamed the Republic of Mali. Mali saw 31 years of dictatorship until 1991, when a military coup led by Amadou Toumani TOURE ousted the government, established a new constitution, and instituted a multi-party democracy. Alpha Oumar KONARE won Mali's first two democratic presidential elections in 1992 and 1997. In keeping with Mali's two-term constitutional limit, he stepped down in 2002 and was succeeded by Amadou Toumani TOURE, who won a second term in 2007.</p> <p>In 2012, rising ethnic tensions and an influx of fighters -- some linked to Al-Qa'ida -- from Libya led to a rebellion and military coup. Following the coup, rebels expelled the military from the country's three northern regions, allowing terrorist organizations to develop strongholds in the area. With a 2013 French-led military intervention, the Malian government managed to retake most of the north. However, the government's grasp in the region remains weak with local militias, terrorists, and insurgent groups competing for control. In 2015, the Malian Government and northern rebels signed an internationally mediated peace accord. Despite a 2017 target for implementation of the agreement, the signatories have made little progress. Terrorist groups were left out of the peace process, and terrorist attacks remain common.</p> <p>Ibrahim Boubacar KEITA won the Malian presidential elections in 2013 and 2018. Aside from security and logistic shortfalls, international observers deemed these elections credible. Terrorism, banditry, ethnic-based violence, and extra-judicial military killings plagued the country during KEITA's second term. In 2020, the military arrested KEITA, his prime minister, and other senior members of the government and established a military junta called the National Committee for the Salvation of the People (CNSP). The junta then established a transition government and appointed Bah N'DAW, a retired army officer and former defense minister, as interim president and Colonel Assimi GOITA, the coup leader and chairman of the CNSP, as interim vice president. The transition government's charter allowed it to rule for up to 18 months before calling a general election.</p> <p>In 2021, GOITA led a military takeover, arresting the interim president after a Cabinet shake-up removed GOITA's key allies. GOITA was sworn in as transition president, and Choguel Kokalla MAIGA was sworn in as prime minister. In 2022, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) imposed sanctions on the transition government, and member states closed their borders with Mali after the transition government presented a five-year extension to the electoral calendar. The transition government and ECOWAS agreed to a new two-year timeline, which would have included presidential elections in February 2024, but the transition government postponed the elections indefinitely in September 2023 and withdrew from ECOWAS in January 2024.</p>
Capital	name: Bamako
Government type	semi-presidential republic
Area	<p>total : 1,240,192 sq km land: 1,220,190 sq km water: 20,002 sq km</p>
Climate	subtropical to arid; hot and dry (February to June); rainy, humid, and mild (June to November); cool and dry (November to February)
Natural resources	gold, phosphates, kaolin, salt, limestone, uranium, gypsum, granite, hydropower
Population	total: 21,990,607 (2024 est.)
Population growth rate	2.9% (2024 est.)
Ethnic groups	Bambara 33.3%, Fulani (Peuhl) 13.3%, Sarakole/Soninke/Marka 9.8%, Senufo/Manianka 9.6%, Malinke 8.8%, Dogon 8.7%, Sonrai 5.9%, Bobo 2.1%, Tuareg/Bella 1.7%, other Malian 6%, from members of Economic Community of West Africa 0.4%, other 0.3% (2018 est.)
Religions	Muslim 93.9%, Christian 2.8%, animist 0.7%, none 2.5% (2018 est.)
Languages	Bambara (official), French 17.2%, Peuhl/Foulfoulbe/Fulani 9.4%, Dogon 7.2%, Maraka/Soninke 6.4%, Malinke 5.6%, Sonrai/Djerma 5.6%, Minianka 4.3%, Tamacheq 3.5%, Sénoufo 2.6%, Bobo 2.1%, other 6.3%, unspecified 0.7% (2009 est.)
Executive branch	<p>chief of state: Transition President Assimi GOITA (since 7 June 2021) head of government: Transition Prime Minister Abdoulaye MAIGA (since 22 November 2024)</p>
Legislative branch	legislature name: Transitional National Council (Conseil national de transition)
Diplomatic representation in the US	chief of mission: Ambassador Sékou BERTHE (since 16 September 2022)
Diplomatic representation from the US	chief of mission: Ambassador Rachna KORHONEN (since 16 March 2023)

Economic overview	low-income Saharan economy; recession due to COVID-19 and political instability; extreme poverty; environmentally fragile; high public debt; agricultural and gold exporter; terrorism and warfare are common
Real GDP (purchasing power parity)	\$71.253 billion (2024 est.) \$67.857 billion (2023 est.) \$64.8 billion (2022 est.)
Real GDP per capita	\$2,900 (2024 est.) \$2,900 (2023 est.) \$2,800 (2022 est.)
Exports	\$6.13 billion (2023 est.) \$5.855 billion (2022 est.) \$5.381 billion (2021 est.)
Exports - partners	UAE 73%, Switzerland 15%, Australia 5%, China 1%, Uganda 1% (2023)
Exports - commodities	gold, cotton, oil seeds, fertilizers, gum resins (2023)
Imports	\$8.066 billion (2023 est.) \$7.942 billion (2022 est.) \$7.596 billion (2021 est.)
Imports - partners	Cote d'Ivoire 25%, Senegal 19%, China 12%, France 5%, Burkina Faso 4% (2023)
Imports - commodities	refined petroleum, broadcasting equipment, cement, cotton fabric, plastic products (2023)

Population Pyramid