

Côte d'Ivoire

Africa • Western Africa

Close ties to France following independence in 1960, the development of cocoa production for export, and foreign investment all made Cote d'Ivoire one of the most prosperous of the West African states but did not protect it from political turmoil. In December 1999, a military coup – the first ever in Cote d'Ivoire's history – overthrew...

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MEDIAN AGE

20.3 years

GINC INDICES

Where this nation stands

No index data is published for this nation yet.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The making of the modern nation

Background

Close ties to France following independence in 1960, the development of cocoa production for export, and foreign investment all made Cote d'Ivoire one of the most prosperous of the West African states but did not protect it from political turmoil. In December 1999, a military coup - the first ever in Cote d'Ivoire's history - overthrew the government. Junta leader Robert GUEI blatantly rigged elections held in late 2000 and declared himself the winner. Popular protest forced him to step aside and brought Laurent GBAGBO into power. Ivorian dissidents and disaffected members of the military launched a failed coup attempt in September 2002 that developed into a rebellion and then a civil war. The war ended in 2003 with a cease fire that left the country divided with the rebels holding the north, the government the south, and peacekeeping forces a buffer zone between the two. In March 2007, President GBAGBO and former New Forces rebel leader Guillaume SORO signed an agreement in which SORO joined GBAGBO's government as prime minister and the two agreed to reunite the country by dismantling the buffer zone, integrating rebel forces into the national armed forces, and holding elections. Difficulties in preparing electoral registers delayed balloting until 2010. In November 2010, Alassane Dramane OUATTARA won the presidential election over GBAGBO, but GBAGBO refused to hand over power, resulting in a five-month stand-off. In April 2011, after widespread fighting, GBAGBO was formally forced from office by armed OUATTARA supporters with the help of UN and French forces. Several thousand UN peacekeepers and several hundred French troops remain in Cote d'Ivoire to support the transition process. OUATTARA is focused on rebuilding the country's infrastructure and military after the five months of post-electoral fighting and faces ongoing threats from GBAGBO supporters, many of whom have sought shelter in Ghana. GBAGBO is in The Hague awaiting trial for crimes against humanity.

Independence	7 August 1960 (from France)
National holiday	Independence Day, 7 August (1960)

GEOGRAPHY

The ground beneath the state

LOCATION AND AREA

Location	Western Africa, bordering the North Atlantic Ocean, between Ghana and Liberia
Geographic coordinates	8 00 N, 5 00 W
Map references	Africa
Area	total: 322,463 sq km; land: 318,003 sq km; water: 4,460 sq km
Area — comparative	slightly larger than New Mexico
Land boundaries	total: 3,458 km; border countries: Burkina Faso 545 km, Ghana 720 km, Guinea 816 km, Liberia 778 km, Mali 599 km
Coastline	515 km
Maritime claims	territorial sea: 12 nm; exclusive economic zone: 200 nm; continental shelf: 200 nm

TERRAIN AND RESOURCES

Terrain	mostly flat to undulating plains; mountains in northwest
Natural resources	petroleum, natural gas, diamonds, manganese, iron ore, cobalt, bauxite, copper, gold, nickel, tantalum, silica sand, clay, cocoa beans, coffee, palm oil, hydropower
Land use	arable land: 8.99%; permanent crops: 13.65%; other: 77.36% (2011)
Irrigated land	727.5 sq km (2003)

SETTLEMENT AND HAZARDS

Natural hazards	coast has heavy surf and no natural harbors; during the rainy season torrential flooding is possible
Geography note	most of the inhabitants live along the sandy coastal region; apart from the capital area, the forested interior is sparsely populated

STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE

Ports, grids and pipelines: the working state

TRANSPORT

Airports	27 (2013)
Heliports	1 (2013)
Railways	total: 660 km; narrow gauge: 660 km 1.000-m gauge

DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY

Telephones - mobile cellular	19.827 million (2012)
Internet users	967,300 (2009)
Internet country code	.ci

HUMAN CAPITAL

The human foundation of national strength

DEMOGRAPHY

Population	22,848,945
Nationality	noun: Ivoirian(s); adjective: Ivoirian
Age structure	0-14 years: 38.4% (male 4,427,193/female 4,353,342); 15-24 years: 21% (male 2,415,504/female 2,378,196); 25-54 years: 33% (male 3,864,593/female 3,677,996); 55-64 years: 4.3% (male 494,063/female 493,213); 65 years and over: 3.2% (male 361,135/female 383,710) (2014 est.)
Dependency ratios	total dependency ratio: 79.7 %; youth dependency ratio: 74 %; elderly dependency ratio: 5.7 %; potential support ratio: 17.6 (2014 est.)
Median age	total: 20.3 years; male: 20.3 years; female: 20.2 years (2014 est.)
Population growth rate	1.96% (2014 est.)
Birth rate	29.25 births/1,000 population (2014 est.)
Death rate	9.67 deaths/1,000 population (2014 est.)
Sex ratio	at birth: 1.03 male(s)/female; 0-14 years: 1.02 male(s)/female; 15-24 years: 1.02 male(s)/female; 25-54 years: 1.05 male(s)/female; 55-64 years: 1.02 male(s)/female; 65 years and over: 0.96 male(s)/female; total population: 1.03 male(s)/female (2014 est.)
Total fertility rate	3.63 children born/woman (2014 est.)
Mother's mean age at first birth	19.8

MIGRATION AND URBANISATION

Net migration rate	0 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2014 est.)
Urbanisation	urban population: 51.3% of total population (2011); rate of urbanization: 3.56% annual rate of change (2010-15 est.)
Major urban areas — population	ABIDJAN (seat of government) 4.288 million; YAMOOUSSOUKRO (capital) 966,000 (2011)

HEALTH

Life expectancy at birth	total population: 58.01 years; male: 56.9 years; female: 59.16 years (2014 est.)
Infant mortality rate	total: 60.16 deaths/1,000 live births; male: 66.4 deaths/1,000 live births; female: 53.73 deaths/1,000 live births (2014 est.)
Hospital bed density	0.4 beds/1,000 population (2006)
Drinking water source	improved: urban: 91.5% of population; rural: 67.8% of population; total: 80.2% of population; unimproved: urban: 8.5% of population; rural: 32.2% of population; total: 19.8% of population (2012 est.)
Sanitation facility access	improved: urban: 32.7% of population; rural: 10% of population; total: 21.9% of population; unimproved: urban: 67.3% of population; rural: 90% of population; total: 78.1% of population (2012 est.)
Obesity — adult prevalence rate	6.2% (2008)
Children under the age of 5 years underweight	29.4% (2007)

EDUCATION

Literacy	definition: age 15 and over can read and write; total population: 56.9%; male: 65.6%; female: 47.6% (2011 est.)
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WELFARE AND EQUITY

Population below poverty line 42% (2006 est.)

Household income or consumption by percentage share lowest 10%: 2.2%; highest 10%: 31.8% (2008)

DISPLACEMENT

Refugees and internally displaced persons IDPs: at least 70,000 (post-election conflict in 2010-2011, as well as civil war from 2002-2004; most pronounced in western and southwestern regions) (2013); stateless persons: 700,000 (2012); note - many Ivoirians lack documentation proving their nationality, which prevent them from accessing education and healthcare; birth on Ivorian soil does not automatically result in citizenship; disputes over citizenship and the associated rights of the large population descended from migrants from neighboring countries is an ongoing source of tension and contributed to the country's 2002 civil war; some observers believe the government's mass naturalizations of thousands of people over the last couple of years is intended to boost its electoral support base; the government in October 2013 acceded to international conventions on statelessness and in August 2013 reformed its nationality law, key steps to clarify the nationality of thousands of residents

GOVERNANCE AND INTEGRITY

Trust, law and institutions that hold

STATE STRUCTURE

Country name	conventional long form: Republic of Cote d'Ivoire; conventional short form: Cote d'Ivoire; local long form: Republique de Cote d'Ivoire; local short form: Cote d'Ivoire; former: Ivory Coast
Government type	republic; multiparty presidential regime established 1960
Capital	name: Yamoussoukro; note - although Yamoussoukro has been the official capital since 1983, Abidjan remains the commercial and administrative center; the US, like other countries, maintains its Embassy in Abidjan; geographic coordinates: 6 49 N, 5 16 W; time difference: UTC 0 (5 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)
Administrative divisions	12 districts and 2 autonomous districts*; Abidjan*, Bas-Sassandra, Comoe, Denguele, Goh-Djiboua, Lacs, Lagunes, Montagnes, Sassandra-Marahoue, Savanes, Vallee du Bandama, Woroba, Yamoussoukro*, Zanzan
Constitution	previous 1960; latest approved by referendum 23 July 2000; amended 2012 (2012)
Suffrage	18 years of age; universal

LEGAL SYSTEM

Legal system	civil law system based on the French civil code; judicial review of legislation held in the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court
International law organisation participation	accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations; accepts ICCt jurisdiction under Article 12(3) of the Rome Statute

POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

Executive branch	chief of state: President Alassane Dramane OUATTARA (since 4 December 2010); head of government: Prime Minister Daniel Kablan DUNCAN (since 21 November 2012); cabinet: Council of Ministers appointed by the president; elections: president elected by popular vote for a five-year term (no term limits); election last held on 31 October and 28 November 2010 (next to be held in 2015); prime minister appointed by the president; election results: Alassane OUATTARA elected president; percent of vote - Alassane OUATTARA 54.1%, Laurent GBAGBO 45.9%; note - President OUATTARA was declared winner by the election commission and took the oath of office on 4 December; Prime Minister SORO resigned from the incumbent administration and was subsequently appointed to the same position by OUATTARA; former president GBAGBO refused to cede resulting in a 5-month stand-off and was finally forced to stand down in April 2011
Legislative branch	unicameral National Assembly or Assemblée Nationale (255 seats; members elected in single- and multi-district elections by direct popular vote to serve five-year terms)
Judicial branch	highest court(s): Supreme Court or Cour Supreme (organized into Judicial, Audit, Constitutional, and Administrative Chambers; consists of the court president, 3 vice-presidents for the Judicial, Audit, and Administrative chambers, and 9 associate justices or magistrates); judges nominated by the Superior Council of the Magistrature, a 7-member body consisting of the national president (chairman), 3 "Bench" judges, and 3 public prosecutors; judges appointed for life; subordinate courts: Courts of Appeal (organized into civil, criminal, and social chambers); first instance courts; peace courts

RULE OF LAW

Illicit drugs

illicit producer of cannabis, mostly for local consumption; utility as a narcotic transshipment point to Europe reduced by ongoing political instability; while rampant corruption and inadequate supervision leave the banking system vulnerable to money laundering, the lack of a developed financial system limits the country's utility as a major money-laundering center (2008)

INFORMATION AND INFLUENCE

Narrative, reach and regard

IDENTITY AND CULTURE

Languages	French (official), 60 native dialects of which Dioula is the most widely spoken
Religions	Muslim 38.6%, Christian 32.8%, indigenous 11.9%, none 16.7% (2008 est.)
Ethnic groups	Akan 42.1%, Voltaiques or Gur 17.6%, Northern Mandes 16.5%, Krous 11%, Southern Mandes 10%, other 2.8% (includes 130,000 Lebanese and 14,000 French) (1998)
National symbol(s)	elephant

MEDIA

Broadcast media	2 state-owned TV stations; no private terrestrial TV stations, but satellite TV subscription service is available; 2 state-owned radio stations; some private radio stations; transmissions of several international broadcasters are available (2007)
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DIPLOMATIC NETWORK

International organisation participation	ACP, AfDB, AU, ECOWAS, EITI (candidate country), Entente, FAO, FZ, G-24, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC, ICRM, IDA, IDB, IFAD, IFC, IFRCS, ILO, IMF, IMO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO, ITSO, ITU, ITUC (NGOs), MIGA, MINUSMA, NAM, OIC, OIF, OPCW, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO, Union Latina, UNWTO, UPU, WADB (regional), WAEMU, WCO, WFTU (NGOs), WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO
Diplomatic representation in the US	chief of mission: Ambassador Daouda DIABATE (since 11 February 2011); chancery: 2424 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008; telephone: [1] (202) 797-0300; FAX: [1] (202) 462-9444
Diplomatic representation from the US	chief of mission: Ambassador Terrance MCCULLEY; embassy: Cocody Riviera Golf 01, Abidjan; mailing address: B. P. 1712, Abidjan 01; telephone: [225] 22 49 40 00; FAX: [225] 22 49 43 32

FINANCIAL STRENGTH

The fiscal depth behind every decision

FISCAL

Budget	revenues: \$5.7 billion; expenditures: \$6.665 billion (2013 est.)
Taxes and other revenues	20.2% of GDP (2013 est.)
Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-)	-3.4% of GDP (2013 est.)
Public debt	45.2% of GDP (2013 est.)//47.8% of GDP (2012 est.)

MONETARY AND EXTERNAL

Inflation rate (consumer prices)	2.9% (2013 est.)//1.3% (2012 est.)
Reserves of foreign exchange and gold	\$4.085 billion (31 December 2013 est.)//\$3.928 billion (31 December 2012 est.)
Debt — external	\$8.959 billion (31 December 2013 est.)//\$8.096 billion (31 December 2012 est.)
Exchange rates	Communaute Financiere Africaine francs (XOF) per US dollar -//504.6 (2013 est.)//510.29 (2012 est.)//495.28 (2010 est.)//472.19 (2009)//447.81 (2008)

PRODUCTION AND INNOVATION

The engine room of national prosperity

OUTPUT

GDP (official exchange rate)	\$28.28 billion (2013 est.)
GDP composition, by sector of origin	agriculture: 26.3%; industry: 21.3%; services: 52.4% (2013 est.)
GDP composition, by end use	household consumption: 79.1%; government consumption: 9.1%; investment in fixed capital: 12.7%; investment in inventories: 0%; exports of goods and services: 53.2%; imports of goods and services: -54.1%; (2013 est.)

SECTORS AND INDUSTRY

Industries	foodstuffs, beverages; wood products, oil refining, gold mining, truck and bus assembly, textiles, fertilizer, building materials, electricity
Industrial production growth rate	7% (2013 est.)

LABOUR

Labour force	7.928 million (2013 est.)
Unemployment rate	NA%

TRADE AND INVESTMENT

Markets, capital and the terms of exchange

EXTERNAL BALANCE

Current account balance	-\$623 million (2013 est.)//-\$266.5 million (2012 est.)
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EXPORTS

Exports	\$12.96 billion (2013 est.)//\$12.53 billion (2012 est.)
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Exports — partners	Netherlands 8.8%, US 8.1%, Nigeria 8%, Germany 7.5%, France 4.5%, Canada 4.2% (2012)
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Exports — commodities	cocoa, coffee, timber, petroleum, cotton, bananas, pineapples, palm oil, fish
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IMPORTS

Imports	\$9.859 billion (2013 est.)//\$8.973 billion (2012 est.)
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Imports — partners	Nigeria 25%, France 11%, China 7.2% (2012)
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Imports — commodities	fuel, capital equipment, foodstuffs
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