

Country Name	Republic of Congo
Capital Name	Brazzaville
Time Difference	UTC+1 (6 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)
Background	Upon independence in 1960, the former French region of Middle Congo became the Republic of the Congo. A quarter century of experimentation with Marxism was abandoned in 1990 and a democratically elected government took office in 1992. A brief civil war in 1997 restored former Marxist President Denis SASSOU-Nguesso, and ushered in a period of ethnic and political unrest. Southern-based rebel groups agreed to a final peace accord in March 2003, but the calm is tenuous and refugees continue to present a humanitarian crisis. The Republic of Congo was once one of Africa's largest petroleum producers, but with declining production it will need new offshore oil finds to sustain its oil earnings over the long term.
Location	Central Africa, bordering the South Atlantic Ocean, between Angola and Gabon
Area	Land: 341,500 sq km Water: 500 sq km Country comparison to the world: 64
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	4,755,097 (July 2015 est.)
Languages	French (official), Lingala and Monokutuba (lingua franca trade languages), many local languages and dialects (of which Kikongo is the most widespread)
Literacy	Definition: Age 15 and over can read and write Total population: 79.3% Male: 86.4% Female: 72.9% (2015 est.)
Government type	republic
Legal system	mixed legal system of French civil law and customary law

Contact Details of the Government	Principal Governmental Body: Palais du Peuple Address: Quartier du Plateau, Brazzaville Telephone: +242 02 281 27 50 / +242 02 281 24 32 Fax: +242 02 281 02 72 Email: sgpr@yahoo.fr
Brief Economy Overview	The economy is a mixture of subsistence farming and hunting, an industrial sector based largely on oil and support services, and government spending. Oil has supplanted forestry as the mainstay of the economy, providing a major share of government revenues and exports. Natural gas is increasingly being converted to electricity rather than being flared, greatly improving energy prospects. New mining projects, particularly iron ore, which entered production in late 2013 may add as much as \$1 billion to annual government revenue.
Key Economic Indicators	GDP: 6% (2014 est.) GDP – per capita (PPP): \$6,600 (2014 est.) Labor force: 2.89 million (2011 est.)
GDP – composition by sector	Agriculture: 3.3% Industry: 74.4% Services: 22.3% (2014 est.)
Budget	Revenues: \$6.508 billion Expenditures: \$5.982 billion (2014 est.) Inflation rate: 0.9% (2014 est.) <i>note: data are in 2014 US dollars</i>
ICT Penetration	Land Line ; 16,300 subscriptions. Per 100 inhabitants is less than 1 (2014 est.) Mobile : 4.9 million subscriptions per 100 inhabitants: 106 (2014 est.)
Major ICT Companies Present	Azur, Airtel, MTN Congo, Société des Télécommunications du Congo S.A.U, Warid, Global Voice Group
ICT associations/Institutions	ARPCÉ - Agence de Régulation des Postes et des Communications Electroniques
Other ICT Indicators	2014/15 still being compiled
Source	CIA Factbook, Republic of Congo Portal