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# Chapter 1

## 56

### 1.1 56.guide

Texified version of data for Congo.

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Congo

### 1.2 56.guide/Congo

Congo

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Geography (Congo)  
 People (Congo)  
 Government (Congo)  
 Government (Congo 2. usage)  
 Economy (Congo)  
 Economy (Congo 2. usage)  
 Communications (Congo)  
 Defense Forces (Congo)

### 1.3 56.guide/Geography (Congo)

Geography (Congo)

=====

Location:

Western Africa, bordering the South Atlantic Ocean between Gabon and Zaire

Map references:

Africa, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

342,000 km<sup>2</sup>

land area:

341,500 km<sup>2</sup>

comparative area:

slightly smaller than Montana

Land boundaries:

total 5,504 km, Angola 201 km, Cameroon 523 km, Central African Republic ←  
467

km, Gabon 1,903 km, Zaire 2,410 km

Coastline:

169 km

Maritime claims:

territorial sea:

200 nm

International disputes:

long section with Zaire along the Congo River is indefinite (no division of the river or its islands has been made)

Climate:

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

Terrain:

coastal plain, southern basin, central plateau, northern basin

Natural resources:

petroleum, timber, potash, lead, zinc, uranium, copper, phosphates, natural gas

Land use:

arable land:

2%

permanent crops:

0%

meadows and pastures:  
 29%  
 forest and woodland:  
 62%  
 other:  
 7%  
 Irrigated land:  
 40 km2 (1989)  
 Environment:  
 deforestation; about 70% of the population lives in Brazzaville, Pointe  
 Noire, or along the railroad between them

## 1.4 56.guide/People (Congo)

People (Congo)

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Population:  
 2,388,667 (July 1993 est.)  
 Population growth rate:  
 2.44% (1993 est.)  
 Birth rate:  
 40.68 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
 Death rate:  
 16.28 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
 Net migration rate:  
 0 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
 Infant mortality rate:  
 112.7 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)  
 Life expectancy at birth:  
 total population:  
 48.04 years  
 male:  
 46.3 years  
 female:  
 49.84 years (1993 est.)  
 Total fertility rate:  
 5.38 children born/woman (1993 est.)  
 Nationality:  
 noun:  
 Congolese (singular and plural)  
 adjective:  
 Congolese or Congo  
 Ethnic divisions:  
 south:  
 Kongo 48%  
 north:  
 Sangha 20%, M'Bochi 12%  
 center:  
 Teke 17%, Europeans 8,500 (mostly French)  
 Religions:  
 Christian 50%, animist 48%, Muslim 2%  
 Languages:

French (official), African languages (Lingala and Kikongo are the most widely used)

Literacy:  
 age 15 and over can read and write (1990)  
 total population:  
 57%  
 male:  
 70%  
 female:  
 44%

Labor force:  
 79,100 wage earners  
 by occupation:  
 agriculture 75%, commerce, industry, and government 25%

note:  
 51% of population of working age; 40% of population economically active (1985)

## 1.5 56.guide/Government (Congo)

Government (Congo)

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Names:  
 conventional long form:  
 Republic of the Congo  
 conventional short form:  
 Congo  
 local long form:  
 Republique Populaire du Congo  
 local short form:  
 Congo  
 former:  
 Congo/Brazzaville

Digraph:  
 CF

Type:  
 republic

Capital:  
 Brazzaville

Administrative divisions:  
 9 regions (regions, singular - region) and 1 commune\*; Bouenza,, ←  
 Brazzaville\*, Cuvette,  
 Kouilou,, Lekoumou, Likouala, Niari, Plateaux, Pool,  
 Sangha

Independence:  
 15 August 1960 (from France)

Constitution:  
 8 July 1979, currently being modified

Legal system:  
 based on French civil law system and customary law

National holiday:  
 Congolese National Day, 15 August (1960)

Political parties and leaders:

Congolese Labor Party (PCT), headed by former president Denis SASSOU-NGUESSO; Union for Democratic Renewal (URD) - a coalition of opposition parties; Panafrican Union for Social Development (UPADS)

Other political or pressure groups:

Union of Congolese Socialist Youth (UJSC); Congolese Trade Union Congress (CSC); Revolutionary Union of Congolese Women (URFC); General Union of Congolese Pupils and Students (UGEEC)

Suffrage:

18 years of age; universal

Elections:

President:

last held 2-16 August 1992 (next to be held August 1997); results - President Pascal LISSOUBA won with 61% of the vote

National Assembly:

last held 24 June-19 July 1992; results - (125 total) UPADS 39, MCDDI (part of URD coalition) 29, PCT 19; more than a dozen smaller parties split the remaining 38 seats

note:

National Assembly dissolved in November 1992; next election to be held May 1993

Executive branch:

president, prime minister, Council of Ministers (cabinet)

Legislative branch:

unicameral National Assembly (Assemblée Nationale) was dissolved on NA November 1992

Judicial branch:

Supreme Court (Cour Supreme)

## 1.6 56.guide/Government (Congo 2. usage)

Government (Congo 2. usage)

=====

Leaders:

Chief of State:

President Pascal LISSOUBA (since August 1992)

Head of Government:

Prime Minister Claude Antoine DA COSTA (since December 1992)

Member of:

ACCT, ACP, AfDB, BDEAC, CCC, CEEAC, ECA, FAO, FZ, G-77, GATT, IBRD, ICAO, IDA, IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO, INTELSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, ITU, LORCS, NAM, OAU, UDEAC, UN, UNAVEM II, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNTAC, UPU, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

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chief of mission:

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 (242) 83-20-70  
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 [242] 83-63-38  
 Flag:  
 red, divided diagonally from the lower hoist side by a yellow band; the  
 upper triangle (hoist side) is green and the lower triangle is red; uses ↔  
 the  
 popular pan-African colors of Ethiopia

## 1.7 56.guide/Economy (Congo)

### Economy (Congo)

=====

#### Overview:

Congo's economy is a mixture of village agriculture and handicrafts, a  
 beginning industrial sector based largely on oil, supporting services, and ↔  
 a  
 government characterized by budget problems and overstaffing. A reform  
 program, supported by the IMF and World Bank, ran into difficulties in  
 1990-91 because of problems in changing to a democratic political regime ↔  
 and  
 a heavy debt-servicing burden. Oil has supplanted forestry as the mainstay  
 of the economy, providing about two-thirds of government revenues and  
 exports. In the early 1980s rapidly rising oil revenues enabled Congo to  
 finance large-scale development projects with growth averaging 5% annually,  
 one of the highest rates in Africa. During the period 1987-91, however,  
 growth has slowed to an average of roughly 1.5% annually, only half the  
 population growth rate. The new government, responding to pressure from  
 businessmen and the electorate, has promised to reduce the bureaucracy and  
 government regulation but little has been accomplished as of early 1993.

#### National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$2.5 billion (1991 est.)

#### National product real growth rate:

0.6% (1991 est.)

#### National product per capita:

\$1,070 (1991 est.)

#### Inflation rate (consumer prices):

-0.6% (1991 est.)

#### Unemployment rate:

NA%

#### Budget:

revenues \$765 million; expenditures \$952 million, including capital  
 expenditures of \$65 million (1990)

#### Exports:

\$1.1 billion (f.o.b., 1990)

commodities:

crude oil 72%, lumber, plywood, coffee, cocoa, sugar, diamonds  
 partners:  
 US, France, other EC countries  
 Imports:  
 \$704 million (c.i.f., 1990)  
 commodities:  
 foodstuffs, consumer goods, intermediate manufactures, capital equipment  
 partners:  
 France, Italy, other EC countries, US, Germany, Spain, Japan, Brazil  
 External debt:  
 \$4.1 billion (1991)  
 Industrial production:  
 growth rate 1.2% (1989); accounts for 33% of GDP; includes petroleum  
 Electricity:  
 140,000 kW capacity; 315 million kWh produced, 135 kWh per capita (1991)  
 Industries:  
 petroleum, cement, lumbering, brewing, sugar milling, palm oil, soap,  
 cigarette  
 Agriculture:  
 accounts for 13% of GDP (including fishing and forestry); cassava accounts  
 for 90% of food output; other crops - rice, corn, peanuts, vegetables; cash  
 crops include coffee and cocoa; forest products important export earner;  
 imports over 90% of food needs  
 Economic aid:  
 US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-90), \$63 million; Western (non-US)  
 countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-90), \$2.5 billion; OPEC  
 bilateral aid (1979-89), \$15 million; Communist countries (1970-89), \$338  
 million

## 1.8 56.guide/Economy (Congo 2. usage)

Economy (Congo 2. usage)

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Currency:

1 CFA franc (CFAF) = 100 centimes

Exchange rates:

Communaute Financiere Africaine francs (CFAF) per US\$1 - 274.06 (January  
 1993), 264.69 (1992), 282.11 (1991), 272.26 (1990), 319.01 (1989), 297.85  
 (1988)

Fiscal year:

calendar year

## 1.9 56.guide/Communications (Congo)

Communications (Congo)

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**Railroads:**

797 km, 1.067-meter gauge, single track (includes 285 km that are privately owned)

**Highways:**

11,960 km total; 560 km paved; 850 km gravel and laterite; 5,350 km ← improved earth; 5,200 km unimproved earth

**Inland waterways:**

the Congo and Ubangi (Oubangui) Rivers provide 1,120 km of commercially navigable water transport; the rest are used for local traffic only

**Pipelines:**

crude oil 25 km

**Ports:**

Pointe-Noire (ocean port), Brazzaville (river port)

**Airports:**

total:

44

usable:

41

with permanent-surface runways:

5

with runways over 3,659 m:

0

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

1

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

16

**Telecommunications:**

services adequate for government use; primary network is composed of radio relay routes and coaxial cables; key centers are Brazzaville, Pointe-Noire, and Loubomo; 18,100 telephones; broadcast stations - 4 AM, 1 FM, 4 TV; 1 Atlantic Ocean satellite earth station

## 1.10 56.guide/Defense Forces (Congo)

### Defense Forces (Congo)

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**Branches:**

Army, Navy (including Marines), Air Force, National Police

**Manpower availability:**

males age 15-49 534,802; fit for military service 272,051; reach military age (20) annually 24,190 (1993 est.)

**Defense expenditures:**

exchange rate conversion - \$NA, NA% of GDP