

# Mali

## Geography

Location: Western Africa, southwest of Algeria

Area:

total area: 1.24 million sq km

land area: 1.22 million sq km

Land boundaries: total 7,243 km, Algeria 1,376 km, Burkina 1,000 km, Guinea 858 km, Cote d'Ivoire 532 km, Mauritania 2,237 km, Niger 821 km, Senegal 419 km

Coastline: 0 km (landlocked)

Climate: subtropical to arid; hot and dry February to June; rainy, humid, and mild June to November; cool and dry November to February

Terrain: mostly flat to rolling northern plains covered by sand; savanna in south, rugged hills in northeast

Natural resources: gold, phosphates, kaolin, salt, limestone, uranium, bauxite, iron ore, manganese, tin, and copper deposits are known but not exploited

Land use:

arable land: 2%

permanent crops: 0%

meadows and pastures: 25%

forest and woodland: 7%

other: 66%

Irrigated land: 50 sq km (1989 est.)

Environment:

current issues: deforestation; soil erosion; desertification;

inadequate supplies of potable water; poaching

natural hazards: hot, dust-laden harmattan haze common during dry seasons; recurring droughts

Note: landlocked

# People

Population: 9,375,132 (July 1995 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 48% (female 2,240,565; male 2,242,373)

15-64 years: 49% (female 2,416,952; male 2,165,043)

65 years and over: 3% (female 162,234; male 147,965) (July 1995 est.)

Population growth rate: 2.89% (1995 est.)

Birth rate: 51.88 births/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Death rate: 19.93 deaths/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Net migration rate: -3 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Infant mortality rate: 104.5 deaths/1,000 live births (1995 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:

total population: 46.37 years

male: 44.7 years  
female: 48.09 years (1995 est.)

Total fertility rate: 7.33 children born/woman (1995 est.)

Nationality:  
noun: Malian(s)  
adjective: Malian

Ethnic divisions: Mande 50% (Bambara, Malinke, Sarakole), Peul 17%, Voltaic 12%, Songhai 6%, Tuareg and Moor 10%, other 5%

Religions: Muslim 90%, indigenous beliefs 9%, Christian 1%

Languages: French (official), Bambara 80%, numerous African languages

Literacy:  
total population: 19%  
male: 27%  
female: 12%

# Government

## Names:

conventional long form: Republic of Mali

conventional short form: Mali

local long form: Republique de Mali

local short form: Mali

former: French Sudan

Type: republic

Capital: Bamako

Independence: 22 September 1960 (from France)

National holiday: Anniversary of the Proclamation of the Republic,  
22 September (1960)

Constitution: adopted 12 January 1992

Suffrage: 21 years of age; universal

Flag: three equal vertical bands of green (hoist side), yellow, and red; uses the popular pan-African colors of Ethiopia

# Economy

Overview: Mali is among the poorest countries in the world, with 65% of its land area desert or semidesert. Economic activity is largely confined to the riverine area irrigated by the Niger. About 10% of the population is nomadic and some 80% of the labor force is engaged in agriculture and fishing. Industrial activity is concentrated on processing farm commodities.

Industries: minor local consumer goods production and food processing, construction, phosphate and gold mining

Agriculture: accounts for 50% of GDP; mostly subsistence farming; cotton and livestock products account for over 70% of exports; other crops - millet, rice, corn, vegetables, peanuts; livestock - cattle, sheep, goats

## Transportation

Railroads:  
total: 642 km

Highways:  
total: 15,700 km

Inland waterways: 1,815 km navigable

Ports: Koulikoro

Airports:  
total: 33

## Defence Forces

Branches: Army, Air Force, Gendarmerie, Republican Guard,  
National Guard, National Police (Surete Nationale)