

# Burkina Faso



**B**urkina Faso has significant natural resources. Eight industrial mines are currently operational. In addition to gold, the country has many other minerals it can exploit, such as nearly 20 million tonnes of manganese at Tambao. There is also bauxite at Kaya and Kongoursi, with a 1.5 million tonne capacity. The phosphate capacity is estimated at more than 63 million tonnes at Kodjari. The country also has copper, zinc, lead, iron, nickel and other minerals.

The first private industrial mines emerged over the last decade. Gold exports totalled 31.7 tonnes in 2012, contributing the equivalent of CFAf862.2 billion (US\$1.72 billion) in foreign currency in 2012. Gold helped increase the amount of foreign direct investment (FDI) in the country, from an average of CFAf3.8 billion (US\$21.5 million) between 1985 and 2002 to CFAf37.8 billion (US\$215 million) between 2003 and 2012. More than sixty international firms (Australian, Canadian, South African, etc) are involved in exploration activities. In the coming years, gold exports are expected to rise substantially with the opening of new gold, zinc and manganese mines.

Although its contribution is still relatively weak, the exploitation of natural

resources is gradually helping transform the economy. In 2012, the exploitation of mining resources represented 12.5 per cent of GDP, compared to less than 1 per cent in 2005.

The exploitation of natural resources still has a very limited impact on the economy as a whole, and even less of an impact on the local areas of the sites and the people living in those areas. Taxes and royalties must be paid for mining, and in 2012 the government collected CFAf188.69 billion (US\$381 million), less than 20 per cent of total government revenue. This mining revenue is injected straight into the national or municipal resources, and can be used for any budget stream. There is no specific mechanism to allocate resources obtained from gold.

Production is exported without any local processing. Some local inputs are used in the production of gold. These include water, fuel, land, labour and technical services (geophysics, geochemistry and sampling). The technical services are often insufficient in terms of quality, quantity or both. In total, mining contributes to creating only 5,000 jobs, most of which are low skilled.

The *African Economic Outlook 2013* (AEO), published jointly by the African

## KEY FACTS

**Official name:** République Démocratique Populaire de Burkina Faso (Popular Democratic Republic of Burkina Faso)

**Head of State:** President Blaise Compaoré (from 1987; re-elected 21 Nov 2010)

**Head of government:** Prime Minister Luc-Adolphe Tiao (from 18 Apr 2011)

**Ruling party:** Congrès pour la Démocratie et le Progrès (CDP) (Congress for Democracy and Progress) (since 1997; re-elected May 2007; Dec 2012)

**Area:** 274,000 square km

**Population:** 17.36 million (2012)\*

**Capital:** Ouagadougou

**Official language:** French

**Currency:** CFA franc (CFAf) = 100 centimes (Communauté Financière Africaine (African Financial Community) franc).

**Exchange rate:** CFAf495.02 per US\$ (Jul 2013); CFAf655.95 per euro (pegged from Jan 1999)

**GDP per capita:** US\$603 (2012)\*

**GDP real growth:** 8.07% (2012)\*

**GDP:** US\$10.46 billion (2012)\*

**Labour force:** 6.67 million (2007) (excludes seasonal, expatriate numbers)

**Inflation:** 3.60% (2012)\*

**Balance of trade:** -US\$513.00 million (2009)\*

\* estimated figure

Development Bank and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, notes that structural transformation of the economy remains slow. Gold and cotton are the main export products, accounting respectively for 69 per cent and 18 per cent of total exports in 2012. Other products with a strong potential include livestock products, fruits and vegetables, shea butter, peanuts and sesame. Very little processing of these products is done locally before export, although there are investment opportunities and possibilities to subcontract to local or foreign companies. Gold, for instance, is refined to 18 carats before export; all further refinement taking place outside Africa. Cotton is exported immediately after ginning. About 1 per cent is used locally by the local spinning company. By-products (cottonseed cakes, oil, etc) are used by other companies to produce animal feed and soap. Although exported raw, cotton has helped structure local economies. It has boosted trade and enabled a series of industries to develop, including oil mills and soap factories. Cottonseed cakes are an important food supplement for livestock and play an essential role in intensive livestock farming in Burkina Faso. Cotton farming has created more than 250,000 jobs, and almost 3 million people in Burkina Faso live directly or indirectly from the cotton industry. As a result of the cotton-sector crisis of the past five years, production has diversified somewhat towards cereals (maize), sesame and cowpeas.

The government has recognised the need to strengthen policies to diversify and transform the economy by improving the value chains of agricultural, forestry and livestock products with a high potential. For this reason, as part of its Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Sustainable

Development (SCADD), adopted in late 2010 for the period 2011–15, the government is focusing on creating growth poles. The Bagré pole is currently in the experimental phase.

Gold production has reduced the country's heavy dependence on a single export commodity (cotton). It has not resulted in 'Dutch disease', and therefore has not damaged agricultural production. Gold mining sites are supposed to be closed during the rainy season, so in theory mining complements agriculture. Nevertheless, sometimes fields are spoilt by gold prospecting. Schools are also deserted in certain areas where gold has been discovered.

The wounds opened up by civil unrest in 2011 were treated in 2012. The joint general and local elections of December 2012 ran relatively smoothly, helping to restore social and political normality. The peaceful elections were deemed satisfactory by all political parties and the international community, despite a few minor disputes leading to cancelled votes at some polling stations. The results strengthened the Congrès pour la Démocratie et le Progrès (CDP) (Congress for Democracy and Progress) ruling party, which claimed the majority of seats both in the National Assembly and in local councils. Apart from increasing its majority, the ruling party was hoping to achieve the two-thirds majority it would need to push constitutional changes through parliament. In the end the ruling party won 70 of the 127 seats available, and therefore, without the required 75 per cent, will not be able to change the constitution unilaterally. The election also saw a redistribution of roles among the opposition parties. The main risks to the country's stability are essentially political and security-related. Trouble could break out as a result of any changes to Article 37

of the Constitution (which restricts the president to two terms in office), and insecurity could worsen in the Sahel as a result of the Malian crisis.

### The economy

Burkina Faso's economy is slowly recovering from the social crisis that occurred in the first six months of 2011. The authorities believe the crisis affected the economy throughout 2012, making growth 0.5 percentage points lower than it should have been. However, thanks to good rainfall real GDP growth in 2012 is estimated to have almost doubled from 4.4 per cent to 8.0 per cent.

The economic outlook for 2013 is good, with provisional forecasts predicting growth of 6.7 per cent or higher, compared with the 8.0 per cent in 2012. Growth will remain in the 6–8 per cent range thanks to the vitality of the primary and tertiary sectors, which are the driving forces of the economy. The primary sector is the cornerstone of Burkina Faso's economy, driven by food crops (11.0 per cent of GDP), cash crops (3.5 per cent of GDP) and livestock (11.3 per cent of GDP). These three sub-sectors influence the secondary and tertiary sectors. The primary sector's strong vulnerability to climatic vagaries makes the pillars of Burkina Faso's economy fragile. Gold production – the main pillar of the secondary sector – experienced a sharp slowdown in 2012, with negative growth of 0.7 per cent compared with strong growth of 39.4 per cent in 2011. This downturn was caused by delays in opening the Bissa Gold mine. Growth should pick up again in 2013, with production expected to increase by at least 10.4 per cent. Inflationary pressures will be contained at 2.2 per cent in 2013 (down from 3.6 per cent in 2012), and therefore below the convergence of the Economic and Monetary Union of West Africa (UEMOA).

### Outlook

Burkina Faso is involved in an economic-growth acceleration programme. It intends to implement a new growth model based around the growth poles, including the Bagré pole, the first of its kind. The aim is to ensure that natural resources are exploited efficiently, especially in the agricultural sector, by growing the value chain of certain promising sectors (livestock goods, fruit and vegetables, shea butter, sesame) through agribusiness to reduce the country's dependence on gold and cotton. To enhance its competitiveness and promote intra-regional trade,

### KEY INDICATORS

### Burkina Faso

	Unit	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Population	m	14.04	14.37	*14.70	*15.03	*17.36
Gross domestic product (GDP)	US\$bn	8.29	8.11	8.83	10.10	*10.46
GDP per capita	US\$	591	564	536	600	*603
GDP real growth	%	5.2	3.2	7.9	5.6	*8.1
Inflation	%	10.7	2.6	2.8	2.8	*3.6
Current account	US\$m	-964.0	-395.0	-209.0	-115.0	*-494.0
Total reserves minus gold	US\$m	926.3	1,295.8	1,068.2	–	1,025.0
Foreign exchange	US\$m	914.8	1,208.8	982.5	–	939.0
Exchange rate	per US\$	418.59	472.19	495.28	466.82	497.16

\* estimated figure

Burkina Faso is also developing infrastructure to integrate roads, energy and information and communication technologies (ICTs).

The political sphere in 2012 was marked by simultaneous municipal and general elections in December. The general election brought about a new distribution of roles between the opposition and coalition led by the President, which took a majority of seats (70 out of 127). However, it is a slim majority, which prevents the coalition from unilaterally removing the constitutional restriction (particularly Article 37) limiting the president to two terms of office. Political observers believe this constitutional matter will remain a major concern for the country's short- and medium-term stability. In the midst of this, government measures taken in 2011 to tackle the social crisis have had mixed results. The Mali crisis presents a new threat that could damage social stability. The government is faced with three main political and economic challenges: rapidly resolving the Mali crisis, which could affect budgetary decisions, resulting in greater spending on security and defence (and consequently lower spending on other items); improving the functioning of institutions, especially the judicial system; and implementing good governance.

### Risk assessment

Politics	Fair
Economy	Fair
Regional stability	Poor

### COUNTRY PROFILE

#### Historical profile

1958 The country was given self-government.

1960 Granted full independence from France as Upper Volta. Maurice Yameogo became first president.

1966 Yameogo was ousted in a military coup by Colonel Sangoule Lamizama.

1970 A new constitution was agreed by a referendum, it detailed the introduction of an elected president and civilian administration by 1975.

1974 Lamizama suspended the constitution and assumed the presidency.

1978 Multiparty elections for president and the National Assembly were held. Lamizama and his followers won and he retained the presidency.

1980 Yameogo, was overthrown in a coup by Colonel Saye Zerbo.

1982 Major Jean-Baptiste Ouédraogo overthrew Zerbo.

1983 Captain Thomas Sankara led a coup and took over as president.

1984 Upper Volta's name was changed to the Popular Democratic Republic of Burkina Faso.

1987 Sankara was assassinated. Captain Blaise Compaoré seized power backed by the Organisation pour la Démocratie Populaire-Mouvement du Travail (ODP-MT) (Organization for People's Democracy-Workers' Movement).

1991 A new constitution established a semi-presidential government. Compaoré was elected president, following the withdrawal of opposition candidates.

1992 The ODP-MT won a convincing victory in the national legislature elections.

1996 The ODP-MT merged with the Parti pour la Démocratie et le Progrès (Party for Democracy and Progress) to become the Congrès pour la Démocratie et le Progrès (CDP) (Congress for Democracy and Progress).

1998 Compaoré won the presidential election, which was boycotted by opposition parties.

1999 Prime Minister Ouédraogo and his cabinet resigned, but he and his cabinet were reinstated by presidential decree.

2000 The constitution was amended so that presidential terms were limited to two and a limit of five years per term was imposed. A UN report accused the president of not only allowing Burkina Faso to be involved in sanctions busting of UN embargoes on Angola but also of being in personal receipt of payments for diamond smuggling activities undertaken through his country by Unita rebels.

2001 International donors agreed to fund a US\$85 million programme to combat Burkina Faso's HIV/Aids epidemic.

2002 The Chambre des Représentants (House of Representatives) was abolished. The CDP retained its majority in National Assembly elections.

2005 Opposition parties objected to President Compaoré's third time running for office saying it defied the constitution. The Constitutional Court ruled that since the constitution was changed after his first term in office his candidacy was acceptable. Blaise Compaoré was re-elected president with 80.3 per cent of the votes, while Bénéwendé Stanislas Sankara won 4.9 per cent. Turnout was 57.5 per cent.

2007 In the general elections the ruling CDP won 73 seats (out of 111). Tertius Zongo became prime minister following Paramanga Ernest Yonli's resignation.

2009 A national 'free birth certificate' programme began, which started the process of enfranchising all citizens. Other documentation and services such as passports and access to education will flow from the scheme and should cut, not only the ease with which trafficked children are exploited, but also deter child marriages. The ruins of Loropéni were added to

Unesco's prestigious list of world heritage sites. Situated close to the border of Côte d'Ivoire, the stone enclosure is an historic site that is a tangible link with the past trans-Saharan gold trade.

2010 Heavy rains caused two dams in the east to brake and over 20,000 people were made homeless. Seven candidates took part in presidential elections. As expected incumbent President Blaise Compaoré won, with 81 per cent of the vote, his nearest rival, Hama Arba Diallo, won 8 per cent. Turnout was reported to be so low that the president turned to the media to encourage people to vote. The official declaration was a turnout of 53 per cent.

2011 Prime Minister Zongo and his government resigned in January. He was re-appointed immediately and chose a new (but almost unchanged) cabinet. The conflict in Côte d'Ivoire disrupted supplies to land-locked Burkina Faso and also pushed up prices for processed foods such as dried milk, sugar and vegetable oil. In April gunfire was heard in Ouagadougou, at an elite barracks of the presidential guard, as members ram-paged through the city protesting at unpaid housing allowances. The mutiny lasted until a curfew was finally imposed on 16 April. A day later the government of Prime Minister Tertius Zongo was dissolved. Luc-Adolphe Tiao was appointed prime minister; the unrest had spread to the north as people demonstrated against the high cost of food. The mutiny spread to a fourth city. On 21 April Compaoré appointed himself minister of defence in a cabinet reshuffle. In July the World Bank announced a grant of US\$23 million to enhance the information communication technology infrastructure in Burkina Faso. 2012 The head of the customs service, Ousmane Guiro, was sacked following the seizure of almost US\$4 million in currency found in two suitcases traced back to Guiro. On 12 June, parliament granted amnesty and immunity from prosecution to President Compaoré and all previous heads of state in Burkina Faso. On 27 July, there were an estimated 100,000 Malian refugees in Burkina Faso and the UNHCR warned that there was a funding shortfall with a food supply limited to September. Parliamentary elections took place on 2 December, of which 127 seats were elected by proportional representation (PR) and 16 seats through party lists. The party list results were published first: CDP won 48.66 per cent (eight seats, out of 16), ADF-RDA 11.24 per cent (two), Union pour le Progrès et la Réforme (UPR) (Union for Progress and Reform) 11.09 per cent (two); four other political parties each won one seat, 67 other parties failed to win any seats. The

PR seats were mostly won by CDP with 62 (total 70 seats).  
2013

### Political structure

#### Constitution

Constitutional changes were adopted in January 1997. These included the abolition of the limit of two seven-year terms for the president, and an increase in the number of seats in the legislature from 107 to 111.

#### Form of state

Unitary and secular state

#### The executive

Executive power is vested in the head of state (the president), who is elected by universal suffrage for a seven-year term. The president may serve unlimited terms. The Council of Ministers is appointed by the president on the recommendation of the prime minister who is also appointed by the president, with the consent of the legislature.

#### National legislature

The unicameral Assemblée des Députés Populaires (ADP) (National Assembly) has 111 members, elected by proportional representation from party lists, to serve five-year terms.

The Chambre des Représentants (House of Representatives) (upper chamber) was abolished in 2002.

#### Last elections

21 November 2010 (presidential); 2 December 2012 (parliamentary)

**Results:** Presidential: Blaise Compaoré won 81 per cent of the vote, Hama Arba Diallo 8 per cent, Bénéwendé Stanislas Sankara 5.5 per cent; turnout was 53 per cent.

Parliamentary: Congrès pour la Démocratie et le Progrès (CDP) (Congress for Democracy and Progress) won 48.7 per cent (70 seats out of 127), Alliance pour la Démocratie et la Fédération-Rassemblement Démocratique Africain (ADF-RDA) (Alliance for Democracy and Federation-African Democratic Rally) 11.2 per cent (19), Union pour le Progrès et la Réforme (UPR) (Union for Progress and Reform) 11.1 per cent (19), Union pour la Renaissance-Mouvement Sankariste (UpR-MR) (Union for Re-birth-Sankarist Movement) 4.4 per cent (four), Union pour la République (UR) (Union for the Republic) 3.1 per cent (four); eight other political parties each won less than 3 per cent and shared the remaining 11 seats. Turnout was 79.9 per cent.

#### Next elections

2015 (presidential); 2017 (parliamentary)

### Political parties

#### Ruling party

Congrès pour la Démocratie et le Progrès (CDP) (Congress for Democracy and

Progress) (since 1997; re-elected May 2007; Dec 2012)

#### Main opposition party

Alliance pour la Démocratie et la Fédération-Rassemblement Démocratique Africain (ADF-RDA) (Alliance for Democracy and Federation-African Democratic Rally) is the largest opposition party.

### Population

17.36 million (2012)\*

Approximately 46 per cent of the population are under 15 years. An estimated two million Burkinabes live in neighbouring Côte d'Ivoire.

**Last census:** 9 December 2006: 14,017,262

**Population density:** 39 inhabitants per square km. Urban population 26 per cent (2010 Unicef).

**Annual growth rate:** 2.8 per cent, 1990–2010 (Unicef).

#### Ethnic make-up

There are a number of ethnic groups, the most numerous of whom are the Mossi in the north (49 per cent), the Gourma in the east and the Bobo in the south-west.

Other sizeable groups include the Fulani, the Hausa, the nomadic Tuareg with their Bella domestic serfs in the north-west and the Lobi in the south.

#### Religions

Animist (55 per cent), Muslim (40 per cent), Catholic (5 per cent).

### Education

Only two in five children are able to attend school, due to the chronic lack of places.

Burkina Faso secured financial aid from the international donor community in 2002, in the form of a three-year package aimed at building capacity in education. The agreement encompassed the Education For All Fast Track Initiative (EFA-FTI) with the goal of providing every child with primary school education by 2015. The first phase of financing is aimed at the 1.2 million children currently unable to attend primary school. The initial financing will also be used to train new teachers, pay teachers' salaries, build new schools, help education systems, respond to HIV/Aids, and put in place other steps to ensure a quality primary education for all children.

French is the language used in schools, although most children will not have heard any spoken at home. School fees are charged although payment can be deferred until after harvest. About 10 per cent of schools are run outside the state system.

**Literacy rate:** 13 per cent adult rate; 19 per cent youth rate (15–24) (Unesco 2005).

**Pupils per teacher:** 47 in primary schools.

### Health

A CFA6 billion, 10 year (2006–15) plan to make contraceptives available throughout the country is supported by the USAID and the UN Population Fund. The government believes that increasing the use of contraception will help reduce the maternal mortality rate, which at 484 per 100,000 births is one of the highest in West Africa.

#### HIV/Aids

In 2009, there were an estimated 110,000 people living with HIV (Unicef 2012).

**HIV prevalence:** 1.2 per cent aged 15–49 in 2009 (Unicef 2012)

**Life expectancy:** 55 years, 2010 (Unicef 2012)

**Fertility rate/Maternal mortality rate:** 5.9 births per woman, 2010 (Unicef 2012)

**Child (under 5 years) mortality rate (per 1,000):** 102 per 1,000 live births (WHO 2012); 34 per cent of children aged under five are malnourished (World Bank).

### Welfare

The Social Insurance Scheme provides benefits for old age pensions, disability and a survivor's fund. The fund is open to workers who contribute 4.5 per cent of the wages and this is matched by their employer.

The government announced a national 'free birth certificate' programme in May 2009, which will begin the process of enfranchisement for all. Other documentation and services such as passports and access to education will flow from the scheme. It should also cut not only the ease with which trafficked children are exploited but also deter child marriages.

### Main cities

Ouagadougou (capital, estimated population 1.6 million in 2012), Bobo Dioulasso (537,728), Banfora (93,750), Koudougou (91,981), Ouahigouya (86,569), Pouytenga (84,156).

### Languages spoken

African languages include More, Dioula, Gourmantche and Peul. French is the universal medium for documentation.

#### Official language/s

French

### Media

The government regulates the media through the Ministry of Communications and Culture.

#### Press

**Dailies:** In French, *Sidwaya* ([www.sidwaya.bf](http://www.sidwaya.bf)), is the official government newspaper, other private publications include *Le Pays* ([www.lepays.bf](http://www.lepays.bf)) and *L'Observateur Paalga* ([www.lobservateur.bf](http://www.lobservateur.bf)).

**Weeklies:** In French, magazines or week-end editions of daily newspapers include *L'Observateur Dimanche* ([www.lobserveur.bf](http://www.lobserveur.bf)), *Bendré* ([www.journalbendre.net](http://www.journalbendre.net)), *Indépendant* ([www.independant.bf](http://www.independant.bf)), *L'Opinion* ([www.zedcom.bf](http://www.zedcom.bf)), *Journal du Jeudi* ([www.journaldujeudi.com](http://www.journaldujeudi.com)), is a satirical magazine. *L'Événement* ([www.evenement-bf.net](http://www.evenement-bf.net)), is published fortnightly.

#### Broadcasting

The national, public broadcaster is Radio Télévision du Burkina (RTB) ([www.tnb.bf](http://www.tnb.bf)).

**Radio:** For most of the population radio is the primary means of accessing news and information. There are many private and community stations in operation. Radio Burkina (RTB) ([www.radio.bf](http://www.radio.bf)) has a national network with regional services, broadcasting in French and 13 local languages. Private stations include Savane FM ([www.savanefm.bf](http://www.savanefm.bf)), Africa No 1 ([www.africa1.com](http://www.africa1.com)), Radios Gambidi, Pular and Horizon FM and Radio Maria Burkina Faso ([www.radiomaria.org](http://www.radiomaria.org)) run by the Catholic Church.

**Television:** The public TV service is La Télévision du Burkina (RTB) ([www.tnb.bf](http://www.tnb.bf)), which transmits programmes in French and local languages. Alternatively Canal 3 ([www.tvcanal3.com](http://www.tvcanal3.com)), is a private, commercial TV station. There is satellite TV, primarily from French sources but with other international services available.

**National news agency:** Agence d'Information du Burkina

#### Economy

Burkina Faso is one of the poorest countries in the world, with a per capita income of US\$580 in 2009 and estimated at US\$550 in 2010. The majority of the population work in agriculture, typically in subsistence farming, which constitutes 20 per cent of GDP and livestock (goats and cattle) a further 10 per cent.

Cotton was the principle export revenue earner until 2010 when exports of gold provided the major source of foreign exchange; gold exports by volume were 5.6 tonnes in 2008 which grew to an estimated 23.1 tonnes in 2010. Industry, particularly gold mining, and manufacturing constitutes 15–20 per cent of GDP, while the service sector, including transport and communications, construction and government services constitutes around 50 per cent of GDP. However, unemployment is very high, estimated at around 77 per cent in 2004, which encourages migration.

GDP growth was an estimated 3.2 per cent in 2009, down from 5.2 per cent in 2008, due to the increased price of world commodities, a fall in remittances and a weakening of private sector activity.

Economic recovery was strong in 2010, estimated at 7.9 per cent and predicted to grow by 5.6–5.8 per cent in 2011–12. The economy, despite positive developments, remains fragile and vulnerable to weather conditions and world commodity prices. The growing strength of the economy is encouraging foreign support for poverty reduction and reform; foreign donors provided US\$63 per capita in 2008, up from US\$30 in 2000.

In 2011, the UN Human Development Index (HDI) ranked Burkina Faso 181 (out of 187) for national development in health, education and income. Since 2005 (beginning of the earliest records for the HDI), Burkina Faso's progress has shown overall growth in development factors, but they are markedly below the improvement of other sub-Saharan African countries. In 2010, 64.9 per cent of the population experienced at least one indicator of poverty. Remittances averaged US\$111 million (2009–11), around 1.4 per cent of GDP in 2010.

In January 2010 the government implemented a poverty reduction social expenditure programme, focussing on education and health, committing 25.4 per cent of all government expenditure (6.4 per cent of GDP) to this programme. The civil unrest and ensuing instability in neighbouring Côte d'Ivoire added to Burkina Faso's problems at the time. Resources had to be diverted for humanitarian assistance; over one million refugees sought shelter and extra security measures were implemented. The export of cotton via rail through Côte d'Ivoire to the coast was curtailed for a time but by early 2012 was recovering.

#### External trade

As a member of the Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas), Burkina Faso is also a member of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) using the common currency, the CFA franc. Remittances from seasonal workers add to the balance of trade.

Industries include gold mining, processed food and cotton, brewing and bottling.

#### Imports

Main imports are machinery, foodstuffs, fuel and energy, and capital goods.

**Main sources:** Côte d'Ivoire (typically 24 per cent of total), France (20 per cent), Togo (6 per cent).

#### Exports

Main exports include gold, cotton, live animals, hides and skins.

**Main destinations:** Singapore (typically 17 per cent of total), Belgium (13 per cent), China (8 per cent).

#### Agriculture

Total agricultural land is 27.4 million hectares of which 21.9 per cent is pasture and 21.6 per cent arable.

It accounts for around 65 per cent of export earnings. Over 80 per cent of the population is engaged in subsistence farming and nomadic stock raising.

Burkina Faso is prone to drought and has poor soil. Only 10 per cent of the total land area is cultivated. There are plans to mechanise farming and open up new areas for development. Government figures released in June 2011 warned that deforestation was occurring by 110,550 hectares (he) every year (4 per cent of wooded area). The chief cause is agricultural encroachment. The eastern region of Komienga was the worst hit with the loss of over 100,000he each year. Other factors in the loss of forests include the demand for firewood, decreased rainfall and bush fires. An increase in the population has also placed an added burden on food production.

Principal food crops are sorghum, millet, yams, maize, rice and beans.

Cotton is the main cash crop and is the country's principal foreign exchange earner; others are sheanuts, sesame and sugar cane.

Livestock production is concentrated in the north, mainly for export to Côte d'Ivoire (which has severely restricted its Burkinabé beef imports in recent years) and Ghana.

#### Industry and manufacturing

The industrial sector as a whole contributes around 20 per cent to GDP and employs 10 per cent of the workforce; manufacturing contributes 13.5 per cent. Production is centred on the processing of agricultural commodities (flour milling, sugar refining, manufacture of cotton yarn and textiles) and production of consumer goods, including moped/bicycle assembly, footwear and soap manufacture. Foreign investment is minimal and development remains handicapped by the chronic shortages of raw materials and spares.

#### Tourism

The level of tourism has grown, as have the facilities to provide for visitors. The capital, Ouagadougou, boasts a range of hotels from five-star to modest pensions. The city and its region is the base of many cultural festivals that attract not only tourists but also business conferences. There are four national parks with extensive wildlife and which provide specific holidays tailored for individual enthusiasts. The travel and tourism sector constitutes around 3.5 per cent of GDP and around 3 per cent of total employment. European visitors represent the largest group – around 30 per cent of all tourists are

French. Although nomadic people in the north welcome visitors, foreign governments warn their nationals not to travel to this area due to episodes of kidnapping by Islamic terrorists affiliated to al Qaeda. International aid has helped this poor country to develop its infrastructure to provide facilities for tourists in order to bring in foreign earnings. The growth of internet bookings is a sign of the country using modern techniques to market itself.

### Environment

In June 2010 the African Union backed a proposal to build the 'Great Green Wall' project, of a 15km wide, 7,775km long, continuous belt of trees from Senegal in the west to Djibouti in the east (traversing 11 countries) in an effort to halt the advance of the Sahara Desert. The trees to be used would be drought-adapted, preferably native to the area from a list of 37 possible species, and should help to slow soil erosion and filter rain water.

### Mining

The sector contributes around 7 per cent to GDP and employs 2 per cent of the workforce.

Activity is confined to extraction of gold-bearing quartz at Poura (reserves estimated at 30 tonnes), marble and antimony.

There are viable deposits of zinc and silver at Perkoa, and some 15 million tonnes of manganese deposits at Tambao, as well as known reserves of limestone, bauxite, nickel, phosphates and lead.

Exploitation of resources is hindered by weak infrastructure.

Burkina Faso has a geological structure similar to that of the world's richest gold producing areas.

### Hydrocarbons

There are no known reserves of hydrocarbons and Burkina Faso relies entirely on imports of refined oil (9,000 barrels per day in 2008, mainly gasoline and distillate). Nigeria has used trade deals of oil with Burkina Faso as a way of improving relations.

### Energy

Total installed generating capacity was 236MW in 2007, of which 85 per cent is supplied by thermal power. Electricity distribution is overseen by the Société Nationale Burkinabe d'Electricité (Sonabel). Only 14 per cent of the country, mainly the urban areas, has access to electricity and there is no national electricity grid. There are several dams producing hydropower, all publicly owned and accounting for 32MW, with an additional 75MW planned. Private energy generation is only used for private purposes.

Some electricity is imported from Côte d'Ivoire. Electricity is regarded as crucial to the country's development and the government is keen to extend transmission lines and improve supply to meet growing demand. The rural population relies on biomass, typically wood fuel, for cooking, lighting and power, which is leading to deforestation and desertification in some areas.

In May 2009, the Canadian company Semafo announced its partnership with the government to undertake a feasibility study to construct a 20MW solar power system to provide low cost electricity.

### Financial markets

Burkina Faso has no stock exchange.

### Stock exchange

Afribourse (Bourse Régionale des Valeurs Mobilières) (BRVM)

### Banking and insurance

The banking sector has undergone liberalisation in recent years, with the government restricting its involvement to around a quarter of the sector.

### Central bank

Banque Centrale des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (central banking authority for the members of the West African Monetary Union)

### Main financial centre

Ouagadougou

### Time

GMT

### Geography

Burkina Faso is a landlocked country in West Africa, bordered by Mali to the west and north, by Niger to the east, and by Benin, Togo, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire to the south.

Burkina Faso is a generally flat country. The north lies in the Sahel region, the semi-arid fringes of the Sahara desert. To the south-west there are hills. The highest point in the country, Ténakourou, which rises to 749m, is in this region. Rainfall is negligible in the Sahel area, but is heavier to south, supporting areas of wooded savannah, rice-growing and large plantations.

The main rivers, which flow southwards into Lake Volta in Ghana, are the Mahoun, Nakambé and Nazinon (formerly known as the Black, White and Red Volta rivers respectively). Other rivers include tributaries of the Niger. Only the Mahoun flows throughout the year, the rest being seasonal. There are many lakes.

### Hemisphere

Northern

### Climate

The climate is tropical. The dry season runs from November–March, when the

Harmattan wind blows, keeping the humidity low. Temperatures in Ouagadougou range from 14 degrees Celsius (C) at night to over 35 degrees C during the day. The main rainy season is from June–October. The highest rainfall is in the south, lowest in the far north where an arid desert climate prevails.

### Entry requirements

#### Passports

Required by all, except holders of national identity cards issued to nationals of Ecowas countries.

Passports must have at least six months validity.

#### Visa

Required by all, except nationals of Ecowas countries and transit travellers. Applications for tourist and business visas should include itineraries and vaccination certificates against yellow fever. Business visas require a company letter of introduction.

An onward or return ticket is also required.

#### Currency advice/regulations

There are no restrictions on the import/export of foreign currency or local currency.

### Health (for visitors)

#### Mandatory precautions

Yellow fever vaccination certificate.

#### Advisable precautions

Typhoid, tetanus, hepatitis A and polio vaccinations are recommended. Malaria prophylaxis should be taken as risk exists throughout the country. Water precautions are also advisable. There is a risk of rabies. Visitors should seek advice with regard to vaccinations for diphtheria, hepatitis B, meningitis and tuberculosis.

### Hotels

Hotels are available in Ouagadougou and Bobo Dioulasso with limited availability elsewhere. It is advisable to book in advance. Service is included in bills and gratuities are customary for taxis and porters.

### Public holidays (national)

#### Fixed dates

1 Jan (New Year's Day), 3 Jan (Anniversary of the 1966 Coup d'État), 8 Mar (Women's Day), 1 May (Labour Day), 4 Aug (Revolution Day), 5 Aug (Independence Day), 15 Aug (Assumption Day), 15 Oct (Anniversary of the 1987 Coup d'État), 1 Nov (All Saints' Day), 11 Dec (Proclamation of the Republic), 25 Dec (Christmas Day).

#### Variable dates

Easter Monday, Ascension Day, Eid al Adha, Eid al Fitr, Islamic New Year, Birth of the Prophet.

**Islamic year 1435 (5 Nov 2013–24 Oct 2014):** The Islamic year contains 354 or 355 days, with the result that

Muslim feasts advance by 10–12 days against the Gregorian calendar. Dates of feasts vary according to the sighting of the new moon, so cannot be forecast accurately.

### Working hours

#### Banking

Mon–Thur: 0730–1130 and 1500–1600; Fri: open to 1700.

#### Business

Mon–Fri: 0730–1230 and 1500–1730.

#### Government

Mon–Fri: 0730–1230 and 1500–1730.

#### Shops

(Mon–Sat) 0800–1300 and 1500–1900; (Sun) 0800–1200.

### Telecommunications

The telephone company ONATEL was privatised in 2009.

### Electricity supply

220/380 V AC, 50 cycles.

### Getting there

#### Air

**National airline:** Air Burkina

**International airport/s:** Ouagadougou (OUA), 8km from city, banks, shops, post office, restaurants, car hire.

**Other airport/s:** Bobo Dioulasso (BOY), 16km from city.

#### Surface

**Road:** Most practical during dry seasons – from Mali (Bamako), Côte d'Ivoire (Abidjan) and Niger (Niamey), when buses operate on these routes. Land journeys are also possible from Ghana, Benin and Togo. Skirmishing between rival political factions makes it advisable to check conditions locally before departure.

**Rail:** Ouagadougou is linked to Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) by an express service, which operates up to three times a week. Sleeping and dining cars.

### Getting about

#### National transport

**Air:** Air Burkina serves Ouagadougou, Bobo Dioulasso and other main centres. Bobo Dioulasso is the main domestic airport.

**Road:** Conditions vary; some roads are only passable in dry season, although international roads are all-weather.

**Buses:** Services between Ouagadougou and main towns. Advance booking advisable.

**Rail:** Daily service runs Ouagadougou–Bobo Dioulasso and on to Côte d'Ivoire; two classes; some trains have restaurant cars, sleeping accommodation and air-conditioning. Service can become overcrowded.

#### City transport

**Taxis:** Unmetered and available in main centres. A 10 per cent tip is usually given.

**Buses, trams & metro:** Frequent in Ouagadougou and Bobo Dioulasso.

#### Car hire

National licence plus permit or international driving licence required. Use of chauffeur-driven cars advised.

## BUSINESS DIRECTORY

The addresses listed below are a selection only. While World of Information makes every endeavour to check these addresses, we cannot guarantee that changes have not been made, especially to telephone numbers and area codes. We would welcome any corrections.

### Telephone area codes

The international direct dialling code (IDD) for Burkina Faso is +226, followed by subscriber's number.

### Useful telephone numbers

Police: 17

Fire: 18

Ambulance: 3066-43/44/45

### Chambers of Commerce

Burkina Faso Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Handicrafts, 118/220 Rue 3.119, 01 PO Box 502, Ouagadougou (tel: 306-114; fax: 306-116; e-mail: ccia-bf@ccia.bf).

### Banking

Banque Internationale du Burkina, BP 1336, Av Nelson Mandela 800, Ouagadougou 01 (tel: 307-888, 307-878; fax: 310628).

Banque Internationale du Burkina SA, BP 362, Rue de la Chance, Ouagadougou 01 (tel: 306-170, 306-171; fax: 300-171, 310-094).

Banque Internationale pour le Commerce, l'Industrie et l'Agriculture du Burkina SA, BP 8, Avenue Dr Kwamé N'Krumah 479, Ouagadougou 01 (tel: 306-226/8, 306-227; fax: 311-955).

Caisse Nationale de Crédit Agricole du Burkina (CNCAB), BP 1644, Avenue Gamal Abdel Nasser 2, Ouagadougou 01 (tel: 333-333).

Ecobank-Burkina, BP 145, Rue Maurice Bishop 633, Espace Fadima, Ouagadougou 01 (tel: 318-975, 318-980; fax: 318-981, 318-982).

Société Générale de Banque au Burkina (SGBB), BP 585, Rue du Marché 4, Ouagadougou 01 (tel: 323-232; fax: 310-561).

### Central bank

Banque Centrale des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest, Avenue Gamal Abdel Nasser, PO Box 356, Ouagadougou (tel: 306-015; fax: 310-122).

### Stock exchange

Afribourse (Bourse Régionale des Valeurs Mobilières) (BRVM), www.brvm.org

### Travel information

Air Burkina, Avenue de la Nation, BP 1459, Ouagadougou 016 (tel: 5030-7676; fax: 5031-4517).

Direction du Tourisme et de l'Hôtellerie, BP 624, Ouagadougou 01 (tel: 306-399; fax: 311-904).

### Ministry of tourism

Ministry of Culture, Arts and Tourism, 03 BP 7007, Ouagadougou 03 (tel: 5033-0963; fax: 5033-0964; e-mail: webmestre-mcat@mcc.gov.bf).

### National tourist organisation offices

Office Nationale du Tourisme Burkinabè, BP 1311, Avenue Frobénus, Ouagadougou 01 (tel: 311-959; fax: 314-434).

### Ministries

Ministry of Agriculture, 03 BP 7005, Ouagadougou 03 (tel: 324-114).

Ministry of Administration, 03 BP 7034, Ouagadougou 03 (tel: 324-833).

Ministry of Commerce and Industry, 01 BP 365 Ouagadougou 01 (tel: 324-786).

Ministry of Communications, 03 BP 7045, Ouagadougou 03 (tel: 324-833).

Ministry of Defence, 01 BP 496, Ouagadougou 01 (tel: 307-214).

Ministry of Education, 03 BP 7032, Ouagadougou 03 (tel: 324-870).

Ministry of Employment and Social Security, 03 BP 7016, Ouga 03 (tel: 310-960).

Ministry of Energy and Mines, 01 BP 3922 Ouagadougou 01 (tel: 324-786).

Ministry of the Environment and Water, 03 BP 7044 Ouagadougou 01 (tel: 324-074).

Ministry of the Family, 01 BP 515, Ouagadougou 01 (tel: 310-960).

Ministry of Finance and Economy, 03 BP 7012, Ouagadougou 03 (tel: 306-995).

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 03 BP 7038, Ouagadougou 03 (tel: 324-733; fax: 308-792; internet: www.mae.gov.bf/).

Ministry of Health, 03 P 7009, Ouagadougou (tel: 324-158).

Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, 03 BP 7047, Ouagadougou 03 (tel: 324-567).

Ministry of Integration and African Affairs, 01 BP 6943, Ouagadougou 01 (tel: 324-833).

Ministry of the Interior, 03 BP 7011, Ouagadougou 03 (tel: 324-905).

Ministry of Justice, 01 BP 526, Ouagadougou 01 (tel: 324-833).

Ministry of Public Relations and Modernisation of Administration, 03 BP 7006, Ouagadougou 03 (tel: 306-995).

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Ministry of Youth and Sports, 03 BP 7035, Ouagadougou 03 (tel: 324-786).

### Other useful addresses

Burkina Faso Embassy (USA), 2340 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20008 (tel: 202-332-5577; fax: 202-667-1882; e-mail:

ambawdc@rcn.com).

Groupement des Petits Commerçants, BP 952, Ouagadougou.

Institut de la Statistique et de la Démographie, BP 374, Ouagadougou (tel: 335-537).

Office National de Commerce Extérieur, BP 389, Ouagadougou (tel: 336-225).

Société de Commercialisation, BP 531, Ouagadougou (tel: 333-007); BP 375, Bobo-Dioulasso (tel: 390-423).

Syndicat des Entrepreneurs et Industriels, BP 446, Ouagadougou.

Télévision Nationale du Burkina, BP 7029, Ouagadougou (tel: 336-801).

West African Economic Community, BP 643, Ouagadougou.

**National news agency:** Agence d'Information du Burkina

01 BP 2507 Ouagadougou 01 (tel: 50 324-640; fax: 50 337-316; email: infos@aib.bf; internet: www.aib.bf).

### Internet sites

Africa Business Network: [www.ifc.org/abn](http://www.ifc.org/abn)

Air Burnina : [www.air-burkina.com](http://www.air-burkina.com)

AllAfrica.com: [www.allafrica.com](http://www.allafrica.com)

African Development Bank: [www.afdb.org](http://www.afdb.org)

Africa Online: [www.africaonline.com](http://www.africaonline.com)

Mbendi AfroPaedia (information on companies, countries, industries and stock exchanges in Africa): [www.mbendi.co.za](http://www.mbendi.co.za)