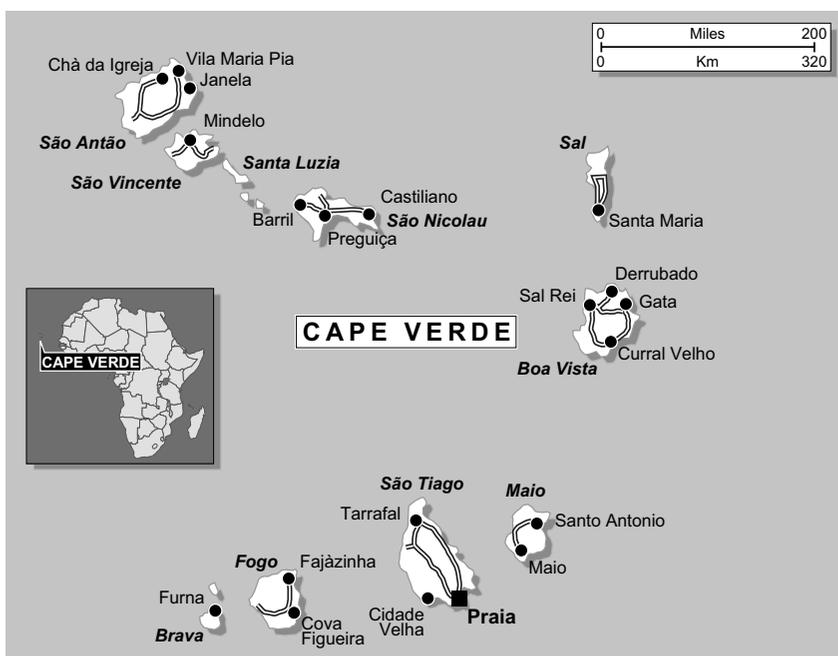


Cape Verde



Cape Verde lacks non-renewable natural resources and therefore does not export energy or hard commodities. Extractive industries accounted for less than 1 per cent of GDP in 2007–10, and the country relies heavily on fuel imports. The country's marine potential remains largely untapped. Whereas fisheries provided more than three quarters of total exports in 2010, the sector is relatively small in the Cape Verdean service-driven economy and accounted for only 1 per cent of GDP that year. The *African Economic Outlook 2013* (AEO), published jointly by the African Development Bank and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, notes that the country's lack of sizable arable land and dry climate make it unsuitable for large-scale agriculture, and about 90 per cent of the food it consumes is imported. The dry climate also means that a lot of the water for irrigation and national private consumption comes from oil-fueled desalination plants. Cape Verde, however, has capitalised on its biodiversity and landscape through the development of tourism, which has become the country's economic engine.

A recent study estimates that natural resources in a broad sense contribute about 35 per cent of GDP, about half of which comes from tourism. However, the study points out that this contribution could reach more than 56 per cent, if losses from environmental degradation were avoided and potential gains from natural resources exploitation, such as the promotion of eco-tourism, were maximised. The largest loss from degradation comes from beach sand extraction for construction, which costs the country 4 per cent of GDP. While more attention has been given to the problem since 2009, sand extraction from beaches and saline intrusion in farmlands persist (PEMFAR 2011). In addition, about a third of Cape Verde's precious rainwater goes unharvested every year. The country, on the other hand, has been successfully harnessing its wind and solar potential, thereby reducing its dependence on oil-fueled stations. Renewable energy penetration was estimated at 25 per cent in 2012, up from only 3 per cent in 2009 (PEMFAR 2011).

The development of tourism has underpinned Cape Verde's process of economic

KEY FACTS

Official name: República de Cabo Verde (Republic of Cape Verde)

Head of State: President Jorge Carlos Fonseca (MPD) (9 Sept 2011)

Head of government: Prime Minister José Maria Neves (PAICV) (since 2001; re-elected 6 Feb 2011)

Ruling party: Partido Africano da Independência de Cabo Verde (PAICV) (African Party of Independence of Cape Verde) (since 2001; re-elected 6 Feb 2011)

Area: 4,033 square km (nine islands and 10 islets)

Population: 527,000 (2012)* (491,575; 2010, census figure)

Capital: Praia

Official language: Portuguese and Creole (national language)

Currency: Cape Verde escudo (CVE) = 100 centavos

Exchange rate: CVE81.87 per US\$ (Jul 2013); (pegged CVEsc110.27 per euro)

GDP per capita: US\$3,604 (2012)*

GDP real growth: 4.29% (2012)*

GDP: US\$1.90 billion (2012)*; (US\$1.96 billion, 2012)*

Unemployment: 10.00% (2012)*

Inflation: 2.54% (2012)*

Balance of trade: -US\$706.00 million (2012)*

Annual FDI: US\$92.94 million (2011)

* estimated figure

and social transition in the last few decades, which culminated in the country's graduation out of the LDC category in 2008. The economy grew by an average of about 6 per cent in real terms over the decade ending in 2010, despite the sharp decline recorded in 2008 and in 2009, a result of the global economic and financial crisis. Limited available data suggests that the hotels and restaurants sector increased its contribution to growth significantly: between 2006 and 2007, this sector contributed the most, about 30 per cent, to the country's growth followed by the trade sector (23 per cent). This is in contrast to the average contribution of less than 5 per cent during 1992-2002 and of about 14 per cent during 2003-06. Yet tourism's substantial contribution to economic growth has failed to translate into a significant change in the structure of employment in the country: hotels and restaurants accounted for about 4.6 per cent of total jobs in 2010, only 2.1 percentage points higher than in 2000.

The nature of Cape Verde's tourism partly explains why such a dynamic sector has had little impact on job creation. Investment in all-inclusive hotels has been the most dynamic feature of the sector in recent years. About 76 per cent of tourist beds in Cape Verde are concentrated in all-inclusive hotels and on two of the nine inhabited islands. This model of tourism, however, generally has little impact on local development because its value chain tends to be controlled and managed by foreigners, with limited local involvement. Most profits are funneled abroad (see, for instance, Akama and Kieti 2007

in their study of the Mombasa resort in Kenya that also discusses similar dynamics in Cape Verde). Indeed, the total repatriation of profits increased substantially (more than 23 times) between 1999 and 2010, suggesting that the positive impact of higher foreign investment was mitigated by significant financial outflows. Profits repatriated in 2010 were equivalent to 42 per cent of goods exports and to about half of incoming remittances. While it is not possible to determine from available data how much of these outflows are directly associated to tourism-related sectors (including construction), the high correlation between unprecedented outflows of profits and growth in these sectors suggests that the all-inclusive model of tourism generates high leakage rates and narrow economic benefits.

Cape Verde continues to be a model of political rights and civil liberties in Africa. Ethnic strife, which is a major cause of instability elsewhere on the continent, is unlikely given the country's relative homogeneity. During the last decade, five presidential and legislative elections have been held in Cape Verde, all marked by a peaceful transition of power between the two major parties in the country: the Partido Africano da Independencia de Cabo Verde (PAICV) (African Party for the Independence of Cape Verde) and the Movimento para a Democracia (MPD) (Movement for Democracy). PAICV won parliamentary elections in February 2011, and the opposition MPD won the presidency in August 2011. Both polls were considered credible and fair by international observers. Municipal elections held

in July 2012 resulted in the opposition MPD controlling 13 municipal councils (up from 11 in 2008), and the ruling PAICV holding eight (down from 10 in 2008). The two parties have been fighting over the shape of 2013 budget, especially the programme to raise taxes on water and electricity. However, the cohabitation is peaceful and seems unlikely to pose any problems in the future. With national elections not due until 2016, the government now has an opportunity to devote renewed attention to structural reform, the implementation of which was delayed by the parliamentary, presidential and municipal elections held in 2011-12.

The economy

In 2012, Cape Verde's economy was impacted by the weak international economic situation. GDP growth rate dropped to 4.0 per cent. Foreign direct investment (FDI) decreased, mainly driven by the intensification of the crisis in many European countries. Official development assistance (ODA) also dropped, following the downward trend observed since Cape Verde's graduation out of the group of LDCs. Tourism remained the main economic driver. Despite the weak global economy, the tourism sector remained strong and expanded by 23 per cent in 2012, helping to compensate for some of the decline in FDI and ODA. However, tourism did not substantially contribute to job creation and did not support the expansion of other sectors. Structural reforms – such as a better organisation of local production of goods and services, the creation of a quality certification system for local products, and improvements in inter-islands transportation systems – are necessary for the dynamism in tourism to translate into broader economic benefits.

Economic difficulties in Europe (mainly Portugal and Spain) will continue to have a direct and negative impact on the Cape Verdean economy. Cape Verde's overwhelming reliance on the European economy will likely affect remittances, ODA, FDI, and external demand, forcing the authorities to maintain a tight fiscal policy. The country's economic growth is therefore expected to remain below 5 per cent in 2013. The European crisis, if it gets worse, could result in a decline in government revenues, even though the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) was introduced in 2013, contributing 31.7 per cent of all projected ODA. Moreover, tax reforms in 2013 could affect tourism investment and increase the odds of tax

KEY INDICATORS

Cape Verde

	Unit	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Population	m	*0.50	*0.51	0.49	*0.52	*0.53
Gross domestic product (GDP)	US\$bn	1.75	1.77	1.86	1.96	*1.90
GDP per capita	US\$	3,469	3,445	3,549	3,676	*3,604
GDP real growth	%	6.2	3.7	5.4	5.0	*4.3
Inflation	%	6.8	1.2	1.4	2.0	*2.5
Unemployment	%	17.0	11.1	10.3	10.0	*10.0
Exports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	115.7	94.0	122.7	196.5	173.0
Imports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	830.7	770.8	805.8	1,039.7	879.0
Balance of trade	US\$m	-715.0	-676.8	-683.1	-843.2	-706.0
Current account	US\$m	-205.5	-239.3	-212.9	-287.8	*-211.0
Total reserves minus gold	US\$m	361.5	366.2	382.2	317.1	376.0
Foreign exchange	US\$m	261.2	353.3	371.8	307.7	371.0
Exchange rate	per US\$	75.29	79.37	83.26	78.47	85.00

* estimated figure

evasion. Hence, the government's projected revenues might be too optimistic, and public debt could in fact increase in 2013.

The tertiary sector represents about 70 per cent of GDP and is dominated by tourism and ancillary activities (transport, real estate and construction). Tourism, real estate, and construction is mostly driven by FDI, with tourism being mostly based on foreign-owned, all-inclusive resorts. Growth and diversification outside tourism remains limited.

Agriculture accounts for less than 8 per cent of GDP. It is estimated that favourable weather conditions and new dams led to an increase in agriculture production in 2012. However, agriculture remains a marginal sector of the economy. Although new irrigation infrastructure supported by public investment is currently under construction, it is expected that agriculture will continue to make a very modest contribution to GDP growth.

The industrial sector is still modest but is forecast to be the fastest-growing part of the economy, averaging annual growth of 5 per cent in 2013-14. This is largely due to the government's capital spending programme. Indeed, public investment will be an important driver of growth in 2013-14, as FDI is set to stagnate as a result of poor economic conditions in Europe – the main source of foreign investment into Cape Verde.

Cape Verde is not well endowed in non-renewable natural resources. Its solar and wind potential, however, has led to expanding investment in renewable energy in recent years. The Cabeólica project, which involved the construction of four wind farms, was completed in 2012 and covers about 25 per cent of the country's electricity needs. The project contributes significantly to achieving the government's ambition to reduce non-renewable energy to 50 per cent of the country's energy consumption by 2020.

After the monetary tightening adopted by the Banco de Cabo Verde (central bank) in December 2011, Cape Verde's external position stabilised significantly during 2012. International reserves recovered to 3.8 months of imports in September 2012. In addition, the current account deficit declined, due to the resilience of tourism and remittances.

Risk assessment

Politics	Fair
Economy	Fair
Regional stability	Fair

COUNTRY PROFILE

Historical profile

1462 The previously uninhabited islands were colonised by the Portuguese and became one of the most important slaving stations in West Africa.

1961 The movement for independence gathered strength, adopting guerrilla tactics against the Portuguese.

1975 Cape Verde gained independence after the fall of the dictatorship in Portugal.

1975-80 Moves to unite Cape Verde and Guinea-Bissau were made, but came to nothing following the overthrow of President Luiz Cabral in Guinea-Bissau.

1980 The constitution was adopted.

1981 A revision to the constitution was passed.

1990 A multi-party system was introduced.

1991 Cape Verde's first free multi-party elections were won by the Movimento para a Democracia (MpD) (Movement for Democracy) and a government under Carlos Veiga was formed.

1992 A new constitution was adopted.

1995 The MpD secured an absolute majority in the elections to the National Assembly.

1996 President Antonio Mascarenhas Monteiro (MpD) was re-elected; no other parties put up candidates.

1999 The constitution was amended.

2001 Pedro Pires was elected president.

2003 The IMF approved a three-year programme for US\$11.5 million under the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF).

2004 Poor rainfall and locust damage resulted in reduced harvests and a larger than usual food deficit.

2006 PAICV won the general elections.

Pedro Pires was re-elected president.

2007 Cape Verde withdrew its support for Polisario, the separatist movement in Western Sahara, and allied itself to Morocco. The WTO approved Cape Verde's membership.

2008 Cape Verde announced its backing of the Moroccan Sahara autonomy plan, which allowed Morocco and the Polisario to discuss the future of Western Sahara without pre-conditions.

2009 Cidada Velha, located west of the capital Praia, became Cape Verde's first addition to the prestigious list of Unesco world heritage sites.

2010 An Economic Partnership Agreement with the EU was finalised, to provide new funding and favourable export conditions. Tourist numbers increased after a reduction in prices offered by the Cape Verdean tourist industry encouraged more visitors during the European winter.

2011 The ruling PAICV won parliamentary elections held in February, with 50.9 per cent of the vote (37 seats out of 72); the MPD remained as the second party in the national legislature with 41.9 per cent (33 seats). The new PAICV government took office in March; José Maria Neves remained in office as prime minister.

Four candidates took part in the first round of presidential elections; but only Jorge Carlos Fonseca (MpD), who won 37.3 per cent of the vote, and Manuel Inocêncio Sousa (PAICV), with 32 per cent, went forward to the runoff election in August. Fonseca won 54.1 per cent, Sousa 45.9 per cent in the runoff; turnout was 59.7 per cent. President Jorge Carlos Fonseca took office in September. Former president, Pedro Verona Pires was awarded the US\$5 million Mo Ibrahim prize for good governance (and those who have voluntarily left office) in Africa, in October. On 17 December, Cesaria Evora died. She was considered one of the world's greatest exponents of Morna, a national musical style of Cape Verde, similar to the US-blues.

2012 Electricity cuts that lasted for hours and were experienced throughout the islands in early October lead to street protests as customers complained at the lack of explanation for the outages. Electra, the supply company cited technical problems and generator maintenance as the cause of the cuts. However, with the imposition of rationing many consider it a lack of fuel as the most likely cause and question the public investment in renewable energy that should have responded to the current need.

2013 President Fonseca paid an official visit to Angola in November as part of an effort to develop trade ties.

Political structure

Cape Verde has a mixed presidential/parliamentary form of government.

Constitution

A new constitution was adopted in 1992 and amended in 1999. There are 17 municipalities (administrative districts).

Form of state

Unitary republic

The executive

Executive power rests with the prime minister and the Council of Ministers, proposed by the prime minister and appointed by the president. The prime minister is appointed by the president, in consultation with the National Assembly. The president is elected by universal suffrage by electors registered in the electoral census in the national territory and abroad, for a five-year term. The presidential candidate must be a Capeverdean citizen by origin, thirty-five or more years of age on the date of his candidature,

and, in the three years immediately preceding that date, have had permanent residence in the national territory.

National legislature

The unicameral Assembleia Nacional (National Assembly) has 72 members, of which 66 are elected by proportional representation, and six deputies are elected by Cape Verdeans living abroad (two each for Africa, the Americas and the rest of the world). All serve for five-year terms.

Legal system

The legal system is derived from that of Portugal.

Last elections

6 February 2011 (parliamentary); 7 and 21 August 2011 (presidential)

Results: Parliamentary: the Partido Africano da Independência de Cabo Verde (PAICV) (African Party of Independence of Cape Verde) won 50.9 per cent of the vote (37 seats out of 72), Movimento para a Democracia (MpD) (Movement for Democracy) 41.9 per cent (33), União Caboverdiana Independente e Democrática) (UCID) (Democratic and Independent Cape Verdean Union) 4.9 per cent; two other political parties each won less than 1 per cent of the vote and failed to win any seats. Turnout was 75.5 per cent.

Presidential (first round): Jorge Carlos Fonseca (MpD) won 37.3 per cent of the vote, Manuel Inocêncio Sousa (PAICV) 32.0 per cent, Aristides Lima (independent) 27.4 per cent and Joaquim Jaime Monteiro (independent) 2.0 per cent. Runoff: Fonseca 54.2 per cent, Sousa 45.8 per cent.

Next elections

2016 (presidential and parliamentary)

Political parties

There are six registered political parties.

Ruling party

Partido Africano da Independência de Cabo Verde (PAICV) (African Party of Independence of Cape Verde) (since 2001; re-elected 6 Feb 2011)

Main opposition party

Movimento para a Democracia (MPD) (Movement for Democracy)

Population

527,000 (2012)* (491,575; 2010, census figure)

It is estimated that 53 per cent of the population live in the country's three main cities, exerting great pressure on social services. Beside the Cape Verdeans resident on the islands, there are some 500,000 living abroad, many in the US.

Last census: 16 June 2010: 491,575

Population density: 237 inhabitants per square km. Urban population 61 per cent (2010 Unicef).

Annual growth rate: 1.8 per cent, 1990–2010 (Unicef).

Ethnic make-up

Creole (71 per cent), African (28 per cent), European (1 per cent).

Religions

Constitutional separation of church and state allows for freedom of religion. Christian (97 per cent Roman Catholic).

Education

The National Development Plan of 2002–06 aims to increase vocational training and job creation and reduce illiteracy in an effort to generate foreign investment and therefore increase employment.

Literacy rate: 74 per cent adult population.

Enrolment rate: 100 per cent of children age six to 11 will enrol for school in 2015, Oxfam estimate.

Health

HIV/Aids

The government had a National Aids programme in place for the period 2001–04, financed by the World Bank.

Life expectancy: 74 years, 2010 (Unicef 2012)

Fertility rate/Maternal mortality rate: 2.4 births per woman, 2010 (Unicef 2012)

Child (under 5 years) mortality rate (per 1,000): 22 per 1,000 live births (WHO 2012)

Welfare

Around a third of the population live under the poverty line with around 14 per cent living in absolute poverty. Unemployment is estimated at 25 per cent, while underemployment is far higher. Poverty is worse in rural areas where employment opportunities are poor and incomes are declining. As a result, there is a steady migration to urban areas, creating pockets of extreme poverty within cities and towns.

Main cities

Praia, on Santiago Island (capital, estimated population 134,900 in 2012); Mindelo, on São Vicente (commercial centre, 71,952), Santa Maria (26,550).

Languages spoken

Official language/s

Portuguese and Creole (national language)

Media

Press

The only daily is the government-run *Jornal Horizonte*, the only other local publications are *Expresso das Ilhas* (www.expressodasilhas.cv) and *A Semana* (www.asemana.cv). *Terra Nova* is a weekly based on São Vicente. Government publications include *Novo Jornal Cabo Verde* published twice a week and the periodical *Boletim Informativo*.

Broadcasting

The state-run broadcaster is Radio e televisão de Cabo Verde (RTC).

Radio: The state-run radio RTC (www.rtc.cv) has one station that has programmes relayed throughout the islands on a variety of frequencies. Private commercial stations include Praia FM (www.praiafm.biz), Mosteiros FM (www.mosteiros.com), Rádio Nova (www.radionovaonline.com) and Crioula FM (www.crioulafm.cv). Several foreign broadcasts, from Portugal and France, are readily available.

Television: RTC (www.rtc.cv) operates the country's only television station.

National news agency: Inforpress (Agência de Notícias de Cabo Verde)

Other news agencies: Voz di Povo: www.vozdipovo-online.com

APA: www.apanews.net

Panapress: www.panapress.com

Economy

Cape Verde has limited natural resources and much of the economy is dominated by the service sector, which constitutes over 70 per cent of GDP, of which trade, transport and government services account for 55 per cent. Agriculture of any significant level is only possible on four of the 10 main islands as the rugged volcanic nature of the landscape is subject to erosion and persistent periods of severe drought; around 90 per cent of all food is imported.

GDP growth was 6.2 per cent in 2008, which fell to 3.7 per cent in 2009, before picking up to 5.4 per cent in 2010, when world trade strengthened and visitor numbers increased. In February 2012, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), preliminary estimation was for GDP growth of 5 per cent in 2011, with a projection of it rising to 5.1 per cent, in 2012.

Cape Verde reduced its poverty rate and graduated from UN least developed country (LDC) status in 2007. In 2011, the UN Human Development Index (HDI) ranked Cape Verde 133 (out of 187) for national development in health, education and income. Since 2000, Cape Verde has progressed, but has not matched the improvement of other sub-Saharan countries. From a record high of US\$155 million in 2008, remittances fell to US\$138 million in 2009 and further still to US\$133 million in 2010 (9.9 per cent of GDP); remittances were estimated to have increased to US\$152 million in 2011. There is a high level of unskilled workers (30–40 per cent of the population) and foreign investors are able to take advantage of low wage rates. In 2009, Prime Minister Neves called on the Cape Verdean student diaspora in the US to

return home and take up business opportunities.

Tourism, which typically attracts over 50 per cent of total foreign direct investment (FDI), is of growing importance to the economy. Total FDI was US\$211.3 million in 2008, falling to US\$111.7 million in 2010. The industry was hit by external shocks in 2008–09 with the record price of fuel and the weakness of foreign economies cutting tourist numbers so that the industry declined by -16.2 per cent, down from a record growth of 23 per cent in 2007. As the global economy recovered so did the tourist numbers in 2010, with an industry growth of 3.9 per cent.

External trade

Cape Verde is a member of the Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas) and has indicated that it is interested in joining the West African Monetary Zone (WAMZ). Cape Verde became a member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in 2008.

There are free-trade zones (known as Foreign Trade Zones) which specialise in duty-free goods storage and raw materials for either re-export or manufacturing into goods for overseas markets.

Imports

Principal imports are foodstuffs such as rice, wheat and maize, cooking oil and milk; and consumer goods, industrial products, transport equipment, fuels, machinery and textiles.

Main sources: Portugal (typically 45 per cent of total), The Netherlands (16 per cent), Spain (6 per cent).

Exports

Principal exports are fuel, fish, hides, salt and *entrepôt* trade.

Main destinations: Spain (typically 54 per cent total of total), Portugal (22 per cent), Morocco (7 per cent).

Re-exports

Petroleum, fish and crustaceans, clothing and shoes.

Agriculture

The agricultural sector forms the backbone of the economy, total agricultural land is 403,000 hectares of which 6.2 per cent is pasture and 14.9 per cent arable (mostly on the island of São Tiago). Almost 17 per cent of the population is engaged in subsistence farming. Recurrent drought, interrupted by torrential rains and floods, soil erosion, disease and a weak infrastructure have reduced agricultural production considerably, but there are schemes for water conservation and irrigation.

Beans and maize are the staple foodstuffs. Maize covers 25–80 per cent of cultivated land according to rainfall. Only 10 per cent of food is produced locally.

Other crops include bananas, sweet potatoes, yams, manioc, pumpkins, sugar cane, coffee and groundnuts. About 90 per cent of food requirements are met by imports, largely in the form of food aid. Although fishing (lobster and tuna) has been of growing importance, supporting some 20,000 people and accounting for over 60 per cent of export revenues and 4 per cent of GDP, it is under-exploited. A fishing port in Mindelo on São Vicente was completed in 2001.

Industry and manufacturing

The industrial sector accounts for around 19 per cent of GDP and employs 15 per cent of the workforce.

Industries include ship repair and fuelling, construction, fish processing and canning, flour milling, soft drinks, cigar manufacture and garment making. Construction and civil engineering contribute about 10 per cent of GDP and are primarily related to the development of the tourism sector. Two zones have been set up with industrial parks: Lazareto on São Vicente and Achada Grande Tras in Praia.

Tourism

Located off the coast of West Africa at the northern limit of the tropics, Cape Verde can offer European visitors a break from cold, cloudy winters with warmth and sunshine, for a relatively short flight with economic package tours. The islands offer modern beach resorts, diving and fishing and tours of the islands.

Travel and tourism is vital to the economy as it contributed over 40 per cent of GDP (2008–11) and provides employment for 39 per cent of the workforce (around 76,000 jobs). The forecast in 2012 is of growth, with a contribution of 44 per cent to GDP and employment of 40 per cent (80,500 jobs). In 2010, there were 382,000 visitors to the islands.

Environment

Cape Verde faces serious environmental problems, particularly concerning water management. Serious drought caused by global warming and the country's geographical location has undermined agriculture as well as plant cover. The government has drawn upon the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to help protect biodiversity and is supported by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in a forestry action plan.

Mining

The mining sector employs about 1 per cent of the workforce.

Activity is largely confined to exploitation of pozzolana (volcanic derivative) at São Antão, gypsum at Maio and production of salt on Sal and in Mindelo by evaporation method.

Hydrocarbons

There are no known oil or natural gas reserves. Consumption of oil was 2,000 barrels per day (bpd) in 2008, all of which was imported, mainly from Portugal and West African countries. The downstream industry is regulated by Direção Geral da Energia and distribution is by Shell Cape Verde and Enacol. Any use of natural gas or coal is commercially insignificant.

Energy

Total installed generating capacity was 77MW in 2007, producing over 50 million kilowatt hours. Although the majority of power is generated by conventional thermal power stations, there are six 300kW wind turbines in operation. The state-owned Empresa Pública de Electricidade e Água (Electra) is responsible for generation, transmission, distribution and sales of electricity.

Financial markets

Stock exchange

Bolsa de Valores de Cabo Verde (BVC) (Cape Verde Stock Exchange)

Banking and insurance

Central bank

Banco de Cabo Verde

Main financial centre

Praia

Time

GMT minus one hour

Geography

Cape Verde is an archipelago of 10 islands and five islets in the North Atlantic Ocean, about 500km (300 miles) west of Dakar, Senegal.

Hemisphere

Northern

Climate

Hot with very little rainfall. Temperatures range from around 20 degrees Celsius (C) at night to 32 degrees C during the day. Hottest months are July, August and September and rain most likely from August–September.

Entry requirements

Passports

Required by all. Passport must be valid for six months.

Visa

Required by all, except nationals of Ecowas countries, former Cape Verde nationals (with proof of origin) and transit passengers.

Currency advice/regulations

Import and export of local currency prohibited. No restriction on import of foreign currency, but amounts must be declared on arrival. Export of foreign currency is limited to equivalent of CVEsc1,000,000

or the amount declared on arrival if higher.

Health (for visitors)

Mandatory precautions

Yellow fever certificates if arriving from countries having notified cases in the last six years.

Advisable precautions

Typhoid, tetanus, hepatitis A and polio vaccinations. Malaria limited risk exists September to November in São Tiago Island. Water precautions should be taken. There is a rabies risk. There is a slight risk of cholera. Milk is unpasteurised and should be boiled. Dairy products should be avoided.

Hotels

Accommodation is available in all islands but the best establishments are situated in Fogo, Sal, Santiago, São Vicente.

Credit cards

Credit cards are only accepted in the bigger hotels.

Public holidays (national)

Fixed dates

1 Jan (New Year's Day), 20 Jan (Heroes' Day), 1 May (Labour Day), 5 Jul (Independence Day), 15 Aug (Assumption Day), 12 Sep (National Day), 1 Nov (All Saints' Day), 25 Dec (Christmas).

Variable dates

Carnival (Feb), Ash Wednesday, Good Friday.

Working hours

Banking

Mon–Fri: 0800–1400.

Business

Mon–Fri: 0800–1230, 1430–1800.

Shops

Mon–Fri: 0800–2000; Sat: 0900–1700.

Electricity supply

220V AC, 50Hz

Weights and measures

Metric system

Getting there

Air

TAAG of Angola flies weekly from São Tomé and Príncipe. South African Airlines, TAP Air Portugal and Tower Airlines also service Cape Verde.

National airline: Transportes Aéreos de Cabo Verde (TACV) guarantees daily inter-island flights and weekly flights.

International airport/s: Amilcar Cabral International (SID), 2km south of Espargos on Sal island; Praia International (RAI) on Santiago island.

Airport tax: None.

Surface

Water: A high-speed ferry service between Cape Verde and São Tomé is planned by the ferry company Expresso LDA with a one-way journey taking five

days. The ferry will have 400 berths and a capacity of 800 passengers. The service was still not operational in July 2011.

Getting about

National transport

Air: Transportes Aéreos de Cabo Verde (TACV) flies daily to all islands except Brava and Santo Antão. Discounted trips among the islands are available with the Cape Verde Airpass, which can be purchased when booking international flights with TACV. A charter service is provided by Cape Verde Express.

Buses: Buses available on main islands.

Water: Boats ply between the islands.

City transport

Taxis: Available on main islands. Taxis are available from Amilcar Cabral International Airport to city centre.

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 dialling code (IDD) for Cape Verde is +238 followed by subscriber's number.

NB From 3 July 2004, standard and cellular numbers have seven digits: add '2' to the beginning of the existing standard number; add '9' to the beginning of the existing cellular number.

Useful telephone numbers

Praia, Santiago

Airport docks: 2615-821, 2615-646

Electricity Board: 2611-909

Fire brigade: 2612-727

Ambulance: 2612-462

Police: 2613-637

Chambers of Commerce

Barlavento Câmara de Comércio, Indústria, Agricultura e Serviços, Rua de Luz 31, PO Box 728, Mindelo, São Vicente (tel: 2328-495; fax: 2328-496; e-mail: camera.com@mail.cvtelecom.cv).

Sotavento Câmara de Comércio, Indústria e Serviços, Rua Andrade Corvo, PO Box 105, Praia, Santiago (tel: 2617-234; fax: 2617-235; e-mail: cciss@mail.cvtelecom.cv).

Banking

Banco Insular (IFI), PO Box 556, Conjunto Residencial Comunidades, Lote Oito- Bloco D Fracção Oitava, Achada Santo Antonio-Praia (e-mail: bancoinsular@mail.cvtelecom.cv).

Banco Comercial do Atlantico, PO Box 474, Avenida Amílcar Cabral, Praia (tel: 2614-953; fax: 2613-235).

Banco Interatlântico, Avenida Cidade de Lisboa 131-A, Praia (tel: 2614-008, 2613-829, 2614-425; fax: 2614-712, 2614-752).

Caixa Económica de Cabo Verde SARL, PO Box 199, Avenida Cidade de Lisboa, Praia (tel: 2615-561; fax: 2615-560).

Central bank

Banco de Cabo Verde, Avenida Amilcar Cabral, PO Box 101, Praia (tel: 2615-526; fax: 2611-914; e-mail: drs@bcv.cv).

Stock exchange

Bolsa de Valores de Cabo Verde (BVC) (Cape Verde Stock Exchange)
www.bvc.cv

Travel information

Agencia Cabetur, Viagens e Turismo, Rua Guerra Mendes 4, Praia (tel: 2615-551; fax: 2615-553).

Intertur SARL, Av Cidade de Lisboa, 2 Esq Fazenda, Praia (tel: 614-643; fax: 614-644); Rua 5 de Julho Espargos, Sal (tel: 2411-580/590).

Orbitur, Rua Roberto Duarte Silva, CP 161, Praia (tel: 2615-737; fax: 2613-888).

Praiatour, 100 Av Amilcar Cabral, CP 470, Praia (tel: 2615-746/7; fax: 2614-500).

Sal Amilcar Cabral International Airport, ASA-Empresa Nacional de Aeroportos E Seguranca Aerea-EP, PB 50, Ilha do Sal (tel: 2411-135, 2411-394, 2411-468; fax: 2411-570, 2411-323; e-mail: asacv@milton.cvtelecom.cv).

Transportes Aéreos de Cabo Verde (TACV), Av Amilcar Cabral, CP 1, Praia (tel: 2615-813; fax: 2615-905).

Ministries

Ministry of Agriculture, Alimentation and Environment, Praia (tel: 2615-716; fax: 2614-717).

Ministry of Defence, Praia (tel: 2610-372; fax: 2611-286).

Ministry of Economic Co-ordination, Avenue Amilcar Cabral, Praia (tel: 2613-210; fax: 2611-922).

Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, Praia (tel: 2610-507; fax: 2612-764).

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Praia (tel: 2614-773; fax: 2611-960).

Ministry of Health and Social Promotion, Praia (tel: 2615-721; fax: 2613-991).

Ministry of Justice and Internal Administration, Praia (tel: 2615-687; fax: 2611-396).

Ministry of Sea, Praia (tel: 2616-662; fax: 2611-770).

Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, Praia (tel: 2615-709; fax: 2614-822).

Prime Minister's Office, Palácio do Governo, Praia (tel: 2610-513; fax: 2612-288).

Other useful addresses

Associação Commercial e Agrícola de Sotavento de Cabo Verde, CP 78, Praia (tel: 2612-991).

Associação Comercial Barlavento, CP 62, Mindelo, S Vicente (tel: 2313-281).

Cabo Verde Motors, CP 51-B, Praia (tel: 2612-345; fax: 2612-612).

Ceris, Sociedade Caboverdiana de Cerveja e Refrigerantes (beer and refrigeration), CP 320, Praia (tel: 2615-575; fax: 2614-488).

Direcção-Geral das Alfandegas (customs body), CP 98, Praia (tel: 2613-835, 2613-026).

Direcção-Geral do Comércio (trade body), CP 105, Praia (tel: 2614-159).

Direcção-Geral de Estatística (Statistics Department of the Ministry of Economic

Co-ordination), Avenida Amílcar Cabral, Praia (fax: 2611-922).

Direcção-Geral das Pescas (national fisheries authority), Praia (tel: 2612-976).

Direcção-Geral do Plano (Planning Department of the Ministry of Economic Co-ordination), Avenida Amílcar Cabral, Praia (fax: 2611-922).

Embassy of Portugal, Achada de S António, Praia (tel: 2615-602).

Empresa Nacional de Aeroportos e Segurança Aérea, Aeroporto Amílcar Cabral, Ilha do Sal (tel: 2411-394).

Empresa Nacional de Combustíveis (national combustibles corporation), CP 1, Mindelo, S Vicente (tel: 2313-659).

Garantia (insurance company) (tel: 2615-661, 2615-662; fax: 2313-221, 2313-470).

Promex (Centro de Promoção Turística, do Investimento e das Exportações), CP89c, Praia (tel: 2622-736; fax: 2622-657; e-mail: promex@cvtelecom.cv).

Radio Nacional de Cabo Verde, CP 26, Praia (tel: 2613-729).

Shell Cabo Verde, CP 4, S Vicente (tel: 2314-470; fax: 2314-755).

US Embassy, R Abílio Macedo, Praia (tel: 2615-616).

National news agency: Inforpress (Agência de Notícias de Cabo Verde)

A Largo de Marconi, Achada de Santo António, Cabo Verde CP 40 (tel/fax: 262-2554; email: inforpress@mail.cvtelecom.cv; internet: www.inforpress.cv).

Other news agencies: Voz di Povo: www.vozdipovo-online.com

APA: www.apanews.net

Panapress: www.panapress.com

Internet sites

Africa Business Network: <http://www.ifc.org/abn>

African Development Bank: <http://www.afdb.org>

Africa Online: <http://www.africaonline.com>

Allafrica.com: <http://allafrica.com>

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