

KEY FACTS

Official name: République de Côte d'Ivoire (Republic of Côte d'Ivoire)

Head of State: President Alassane Ouattara (sworn into office 6 May 2011)

Head of government: Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan (from 14 Nov 2012)

Ruling party: Coalition: Rassemblement des Républicains (RDR) (Republican Party) with Parti Démocratique de la Côte d'Ivoire-Rassemblement Démocratique Africain (PDCI-RDA) (Democratic Party of Côte d'Ivoire–African Democracy Party) (from Mar 2012)

Area: 322,630 square km

Population: 23.37 million (2012)*

Capital: Yamoussoukro (administrative capital); Abidjan (economic and diplomatic centre)

Official language: French

Currency: CFA franc (CFAf) = 100 centimes (Communauté Financière Africaine (African Financial Community) franc). New notes have been issued; old notes cease to be legal tender from Jan 2005.

Exchange rate: CFAf495.02 per US\$ (Jul 2013); CFAf655.96 per euro (pegged Jan 1999)

GDP per capita: US\$1,054 (2012)*

GDP real growth: 9.84% (2012)*

GDP: US\$24.63 billion (2012)*

Inflation: 1.31% (2012)*

Balance of trade: US\$3.62 billion (2010)

* estimated figure

Côte d'Ivoire



With Nigeria and Chad, Côte d'Ivoire is among the chief oil producers in the West African region, soon to be joined by Ghana. Production of crude oil and natural gas rose continually between 2001 and 2005. In 2006 export earnings from crude oil and oil products were greater than those from the main export crop, cocoa, of which Côte d'Ivoire has been the world's biggest producer for decades.

Nevertheless, overall the benefits in terms of jobs and competitiveness of the structural changes that have taken place in these sectors remain very limited due to the socio-political crisis that affected the country for more than ten years (1999–2011).

Yet the country's substantial natural resources still represent potential engines of

growth and job creation reports the *African Economic Outlook 2013* (AEO), published jointly by the African Development Bank and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Mineral raw materials at present only account for 1 per cent of GDP but are a sector of the future. The country's subsoil contains estimated wealth in the form of 3 billion tonnes of iron ore, 390 million tonnes of nickel, 1.2 billion tonnes of bauxite, 3 million tonnes of manganese and 100,000 carats of diamonds. Prospects for fossil resources (crude oil and natural gas) are equally promising in the light of recent oil and gas discoveries. There are plans for more intensive exploration in deep territorial waters beyond the continental shelf.

Plans to intensify mining research involve the awarding of licences to

operators equipped with the greatest technical and financial capacities; improving the geological and mining information system; and, launching prospection and evaluation work on the deposits of reserves of iron at Monogaga and phosphates at Eboinda.

Côte d'Ivoire has major plant and marine resources. About 75 per cent of the country's land is arable. The quality of the soil and the agro-climatic conditions make possible the cultivation of a wide variety of tropical plants, including cashews, rubber, bananas and pineapples, which, together with coffee and cocoa, are major cash crops.

These natural resources provide the state with a major source of income. Revenues from some of them (oil, natural gas, coal, minerals, forest products) amounted to 7 per cent of GDP in 2010, according to the national council of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). Taxes, duties, dividends and other income from the energy sector (oil, gas and electricity) accounted on average for about 14 per cent of state revenues in 2008 and 2009.

These major natural resources suggest a favourable outlook for the nation's economy but bottlenecks continue to hamper management and put a brake on structural transformation efforts of the country.

First, relationships between the natural resources sector, and in particular fossil fuel and mineral resources, and the other sectors of the economy are very weak. Furthermore, the industrial processing of agricultural raw materials and fisheries' products is still inadequate for the generation of strong economic growth. During the last decade the rate of local processing was 2 per cent for rubber, 5 per cent for cashew nuts, 10 per cent for coffee, 20 per cent for cotton and 27 per cent for cocoa. In addition, the lack of clarity that characterises the contracts for the sharing of production between the government and the oil companies through different confidentiality clauses means transparent management of the resources is impossible. Yet again, the country has no specific instrument to manage income from natural resources, which is pooled with other resources in the general budget. Finally, the country's ability to conduct good governance of its natural resources is still relatively weak.

In regard to agricultural raw materials and fisheries' products, the authorities need to reallocate economic activity from the primary to the secondary and tertiary sectors, which are relatively more

productive, resulting in exports of products with high capital intensity. In this respect the free zones created by the government are to be encouraged. The fish processing businesses in these zones have made an appreciable effort by taking on more than 2,800 new staff in 2011, 98 per cent of them Ivorians, in spite of the crisis. The fish processing industry is a key sector of the economy since it alone accounts for around 15 per cent of income from the country's exports to the European Union.

The economy

The *African Economic Outlook 2013* (AEO), published jointly by the African Development Bank and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, notes that economic activity after the post-election crisis was more vigorous than expected. The return of confidence among economic actors in the aftermath of the normalisation of the security situation and increased peace efforts was accordingly confirmed. After a fall of -4.7 per cent in 2011 real gross domestic product (GDP) growth was estimated at 8.6 per cent in 2012, driven by public investment and the pick-up in final consumption. In the medium term the implementation of the Plan National de Développement 2012–15 (PND) (National Development Plan 2012–15) should put the country back on track for inclusive and sustainable growth. GDP is forecast to grow in 2013 and 2014 at 8.9 per cent and 9.8 per cent respectively, sustained by the recovery of

oil and gas production and by a rise in investment prompted by a better business climate and a strengthening of public-private partnerships.

As a result of efforts to revive the economy the overall budget deficit deepened in 2012. For the first time in five years the external current account recorded a deficit. Nevertheless the satisfactory execution of the 2011–14 economic and financial programme, backed by the Extended Credit Facility (ECF) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), enabled the country to reach the completion point of the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative in June 2012 and to benefit from a substantial cut in its external debt. Inflation also returned to below the 3 per cent level set at community level.

To fortify the recovery and ensure sustainable growth Côte d'Ivoire needs to continue its efforts in terms of structural transformation by taking full advantage of its considerable natural resources. In this respect, several obstacles hampering the sustainable management of natural resources need to be overcome. These are the weakness of the links between the companies exploiting the resources and the other sectors of the economy, and inadequate transparency in natural resources management and contracts relating to the sharing of production between the government and the oil companies.

The country also enjoys a strong agricultural potential as the world's biggest producer of cocoa. An increase in the rate of processing of agricultural production,

		Côte d'Ivoire				
	Unit	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Population	m	*20.76	21.39	*22.03	*22.69	*23.37
Gross domestic product (GDP)	US\$bn	23.50	22.50	22.80	24.10	*24.63
GDP per capita	US\$	1,132	1,052	1,036	1,062	*1,054
GDP real growth	%	2.3	3.8	2.6	-4.7	*9.8
Inflation	%	6.3	1.0	1.4	4.9	*1.3
Industrial output	% change	–	5.2	4.5	–	–
Agricultural output	% change	–	4.0	4.7	–	–
Exports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	10,390.1	10,503.3	11,410.2	–	–
Imports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	7,068.6	6,318.1	7,788.6	–	–
Balance of trade	US\$m	3,321.5	4,185.2	3,621.6	–	–
Current account	US\$m	451.6	1,670.2	464.5	3,117.0	*-448.0
Total reserves minus gold	US\$m	2,252.1	3,266.8	3,626.4	3,750.6	3,928.0
Foreign exchange	US\$m	2,249.7	2,838.1	3,202.6	3,317.5	3,507.0
Exchange rate	per US\$	418.59	472.19	495.28	466.82	505.65
* estimated figure						

which varies between 2 per cent and 27 per cent, should be a priority objective for the authorities in the years ahead.

Prospects are favourable but not without risks. Internally, these essentially arise from the fragility of the socio-political context owing to worries about security. Externally, the risks might come from shocks caused by poor prices for raw materials (cocoa, oil) and a worsening of the international environment which might hamper an adequate mobilisation of external financing and reduce the inflows of foreign direct investment (FDI).

The recovery of the country's economy should be consolidated in 2013 and 2014 with real GDP growth rates forecast at 8.9 per cent and 9.8 per cent, respectively. But these macroeconomic prospects depend upon a series of conditions being satisfied. They include: a favourable international economic environment; sufficient mobilisation of external finance to implement the National Development Plan; and, the absence of acute sociopolitical upheavals and a marked improvement in the security situation. The recovery in oil and gas production, combined with higher gold production and the continuation of reforms to improve the business climate, the encouragement of private investment and strengthening of public-private partnerships (PPP) will be major elements in helping growth in 2013 and 2014.

Moreover, growth should continue to be driven by a rise in investment (of 9.2 per cent in 2013 and 11.1 per cent in 2014) as a result of major government construction projects and rising private investment, benefiting from a return of confidence among investors and the improved business climate.

Overall Côte d'Ivoire has recorded perceptible advances in terms of institutional, socio-political, security and human rights normalisation. These advances were confirmed in the 2013 report on civil liberties published by Freedom House. The indices relating to political rights and civil liberties improved and allowed the country to achieve the status of a 'partly free' state compared its previous 'not free' ranking. Nevertheless given that the scars left by the crisis that followed the election are still raw and deep in the minds of people, it is essential that political issues do not hamper the consolidation of national reconciliation and social cohesion that the country's inhabitants so expect.

Risk assessment

Politics	Fair
Economy	Fair
Regional stability	Fair

COUNTRY PROFILE

Historical profile

1960 Côte d'Ivoire gained independence from France. Felix Houphouet-Boigny was selected to be the first president of Côte d'Ivoire by French colonial rulers as the most promising successor to their rule. Politicians, after independence, were drawn from oligarchs who had gained power through government positions or ran state-owned companies or gained positions in the ruling party, the Parti Démocratique de la Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI) (Democratic Party of Côte d'Ivoire).

1970s–1980s Economic decline increased pressure for political reform. Laurent Gbagbo, a lecturer and long-term dissident, emerged as the main opposition leader. He went into exile in 1982. 1988 Gbagbo returned from exile and founded the Front Populaire d'Ivoire (FPI) (Ivorian Popular Front) to campaign for multi-party democracy.

1990 Houphouet-Boigny was forced to call elections, which were won by the PDCI. Houphouet-Boigny was re-elected president; Alassane Dramane Ouattara became prime minister.

1993 President Felix Houphouet-Boigny died after 30 years in power. Henri Konan-Bédié became president.

1995 Legislative and presidential elections were convincingly won by Konan-Bédié and the PDCI party.

1999 President Bédié was toppled in a military coup and General Robert Gueï seized the presidency. Tension between the Muslim north and Christian south was aggravated when Gueï banned Alassane Ouattara, the northern Muslim leader, from standing in the forthcoming presidential election.

2000 Laurent Gbagbo declared himself president following controversial elections. Gueï fled the country and supporters of Ouattara were killed after he called for new elections.

2002 An uprising split the country. The rebel Force Nouvelle (FN) (New Force) took control of the north and about 60 per cent of the country. Alassane Ouattara, leader of the Rassemblement des Républicains (RdR) (Republican Party) and head of FN, was granted citizenship, resolving his status for future elections. A cease-fire was negotiated and a French-manned buffer zone imposed between north and south. Former president Gueï was shot dead in Abidjan.

2004 UN peacekeepers were deployed, led by French troops. Rebels appointed ministers to join a coalition Government of National Reconciliation, but the PDCI pulled out amid on-going violence. Abidjan was bombarded by rebel forces. When the Ivorian Air Force targeted

Bouake, the northern stronghold of the FN, it killed nine French soldiers in the air raid. The French Air Force retaliated by destroying the Ivorian Air Force. Pro-government demonstrators rioted on the capital's streets, looting and threatening foreign, particularly French, targets.

2005 A UN report accused both rebel and government forces of atrocities including torture, systematic rape and mass execution. The government, FN and opposition leaders signed a deal to end the civil war. The Government of National Reconciliation was revived to take over until the next elections. Presidential elections were cancelled and President Gbagbo carried on as de facto president from his powerbase in the south. Presidents Obasanjo and Mbeki of Nigeria and South Africa respectively named Charles Konan Banny as interim prime minister. Banny was given powers to run an interim government (planned to end in 2006) and organise presidential elections; for this all militias had to be disarmed and voter registration undertaken.

2006 Banny faced his first test when international mediators called for the dissolution of parliament, which backed President Gbagbo. As a result, the ruling FPI briefly withdrew from the transitional government, accusing the mediators of a 'constitutional coup d'état'. In the first meeting since 2000, the four main Ivorian leaders, Gbagbo (FPI), Bédié (PDCI), Ouattara (RdR) and Guillaume Soro (Mouvement Patriotique de Côte d'Ivoire (MPCI) (Patriotic Movement of Côte d'Ivoire)), attended a meeting with the prime minister to discuss plans for future elections and government. Militia loyal to Gbagbo failed to disarm as scheduled. Public identity hearings began to determine who could claim Ivorian citizenship and vote in the upcoming elections. The hearings were suspended following violent clashes between supporters of Gbagbo and Soro. Negotiators failed to agree terms for disarmament and voter registration. Presidential elections were postponed. The UN Security Council voted to extend the mandates for President Gbagbo and Prime Minister Konan Banny for another year.

2007 A peace agreement was reached between President Gbagbo and Guillaume Soro (MPCI). A plan to integrate some members of the FN rebel militia with the regular army was mandated by presidential decree. Soro became prime minister. President Gbagbo visited the former rebel-held north and watched as weapons were destroyed at a peace party attended by five other African heads of state. The introduction of identity papers for all citizens sparked fears that large numbers would be fraudulently

given to foreigners. A number of former northern rebels were absorbed into the regular army, the remainder were offered a three-month stipend to return to civilian life. Presidential and general elections were postponed.

2008 A public sector strike was settled when ministers cut their own wages by 50 per cent to help cover the cost of reintroducing subsidised fuel. Presidential and general elections were postponed. 2009 Presidential and general elections, delayed since 2005, were rescheduled; but were later postponed.

2010 Prime Minister Soro announced a new government, following the dismissal of his previous administration by the President, who had also dismissed the electoral commission. Voter registration was suspended after allegations of fraud as the lists were being drawn up. After six postponements, presidential elections were finally held on 31 October; Laurent Gbagbo won 38 per cent of the vote and Alassane Ouattara (*Rassemblement des Républicains* (RDR) (Republican Party) 32 per cent. However the opposition immediately lodged a formal challenge to the result in the constitution court, which failed. International observers stated the elections were 'credible' despite some organisational deficiencies. As no candidate reached a necessary 50 per cent of the vote a run-off election was held. The run-off led to an immediate deadlock as supporters of Gbagbo accused the northern rebels of trying to steal the election on behalf of Ouattara and stopped an official of the electoral commission from reading out the results on national TV. Of the electoral regions nationwide, both candidates accepted the results from 13, but in the remaining seven under dispute, four were districts loyal to Ouattara, election commissioners loyal to Gbagbo prevented publication of the results. An attack on the offices of Ouattara, in which four supporters were killed by automatic gunfire, followed the failure of results being published within the 72-hour deadline. The chief electoral commissioner declared that Ouattara had won 54.1 per cent and Gbagbo 45.9 per cent.

Gbagbo's campaign team claimed that as the results had not been announced in time they were invalid and that Ouattara was in effect mounting a coup d'état. The Constitutional Council annulled the electoral commission's results, and the votes from the seven disputed regions cancelled, stating that Gbagbo had won with 51.5 per cent of the vote, against 48.5 per cent for Ouattara. Foreign media were denied access as the country's borders were closed. Although the UN called on both sides to respect the outcome of the election Gbagbo was sworn

into office on 4 December. On the same day Prime Minister Soro resigned, saying he recognised Ouattara as president-elect. President Gbagbo appointed Gilbert Marie N'gbo Aké as prime minister. The AU suspended Côte d'Ivoire's membership until a 'democratically elected president effectively assumes state power'. Ouattara also took his official oath of office as president and appointed Soro as his prime minister. Parliamentary elections were postponed indefinitely. The UN, US, EU, AU and Ecowas all recognised Ouattara as the legitimate president of Côte d'Ivoire.

2011 In January Laurent Gbagbo rejected the Ecowas and AU-sponsored talks, which had offered him legal amnesty and residence in exile if he agreed to stand down as president. Financial assets of Gbagbo were seized by Swiss banks in January. Henri Dacoury-Tabley, governor of the central bank and a Gbagbo appointee, refused to accept Gbagbo's signature for funds and resigned in January, following international pressure. Gbagbo ordered the assets of all local branches of the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO) to be seized. In February, major foreign banks, Paribas, Citibank and Standard Chartered, had suspended operations in Côte d'Ivoire due to 'security concerns'. Four domestic banks had also closed, as depositors queued to withdraw their money. Gbagbo's administration took control of those foreign banks that had suspended operations. Ecowas asked the UN in March if it would adopt a mandate to use military intervention as a 'last resort'. By the end of March an estimated one million people had fled their homes due to the on-going political violence. At the request of the UN peacekeepers, French troops and tanks surrounded the presidential palace. Laurent Gbagbo was captured by French special forces, in April; he was taken to the headquarters of Mr Ouattara. International sanctions began to be lifted after Gbagbo was deposed, but without a functioning banking system trade in cocoa was severely hampered. In mid-April the World Bank said it was ready to offer help, including reactivating programmes worth some US\$100 million. The most notorious warlord, Ibrahim (IB) Coulibaly was killed by pro-Ouattara forces in Abidjan in April. He had been a supporter of President Ouattara, but had refused to disarm after the capture of Gbagbo. The banks reopened, leading to a rush to withdraw cash and receive delayed salaries. In May, President Ouattara announced the setting up of a Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission headed by former prime minister, Charles Konan Banny. Switzerland moved to freeze assets (which

had already been seized in January) of Gbagbo. The funds could to be blocked for up to three years, pending a request from Côte d'Ivoire for legal assistance to ensure the return of the funds. Alassane Ouattara took the oath of office on 6 May, with the inauguration ceremony held on 22 May, attended by French President Nicolas Sarkozy and the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and several African heads of state. Amnesty International said in a report published in May that both sides in the recent conflict had committed war crimes. It also said that all those who had committed human rights violations should be prosecuted. In July, the economic and finance minister reported that Côte d'Ivoire had been in default of its international debts since January and that it was unable to service its external debt in 2011, but would resume its payments to bondholders in 2012 following a deal agreed with the IMF. In July, officials from the National Museum of Abidjan reported to Interpol the loss of around 80 historic and culturally precious gold pieces stolen during the battle for Abidjan between the rival forces of Gbagbo and Ouattara. The stolen items included the best gold jewellery, masks and statues in the museum's collection, valued at an estimated US\$6 million, which suggested insider knowledge and help given to the thieves.

Michel Gbagbo (son of former president, Laurent Gbagbo) was arrested on 10 August and charged with post-election violence. Later in August, Laurent Gbagbo was charged with economic crimes, including looting, embezzlement and armed robbery. A Truth, Reconciliation and Dialogue Commission was inaugurated in September to consider the widespread violence following the presidential elections in 2010. Former president Gbagbo was flown to the ICC in The Hague on 30 November, to stand trial for crimes against humanity committed between 16 December 2010–12 April 2011. Elections held on 11 December were won by the *Rassemblement des Républicains* (RDR) (Rally of the Republicans) with 42.1 per cent of the vote (122 seats out of 255), followed by Parti Démocratique de la Côte d'Ivoire – *Rassemblement Démocratique Africain* (PDCI-RDA) (Democratic Party of Côte d'Ivoire – African Democratic Rally) with 28.6 per cent (76). Turnout was a low 36.6 per cent, but the elections went off relatively calmly.

2012 On 24 February the ICC extended its investigation back to 2002 and a decade of political turmoil leading to atrocities in Côte d'Ivoire. On 12 March former prime minister Guillaume Soro won a unanimous vote electing him speaker of parliament. The post makes him the country's second in command, in accordance

with the constitution. On 15 May the EU and Côte d'Ivoire ratified the International Cocoa Agreement (2010), which was implemented in October. The agreement ensures certain standards of production (such as the prohibition of child labour) while guaranteeing the integrity of the product. A report published by the UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) in June said that tens of thousands of combatants who had fought in the 2010–11 post-election conflict were still armed and potentially dangerous. The report called for a disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) programme to be set up urgently. On 2 November, the International Criminal Court ruled that Laurent Gbagbo was fit to stand trial for crimes against humanity, including murder, rape and violence following the disputed presidential elections in 2010. On 14 November the president dismissed the government of Prime Minister Ahoussou-Kouadio and appointed Daniel Kablan Duncan as prime minister. 2013 In September ministers voted to try Simone Gbagbo (wife of the former president) in local courts, and not send her to the ICC. She will face charges of alleged crimes against humanity following the 2010 presidential election.

Political structure

Constitution

A multi-party system is enshrined in the constitution, but in practice no party other than Parti Démocratique de la Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI) (Democratic Party of Côte d'Ivoire) was allowed to operate until May 1990 when the government legalised party political activity.

A 1990 constitutional amendment allowed for the appointment of a prime minister, with the speaker of the National Assembly empowered to assume the office of president of the republic prior to a presidential election in the event of a sudden presidential vacancy.

The constitution was suspended following a military takeover in December 1999. In 2000, the constitution was revised, stipulating that presidential candidates must be of Ivorian origin, born of parents who are not naturalised Ivorians, should not have dual nationality and must have lived in Côte d'Ivoire for a minimum and uninterrupted period of five years. Those with at least 21 years of Ivorian citizenship are eligible to vote.

According to the terms of the electoral legislation as laid down by the constitution and the electoral code, the material organisation of elections is the responsibility of the Commission Electorale Indépendante (CEI) (Independent Electoral Commission) (Article 59 of the new electoral code), whose role it is to collect

and announce the provisional results of the election. The same article provides that the commission should send a copy of the election report to the Constitutional Council, which, on the basis of Article 94 of the constitution, is responsible for announcing the final results.

Form of state

Republic

The executive

Executive power rests with the president (elected by universal suffrage for a five-year term) who appoints the cabinet. The president can veto legislation, but his veto can in theory be overridden by a two-thirds vote of the National Assembly.

National legislature

The unicameral National Assembly has 255 members, elected for five-year terms. Internal political crisis and the civil war hampered parliamentary democracy.

Legal system

All civil, criminal, commercial and administrative cases come under the jurisdiction of the tribunaux de première instance (magistrates' courts), the assize courts and the court of appeal.

Last elections

31 October and 21 November 2010 (presidential); 11 December 2011 (parliamentary)

Results: Presidential (first round): Laurent Gbagbo (FPI) won 38.3 per cent of the vote, Alassane Ouattara (Rassemblement des Républicains (RDR) (Republican Party) 32.1 per cent, Henri Konan Bédié 25.2 per cent; turnout was 85 per cent. Runoff: Ouattara won 54.1 per cent and Gbagbo 45.9 per cent. Turnout was 70–80 per cent.

Parliamentary: Rassemblement des Républicains (RDR) (Republican Party) won 42.1 per cent of the vote (127 seats out of 255), Parti Démocratique de la Côte d'Ivoire-Rassemblement Démocratique Africain (PDCI-RDA) (Democratic Party of Côte d'Ivoire–African Democracy Party) 28.6 per cent (76), Union pour la Démocratie et la Paix en Côte d'Ivoire (UDPCI) (Union for Democracy and Peace in Côte d'Ivoire) 3.1 per cent (seven), Rassemblement des Houphouétistes pour la Démocratie et la Paix (RHDP) (Rally of Houphouëtists for Democracy and Peace) 1.7 per cent (four); 35 independents and two political parties won the remaining 39 seats. Turnout was 35.9 per cent.

Next elections

2015 (presidential); 2016 (parliamentary)

Political parties

Ruling party

Coalition: Rassemblement des Républicains (RDR) (Republican Party) with Parti Démocratique de la Côte d'Ivoire-Rassemblement Démocratique Africain (PDCI-RDA) (Democratic Party of

Côte d'Ivoire–African Democracy Party) (from Mar 2012)

Population

23.37 million (2012)*

More than a quarter of the population is under the age of 20; 18 per cent is under nine and only 2 per cent over the age of 60.

Last census:

November 1998: 15,366,672

Population density: 44 inhabitants per square km. Urban population 51 per cent (2010 Unicef).

Annual growth rate: 2.3 per cent, 1990–2010 (Unicef).

Internally Displaced Persons (IDP)

500,000–800,000 (UNHCR 2004)

Ethnic make-up

Akan (the Baoule subgroup accounts for 23 per cent of the population), Kru (the Bete subgroup accounts for 18 per cent), Senoufo 15 per cent, Malinke 11 per cent, Agni, Mande. There are nearly 3 million foreign Africans (mainly from Burkina Faso and Mali) and an estimated 130,000–330,000 non-Africans (French 30,000 and Lebanese 100,000–300,000).

Religions

Islam (60 per cent), Christianity (mainly Roman Catholic) (22 per cent), traditional animist beliefs (18 per cent) (some of these are also numbered among the Christians and Muslims).

Education

Education is provided free of charge. Primary education lasts for six years from the age of six. Secondary education lasts for up to seven years from the age of 13.

There are universities at Abidjan and Yamoussoukro, but many students attend French universities.

Only 50 per cent of girls attend primary school.

Literacy rate: 60 per cent, youth rate (15–24) (Unesco 2005)

Pupils per teacher: 41 in primary schools.

Health

HIV/Aids

Aids-related costs typically absorb 11 per cent of the total public health budget.

HIV prevalence: 7.0 per cent aged 15–49 in 2003 (World Bank)

Life expectancy: 44 years, 2004 (WHO 2006)

Fertility rate/Maternal mortality rate:

4.4 births per woman, 2010 (Unicef); maternal mortality six per 1,000 live births (World Bank).

Child (under 5 years) mortality rate

(per 1,000): 108 per 1,000 live births (WHO 2012); 24 per cent of children under aged five are malnourished (World Bank).

Head of population per physician:
0.12 physicians per 1,000 people, 2004
(WHO 2006)

Welfare

An employer must declare each worker employed to the Caisse National de Prevoyance Sociale (CNPS), the national social security fund, and is responsible for deducting social security contributions paid by the worker. Large firms are also expected to provide in-house medical care.

Social security is divided into three areas: family allowances, retirement pensions, medical care and compensation payments in case of accident at work. There are no payments for illness unconnected to work. Contributions are paid every quarter by firms employing fewer than 20, and each month for those employing over 20, people. The CNPS funds are ring-fenced from the government's main budget.

The social security system does not cover unemployment, which is paid monthly through labour exchanges and financed by a national solidarity contribution of 1 per cent of salary, which is levied on each employee's wages.

Child labour is used in domestic service, farming, mining and factory work as well as casual labour in street markets. Law restricting the age of employment is enforced in large enterprises but is more lax in small industries and the informal sector. Local opinion concerning child labour is equivocal; while rural children are needed for subsistence farming, and urban street children can avoid destitution through work, the need for change would seem to be moot.

Main cities

Abidjan (economic and diplomatic centre, estimated population 4.4 million in 2012), Yamoussoukro (political capital since 1983, 259,373), Bouaké (649,841), Daloa (261,789), Korhogo (225,547), Man (172,867), San Pédro (171,906), Gagnoa (153,935), Divo (147,379).

Languages spoken

Approximately 60 local African languages are spoken, including Dioula, Baoule, Akan, Kru and Bete.

Official language/s

French

Media

According to the France-based media watchdog Reporters Without Borders, Côte d'Ivoire is one of the Africa's most dangerous places for journalists to carry out their work.

Press

Dailies: In French, national newspapers includes the government-owned, *Fraternité Matin* (www.fratmat.info) and

Notre Voie (www.notrevoie.com) and *Le Patriote* (www.lepatriote.net), which are owned by the political parties PCT and UDR-Mwinda respectively. Other, national, private newspapers include *Le Nouveau Reveil*, *24 Heures* (www.24heuresci.com), *Le Front and Soir Info* (www.soirinfo.com). Newspapers with the same internet address (<http://news.abidjan.net>), include *L'Inter* and *Le Jour* and *Fraternité Matin*.

Newspapers published in Abidjan include *Le Courrier d'Abidjan* (www.lecourrierdabidjan.info), *Le Matin d'Abidjan* (www.lematindabidjan.com) and *Nord-Sud* (www.nordsudmedia.info).

Broadcasting

For most of the population, radio is the principal medium for news and information. Radiodiffusion Télévision Ivoirienne (RTI) (www.rti.ci) is the national, public broadcaster funded through a license fee, advertising revenue and grants.

Radio: There are many private radio stations with a limited area of broadcasting around cities and other urban regions. RTI relays its two channels, RTI Fréquence 2 (www.frequence2.ci) and La Nationale (www.lanationale.ci), with entertainment, news, education, information and cultural programmes, through a network of numerous, local stations. Other private stations include Nostalgie (www.nostalgie.ci) from Abidjan and Radio Jam (www.radiojam.ci), from Yamoussoukro. Religious stations include the Catholic Radio Paix Sanwi (www.radiopaixsanwi.net) and the Islamic Radio al Bayane (<http://radio-albayane.com>).

Television: The government controls the only terrestrial TV station although private, pay-to-view cable and satellite services are available through the French-owned Canal Satellite Horizons (www.canalhorizons.com).

RTI (www.rti.ci) operates La Première, a national channel and TV2, which for viewers of terrestrial TV can only be received within a radius of 150km of Abidjan. RTI also have dedicated sports and music channels. RTI services can be received throughout the country and also into some neighbouring countries via satellite services.

National news agency: AIP (Agence Ivoirienne de Presse)

Other news agencies: APA (African Press Agency): www.apanews.net
Panapress: www.panapress.com

Economy

The wealth of Côte d'Ivoire comes from its natural resources. It has small reserves of petroleum and natural gas and the country operates an oil refinery and hydroelectric power stations, which results in Côte d'Ivoire being a significant energy

exporter in the region. Agriculture accounted for around 22.9 per cent of GDP in 2010, with the industrial sector constituting 27.4 per cent (of which the manufacturing sector accounts for 19.2 per cent), and the service sector amounting to 49.7 per cent of GDP. Agricultural exports of cocoa (Côte d'Ivoire is the world's leading producer, providing around 40 per cent of total), coffee, bananas, rubber, palm oil and pineapples, along with tuna and timber constitute over 50 per cent of both export revenue and GDP. The 2010 cocoa harvest was a record crop.

The country has a good and extensive infrastructure, including a large, modern port, which allows for rapid transport of goods and people.

GDP growth was 2.3 per cent in 2008 and rose to 3.8 in 2009, despite a reversal in GDP, down from US\$23.5 billion in 2008 to US\$22.5 billion in 2009. Per capita income fell from US\$1,132 in 2008 to US\$1,052 in 2009. This was largely due to increased world food prices and a cut in raw material and commodity prices. The strengthening in global trade in 2010 increased GDP to US\$23 billion, although growth weakened to 2.4 per cent and GDP per capita fell again to US\$1,043. However, the global economic crisis did not cause Côte d'Ivoire's economy to fall into recession; its own political crisis in late 2010 lead to a contraction of an estimated -4.7 per cent in GDP growth in 2011. As the situation was resolved GDP growth was predicted to rise to 8.1 per cent for 2012.

In 2009 the International Monetary Fund agreed to forgive US\$3 billion of national debt under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC) and agreed to lend Côte d'Ivoire US\$565 million for poverty reduction and fiscal transparency, provided reform programmes were undertaken. Outstanding debt owed to the Paris Club of creditors was restructured and some payments deferred. Total repayments were reduced by 92 per cent from US\$4.6 billion to US\$391 million.

In 2011, the UN Human Development Index (HDI) ranked Côte d'Ivoire 170 (out of 187) for national development in health, education and income. Since 2000, Côte d'Ivoire's progress has scarcely grown and has not matched the improvement of other sub-Saharan countries in Africa. In 2010, 57.4 per cent of the population experienced at least one indicator of poverty, while 23.8 per cent lived on less than the equivalent of US\$1.25 per day; the headcount poverty rate was 61.5 per cent of the population (2000–10). Remittances were US\$185 million in 2010 (0.8 per cent of GDP),

Nations of the World: A Political, Economic and Business Handbook

and were estimated to have risen to US\$202 million in 2011.

The country has the potential for solid growth, with a history of foreign direct investment (US\$417 million in 2010) providing 40–45 per cent of total capital in domestic businesses, typically from French firms.

External trade

As a member of the Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas), Côte d'Ivoire is also a member of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) with a common external tariff and using the common currency, the CFA franc.

The northern region is the primary area for growing cocoa, the country's major export commodity, while the principal port for international trade is in the south. The country is a hub for international trade in West Africa and transhipment is an important element of the economy.

The UN banned the export of rough diamonds after it was found they were used in the purchase of weapons during the civil war. Since the peace accord was signed in 2007, calls for a relaxation in the ban have grown and the introduction of a state-run buying house to regulate and promote legitimate diamond sales.

Imports

Principal imports include fuel, capital equipment and foodstuffs.

Main sources: Nigeria (23.3 per cent of total in 2011), France (11.8 per cent), China (6.9 per cent).

Exports

Principal exports include cocoa, coffee, timber, fuel, cotton, bananas, pineapples, palm oil, fish and diamonds (currently banned).

Main destinations: US (11.9 per cent of total in 2011), The Netherlands (11.7 per cent), Germany (7.4 per cent).

Agriculture

The agricultural sector is the mainstay of the economy. Total agricultural land is 31.8 million hectares of which 41.5 per cent is pasture and 8.8 per cent arable. The sector employs some 38 per cent of the workforce. The climate in some parts of the north is suitable for the production of wheat to support an estimated local consumption of about 200,000 tonnes a year.

However, the principal cash crops are cocoa and coffee. Côte d'Ivoire accounts for around 40 per cent of total world cocoa production. The cocoa and coffee sectors have undergone liberalisation and institutional reform since 1995. This has included transferring some responsibility for price stabilisation to the private sector, making operations more transparent, and reducing customs duties on cocoa and

abolishing them for coffee. Price liberalisation was achieved for coffee in 1998 and cocoa in 1999, when Caistab, the price stabilisation fund, was disbanded and replaced by a private-sector operation. Privatisation of the coffee and cocoa sectors was highly controversial among farmer.

The Fonds de Regulation et de Contrôle (FRC), is the national cocoa and coffee marketing institution, which is owned by farmers (45 per cent), banks (20 per cent), insurance companies (20 per cent) and the government (15 per cent). The FRC determines minimum guaranteed farm-gate prices and bears the cost of implementing the price stabilisation mechanism, which cushions farmers' exposure to volatile international markets. Coffee and cocoa production is regulated by the Autorité de Regulation du Café et Cacao (ARCC), which determines export quotas. The cocoa harvest was a record crop and warehouses in the south of Côte d'Ivoire were stocked ready for export before a disputed presidential election in 2010. However, the EU, Côte d'Ivoire's single largest market, rejected any purchases of cocoa from Côte d'Ivoire until the post-presidential election political crisis was resolved. In March 2011, Laurent Gbagbo (who lost the election but was refusing to stand down as president) ordered his government to take control of all cocoa production and exports. His rival, Alassane Ouattara had called for a temporary ban on exports in an effort to deny Gbagbo the funds. Following the resolution of the political turmoil cocoa exports returned to pre-election levels. Côte d'Ivoire is the second largest exporter of canned tuna in the world. The port of Abidjan handles more than 400,000 tonnes of fish a year. The government has launched a series of initiatives to modernise local fishing and assist local fishermen to benefit from the country's 150,000 hectares of lagoon and 350,000 hectares of lakes and rivers. The EU and Côte d'Ivoire run a fisheries agreement which provides EU fishermen with fishing rights in Côte d'Ivoire waters in return for the funding of research and training programmes.

Côte d'Ivoire has 17 per cent forest cover and an additional 25 per cent of other wooded land. Ten per cent of forests are inside protected reserves, including the Parc National de Tai which has the largest tract of primary rainforest in West Africa. The southern half of the country, which was once covered by tropical forest, has suffered extensive deforestation for logging and agriculture. The northern half contains savannah woodland. Forestry is important and Côte d'Ivoire has been Africa's leading exporter of sawn timber.

Wood is also an important source of domestic fuel.

Industry and manufacturing

The industrial sector contributes around 20 per cent to GDP, but output has fallen due to instability since 2002.

The industrial and manufacturing sectors expanded rapidly following independence in 1960, but suffered some setbacks in the late 1980s as a result of increased foreign competition and a decline in consumer purchasing power. In addition, the industrial plant is ageing and has often not been renewed on account of the low level of private investment.

During the 1990s, privatisation reduced the state's role in industry and manufacturing. Policy has focused upon encouraging private sector involvement in the hydrocarbons sector which it is hoped will encourage the expansion of the industrial and manufacturing sectors.

Tourism

Côte d'Ivoire offers visitors a variety of forests with wildlife, lagoons and shoreline, cities and African culture. There are two national parks and a nature reserve included on Unesco's World Heritage List. In July 2012, the historic colonial town of Grand-Bassam was added to Unesco's World Heritage List.

With the improvement in the political situation in 2011, tourism should enjoy a boost and contribute more than the current 5 per cent of GDP. However, foreign governments still warn their citizens about personal security and the potential for civil unrest, which deters some from visiting Côte d'Ivoire.

Environment

In July 2010 the Anglo-Dutch shipping company Trafigura was fined €1 million (US\$1.3 million) by a court in The Netherlands after it had been found guilty of exporting and dumping toxic waste to Abidjan in 2006. In 2007 Trafigura had paid the government US\$160 million without admitting liability and US\$50 million shared among individuals harmed by the waste. Trafigura continues to deny responsibility for the spill.

Mining

The mining sector holds considerable potential and could become the second mainstay of the economy. It contributes around 3.7 per cent to GDP annually and employs 1 per cent of the workforce. A state company, Société pour le Développement Minier Ivoirien (Sodemi) carries out exploration and production, in some cases in joint ventures with foreign companies. Gold is found in three main reserves: Issia, Lobo and Ity.

Diamonds have traditionally been mined by small independent prospectors, but the

incidence of diamond smuggling and consequent loss of revenue prompted the Ministry of Mines to introduce licences for prospectors and diamond purchasing offices in 2000. Diamonds are produced at Séguéla and Tortiya. Reserves at Séguéla are estimated at 150,000 carats, and at Tortiya 450,000 carats.

Grand-Lehou produces 90,000 to 100,000 tonnes of manganese per year. A deposit, estimated at 1.2 million tonnes (47 per cent manganese), was discovered at Ziemougoula, near Odienné.

A large iron ore deposit at Monogaga-Victory has estimated reserves of 140 million tonnes. Further reserves, estimated at three billion tonnes, are located on the border with Guinea at Mount Nyumba and Mount Kalayo.

Hydrocarbons

Proven oil reserves were one billion barrels in 2008, with production at 70,000 barrels per day (bpd). The majority of oil reserves are located offshore in the shallow water Espoir field and the deep-water Baobab field. Domestic consumption is around 26,000 bpd with the remainder exported, representing almost 30 per cent of foreign revenue, surpassing traditional export commodities of cocoa and coffee. The state-run Société Nationale d'Opérations Pétrolières de la Côte d'Ivoire (Petroci) is responsible for the hydrocarbons industry through its four subsidiaries. Petroci Holding manages the oil sector; Petroci Exploration-Production is responsible for upstream hydrocarbon activities; Petroci-Gaz deals with the natural gas sector; Petroci Industries-Services manages all other related services. In 2008 Côte d'Ivoire joined the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and will have until 2010 to become compliant with EITI criteria. Further investment by foreign companies should be forthcoming through membership.

There is one operational oil refinery, with a capacity of 65,200 bpd, sufficient to supply domestic requirements, as well as some export volumes for neighbouring countries. The refinery is connected to the Lion and Panther fields by pipelines and receives crude oil from Nigeria for processing. Construction of another refinery began in 2008, with a capacity of 60,000 bpd. Both facilities are located in Abidjan.

Proven natural gas reserves were 28.3 billion cubic metres (cum) in 2008, with production over 1.3 billion cum, primarily consumed in domestic power stations. Any coal produced or imported is commercially insignificant.

Energy

Installed electricity generating capacity was 1,086 MW in 2007. Around 70 per

cent of annual production is generated by gas-powered plants, with a declining contribution from hydroelectric sources. Côte d'Ivoire is an exporter of electricity, supplying Ghana, Benin, Togo, Mali and Burkina Faso, through the West African Power Pool (Wapp). The state-owned Société d'Opération Ivoirienne d'Électricité (Sopie) is responsible for strategic planning and implementation of national standards in electricity provision. The 288WM Azito power station provides around 30 per cent of the country's power and is located in Abidjan. A government sponsored rural electrification programme has extended access to electricity to the distribution system for around 50 per cent of the rural population. Investment in the programme is ongoing.

Financial markets

Stock exchange

Afribourse (Bourse Régionale des Valeurs Mobilières) (BRVM)

Banking and insurance

Abidjan is traditionally a major regional banking centre. There is no clear distinction between commercial, merchant and development banks since they may all accept deposits and engage in long- and short-term financing. Local banks generally handle retail banking and export-crop financing as well as funding small- and medium-sized businesses and housing. Some specialise in development of industry, agriculture and small businesses. Côte d'Ivoire has a liberal policy towards foreign banks, but entry has become more difficult in recent years because of the large number of banks already present. A minimum capital is required for a new bank to start operating, but Ivorian participation is not obligatory.

Political instability has undermined the Ivorian banking sector, with the African Development Bank (AfDB) transferring its head-quarters from Côte d'Ivoire to Tunisia in early 2003.

Central bank

Banque Centrale des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest

Main financial centre

Abidjan

Time

GMT

Geography

Côte d'Ivoire is in West Africa on the Atlantic coast, bordered by Liberia and Guinea to the west, Mali and Burkina Faso to the north, and Ghana to the east. To the south is a 470 kilometre coastline on the Gulf of Guinea, the eastern part of which is inset with lagoons.

The terrain rises from the coastal plains to a plateau, 300 metres high for most of its

length, rising to 1,200 metres near the country's western border.

The three main geographical areas are the equatorial zone along the coast, the tropical rain forests of the south and the drier savannah belt in the north.

There are four main rivers, the Bandama, Comoe, Sassandra and Cavally, but they are not navigable for long distances due to rapids.

Hemisphere

Northern

Climate

There are four distinct seasons in the centre and south of the country. Here the climate is tropical, with a long dry season running from December–April, followed by the rainy season from May–July. From August–September a dry spell is followed in October–November by a short rainy spell.

Average temperatures on the southern coastal plains are 21–34 degrees Celsius (C). Humidity is 80–90 per cent. Annual rainfall can be as heavy as 2.5 metres spread over about 140 days. In the central region temperature ranges are 14–39 degrees C. Annual rainfall varies from 1–2.5 metres.

In the northern savannah the climate is more extreme, but less humid with temperatures between 21–40 degrees C. Rainfall averages 1.4 metres a year. There are two seasons, rains from July–November and the dry season from December–June.

Dress codes

When calling on senior personnel, businessmen should wear suits, even though this may be uncomfortable in Abidjan's hot and humid climate. The capital, Yamoussoukro, is less humid and at an altitude of 220 metres is cooler. In general loose-fitting, tropical lightweight clothing is advisable.

Women may wear sleeveless cotton dresses or lightweight skirts and blouses, and this mode of dress is adequate for business calls.

Entry requirements

Passports

Required by all except particular document holders of certain African countries.

Visa

Required by all except citizens of other ECOWAS countries, and nationals of Andorra, Chad, Monaco, Morocco, Seychelles, Tunisia and Vatican City, for stays of up to three months. Applications for business visas require a letter from the visitor's company accepting responsibility for any expenses incurred, and a letter of invitation (can be faxed copy) from host company in Côte d'Ivoire.

Nations of the World: A Political, Economic and Business Handbook

Currency advice/regulations

The import of CFA francs is unlimited; export is limited to CFAf10,000. The import of euros is unlimited, all other currencies must be declared. Export of all foreign currencies is limited to CFAf25,000, or the amount declared on arrival. Travellers cheques are accepted in banks and hotels.

Health (for visitors)

Mandatory precautions

Yellow fever vaccination certificate.

Advisable precautions

Cholera, hepatitis A and E and typhoid vaccinations are strongly recommended and polio immunisation is a benefit. Malaria prophylaxis should be taken as risk exists throughout the country all year. Avoid tap water and drink only bottled beverages (including water) or beverages made with boiled water; cooked food is advisable and all fruit should be peeled. Bilharzia is present, use only well chlorinated swimming pools. Rabies and sleeping sickness are a risk. It is advisable to pack a sterilised syringe kit.

Hotels

Abidjan and Yamoussoukro have several five-star hotels. There are a wide range of other hotels in the other main centres. Tipping usually 10–15 per cent.

Credit cards

American Express and Mastercard are widely accepted; charge cards are of limited use.

Public holidays (national)

Fixed dates

1 Jan (New Year's Day), 1 May (Labour Day), 7 Aug (Independence Day), 15 Aug (Assumption Day), 1 Nov (All Saints' Day), 9 Nov (Day of Mourning), 15 Nov (Peace Day), 7 Dec (Félix Houphouët-Boigny Remembrance Day), 25 Dec (Christmas Day).

Variable dates

Easter Monday, Ascension Day, Whit Monday, Eid al Adha, Eid al Fitr, Birth of the Prophet, Ascent of the Prophet. Some companies allow an informal one-day holiday before or after a Sunday holiday

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

Working hours

Banking

Mon–Fri: 0800–1130 and 1430–1630.

Business

Mon–Fri: 0800–1200 and 1430–1700.

Government

Mon–Fri: 0730/0800–1200 and 1430–1730.

Shops

Mon–Fri: 0800–1200 and 1530–1830/1900, Sat: 0800–1200 and 1430–1730.

Telecommunications

Mobile/cell phones

There are several 900 and a 1800 GSM services operating in main urban areas.

Electricity supply

220V AC, 50 cycles

Social customs/useful tips

Ivorians like to shake hands and exchange greetings and other pleasantries before getting down to business. It is considered polite to arrive punctually to social occasions when kissing on the cheek and hugging are reserved only for old friends.

Security

There are ongoing security problems in the country in general and increased trouble in the west – visitors are advised not to travel to the area. Foreign visitors should register their presence with their diplomatic missions on arrival, although many suspended their representation in 2005. Visitors must take added precaution for their own safety and take note of local warnings.

Getting there

Air

National airline: Air Ivoire: flies to France, South Africa and Dubai.

International airport/s: Abidjan-Félix Hophouët-Boigny (ABJ), is the country's airport hub accepting all intercontinental flights. It is 16km from city; duty-free shop, restaurant, bank, post office, pharmacy, car hire.

Yamoussoukro (ASK) accepts regional flights.

Airport tax: Departure tax: continental, CFAf3,000; intercontinental: CFAf5,000.

Surface

Road: There are good links from Ghana, Burkina Faso, Guinea and Liberia.

Rail: Travellers should check information concerning regular services from Burkina Faso, connecting Ouagadougou with Abidjan. Sleeping and restaurant facilities are available for these long journeys.

Getting about

National transport

Air: Air Ivoire no longer operates internal flights. Contact local airports for information on charter flights.

Departure tax: CFAf800.

Road: Extensive network of roads stretching from south to north with transverse roads interconnecting.

Buses: The once extensive service has been curtailed by the civil war. Contact local operators concerning services.

Taxis: Bush taxis run to all parts of the country.

Rail: A 1,145km network from Abidjan to Ouagadougou passes through Agboville, Dimbokra, Bouaké, Katiola and Ferkessedougou.

City transport

Taxis: In Abidjan, red taxis with meters can be hailed or ordered by telephone in main centres. Two tariffs operate: one from 0600–2400, the other 2400–0600. The early morning tariff is double that for the day and evening. Do not hesitate to haggle over the fare, especially if the meter is not running, or if arriving at the airport.

Buses, trams & metro: Buses usually run from 0600–2100 or 2200, operated in Abidjan by state-run Sotra.

Most hotels have their own airport buses. Check at hotel booths near the terminal exit.

Car hire

Self-drive and chauffeur-driven cars can be hired in Abidjan, Bouaké, Daloa, Gagnoa, Man and Sassandra. An international driving licence is required (not less than 12 months old). Drivers must be at least 21-years-old. Seat-belts must be worn in front seats. Traffic drives on the right.

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 (IDD) code for Côte d'Ivoire is +225, followed by subscriber's number.

Useful telephone numbers

Ambulance (SAMU): 185, 2044-3445, 2044-5353.

Police (emergency): 111, 170.

International telephone enquiries: 160.

National telephone enquiries: 120.

Chambers of Commerce

American Chamber of Commerce, 01 PO Box 3394, Abidjan 01 (tel: 2021-4616; fax: 2022-2437; email: amcham@AfricaOnline.co.ci).

Côte d'Ivoire Chambre de Commerce et Industrie, 6 Avenue Joseph Anoma, PO Box 1399, Abidjan 01 (tel: 2033-1600; fax: 2032-3942; email: mail@ccici.org).

French Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie, 141 Boulevard de Marseille,

Immeuble Jean Lefebvre, 01 PO Box 189, Abidjan 18 (tel: 2025-8206; fax: 2024-1000; email: ccifci@ccif.ci).

Banking

Bank of Africa Côte d'Ivoire, BP 4132, 11 Ave Joseph Anoma, Abidjan 01 (tel: 2033-1536; fax: 2033-2398, 2032-8993).

Banque Atlantique (Côte d'Ivoire SA); BP 04, Immeuble Atlantique, Avenue Nogues, 1036 Abidjan 04 (tel: 2031-5950; fax: 2021-6852).

Banque de l'Habitat de Côte d'Ivoire, BP 2325, 22 Ave Joseph Anoma, Abidjan 01 (tel: 2022-6000; fax: 2022-5818).

Banque Internationale pour le Commerce et l'Industrie de la Côte d'Ivoire SA; Avenue Franchet d'Espérey, 01 BP 1298 Abidjan 01 (tel: 2020-1600, 2020-1700; fax: 2020-1700).

Banque Paribas Côte d'Ivoire; BP 09, 17 Avenue Terrasson de Fougères, Abidjan 17 (tel: 2021-8686, 2021-3032; fax: 2021-8823).

BIAO-Côte d'Ivoire; BP 1274, 8/10 Avenue Joseph Anoma, Abidjan 01 (tel: 2020-0720, 2020-0722; fax: 2020-0700).

Caisse Autonome d'Amortissement Société d'Etat, BP 670, Immeuble SCIAM, Ave Merchant, Abidjan 01 (tel: 2021-0611, 2032-8575; fax: 2021-3578).

Cofipa Investment Bank Côte d'Ivoire, BP 411, Rue Botreau Roussel/ Ave Delafosse, Abidjan 04 (tel: 2021-8452; fax: 2021-8599).

Compagnie Bancaire de l'Atlantique en Côte d'Ivoire, 01 BP, Immeuble Atlantique, Avenue Nogues, 522 Abidjan 01 (tel: 2021-2804, 2030-1520; fax: 2021-0798).

Compagnie Financière de la Côte d'Ivoire; BP 1566, Tour BICICI 01, Rue Gourgas 15e étage, Abidjan 01 (tel: 2021-2732; fax: 2021-2643, 2020-1700).

Ecobank Côte d'Ivoire SA, BP 4107, Immeuble Alliance, 1 Av Terrasson de Fougères, Abidjan 01 (tel: 2031-9200, 2021-1041; fax: 2021-8816).

Société Générale de Banques en Côte d'Ivoire SA; BP 1355, 5 & 7 Avenue Joseph Anoma, Abidjan 01 (tel: 2020-1234, 2020-1111; fax: 2020-1482, 2020-1486).

Société Générale de Financement et de Participation en Côte d'Ivoire (SOGEFINANCE); BP 3904, 5-7 Avenue Joseph Anoma, Abidjan 01 (tel: 2022-5530, 2022-1234; fax: 2032-6760, 2020-1492).

Société Ivoirienne de Banque, BP 1300, Immeuble Alpha 2000, 34 Boulevard de la République, Abidjan 01 (tel: 2020-0000; fax: 2021-9741).

Central bank

Banque Centrale des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest, Direction National, Angle Boulevard Botreau-Roussel et Avenue Delafosse, PO Box 1769, Abidjan (tel: 208-500; fax: 222-852).

Stock exchange

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

Bourse des Valeurs Abidjan, Ave Marchand 10, BP 1878, 01 Abidjan (tel: 2021-5783, 215742; fax: 2022-1657).

Travel information

Air Ivoire, 2 Avenue du Général de Gaulle, PO Box 7782, Abidjan 01 (tel: 2021-3429; internet: www.airivoire.com).

Félix Houphouët-Boigny International Airport (tel: 2027-7322, 2023-4000).

Wagonlits (Railway Information), Boulevard de Marseille, Abidjan (tel: 2021-2066, 2021-3910).

Ministry of tourism

Ministry of Tourism, BP V184, Abidjan (tel: 2044-5500, 2044-5129, 2044-6474, 2044-6953; fax: 2044-5580).

National tourist organisation offices

Office Ivoirien du Tourisme et de l'Hôtellerie (OITH), Place de la République, BP 8538, Abidjan 01 (tel: 2020-2516; fax: 2020-3388; email: oith@tourismeci.org; internet: www.tourismeci.org).

Ministries

Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources, Immeuble de la Caisse de Stabilisation, BP V84, Abidjan (tel: 2021-3858; fax: 2021-4618; e-mail: minagra@cimail.net).

Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, Tour C, Tours Administratives, BP V138, Abidjan (tel: 2021-1116; fax: 2021-8495).

Ministry of Construction and Urbanism, Tour D, Tours Administratives, 20 BP 650, Abidjan (tel: 2021-8235; fax: 2021-3568).

Ministry of Defence and Civil Protection, Immeuble EECI, BP V 241, Abidjan (tel: 2021-2682; fax: 2022-4175).

Ministry of Economic Infrastructures, Immeuble Postel 2001, 18 BP 2203, Abidjan (tel: 2034-4273; fax: 2034-7322).

Ministry of Economy and Finance, Immeuble SCIAM, BP V163, Abidjan (tel: 2020-0842; fax: 2021-3208).

Ministry of Education, Tour D, Tours Administratives, BP V 120, Abidjan (tel: 2022-7406; fax: 2022-9322).

Ministry of Family, Women and Children, Tour E, Tours Administratives, BP 200, Abidjan (tel: 2021-7626; fax: 2021-4461).

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bloc Ministériel, Boulevard Angoulvand, BP V109, Abidjan (tel: 2022-7150; fax: 2033-2308).

Ministry of Health, Tour C, Tours Administratives, 01 BP V 04, Abidjan (tel: 2021-0871; fax: 2021-5240).

Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Tour C, Tours Administratives, BP V 151, Abidjan (tel: 2021-3316; fax: 2021-2225).

Ministry of the Interior and Decentralisation, Bloc Ministériel, Boulevard Angoulvand, BP V 121, Abidjan (tel: 2022-3816; fax: 2022-3648).

Ministry of Justice and Public Freedom, Bloc Ministériel, Boulevard Angoulvand, BP V 107, Abidjan (tel: 2021-1727; fax: 2033-1259).

Ministry of Labour, Civil Service and Administrative Reform, Immeuble Fonction Publique, Boulevard Angoulvand, BP V 93, Abidjan (tel: 2021-4290; fax: 2021-1286).

Ministry of Mines and Energy, Immeuble Postel 2001, BP V 40, Abidjan (tel: 2034-4851; fax: 2021-3730).

Ministry of Trade, Immeuble CCIA, Rue Jean-Paul II, BP V65, Abidjan (tel: 2021-6473; fax: 2021-6474).

Ministry of Transport, Immeuble Postel 2001, BP V 06, Abidjan (tel: 2034-7315; fax: 2021-3730).

Other useful addresses

Agence des Télécommunications de Côte d'Ivoire (ATCI), BP 2203, Immeuble Postel 2001, Rue le Coeur, Abidjan 18 (tel: 2034-4255; fax: 2034-4254).

Association of Businessmen and Industry of Côte d'Ivoire, Imm Lefébre, Bd de Marseille, 01 BP 464, Abidjan 01.

Association of Exporters of Coffee-Cocoa, Imm CCIA, 01 BP 1399, Abidjan 01 (tel: 2022-5446/5).

Association of Fishing Industry, Port de Pêche, 01 BP 14, Abidjan 01 (tel: 2025-7998; fax: 2025-2065).

Association of Import and Export Traders, Imm Résidence du Front Lagunaire 2 étage, 01 BP 3792, Abidjan 01 (tel: 2032-5427; fax: 2032-5652).

Association of West African Home Grown Product Dealers, Imm CCIA 7 étage, O & BP 5407, Abidjan 01 (tel: 2022-5795).

Nations of the World: A Political, Economic and Business Handbook

British Embassy, 3rd Floor, Immeuble Les Harmonies, Angle Boulevard Carde et Avenue Dr Jamot, BP 2581, Plateau, 01 Abidjan (tel: 2022-6850/2, 2032-8209; fax: 2022-3221).

Bureau National d'Etudes Techniques et de Développement (BNETD) (National Office for Technical and Development Studies), BP 945, 04 Abidjan (tel: 2044-2805, 2044-5877; fax: 2044-5666; email: nzoro@bnedt.sita.net; internet site: <http://www.bnndt.sita.net>).

Caisse de Stabilisation (CAISTAB), BP V132, Abidjan (tel: 2020-2700; fax: 2021-8994).

Centre de Commerce Internationale d'Abidjan (conference bookings), Abidjan (tel: 2022-4070).

Centre de Promotion des Investissements en Côte d'Ivoire (CEPICI), CCIA-WTR 5th Floor, BP V152, Abidjan 01 (tel: 2021-4070; fax: 2021-4071).

Committee of Insurers, Imm Les Arcades, 01 BP 3873, Abidjan 01 (tel: 2022-5437; fax: 2021-1835).

Committee of Privatisation, 6 Boulevard de l'Indénié, Abidjan-Plateau, BP 1141, Abidjan 01 (tel: 2022-2231/2232/2236; fax: 2022-2235).

Compagnie Ivoirienne pour le Développement des Textiles, BP 622, Bouaké (tel: 2063-3113, 2063-3013; fax: 2063-4167).

Conseil Economique et Social, 04 BP 301, Abidjan (tel: 2021-2060).

Côte d'Ivoire Embassy (USA), 3421 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20007 (tel: (+1-202) 797-0300; fax: 20(+1-202) 265-2454).

The Customs Department, Boulevard de la République, BP V 25, Abidjan (tel: 2021-5223).

Direction et Contrôle des Grands Travaux, Département Industrie et Energie, Boulevard de la Corniche, Cocody, 04 BP 945, Abidjan 04 (tel: 2044-2118; fax: 2044-5866).

Energie Electrique de la Côte d'Ivoire, BP 1345, 1 place de la République, Abidjan (tel: 2020-6000; fax: 2032-7477).

French Embassy, BP 175, Rue Lecoeur 17, Abidjan 17 (tel: 2020-0404; fax: 2020-0447).

General Surveillance Co (Responsible for Import Controls), PO Box 795, Abidjan (tel: 2021-1290).

Ivorian Investment Promotion in Côte d'Ivoire (CEPECI), PO Box V 152, Abidjan 01 (tel: 2021-4070; fax: 2021-4071; internet site: <http://www.cepici.go.ci>).

National Enterprise Assistance and Promotion Centre (CAPEN), Immeuble La Pyramide, 9th floor, 08 BP 868, Abidjan 08 (tel: 2032-0145).

Organisation Centrale pour la Commercialisation de l'Ananas et la Banane (OCAB), Imm Corniche, 16 BP 1908, Abidjan 16 (tel: 2032-5882; fax: 2032-1060).

Port Autonome d'Abidjan, BP V85, Abidjan (tel: 2024-0866, 2024-2640; fax: 2024-2328).

Professional Association of the Oil Industry, 13 Impasse Paris Village, 01 BP 1777, Abidjan 01 (tel: 2021-7320; fax: 2022-2858).

Société des Mines d'Ity, BP 872, Abidjan 08 (tel: 2044-6363; fax: 2044-4100).

Société Ivoirienne de la Poste et de l'Épargne, BP 105, Abidjan 17 (tel: 2034-7004; fax: 2034-7107).

Société Ivoirienne de Raffinage (SIR), Boulevard de Petit-Bassam, BP 1269, Abidjan 01 (tel: 2027-0427, 2027-0160; fax: 2027-1798, 2027-3217).

Société Nationale d'Opérations Petrolières de la Côte d'Ivoire, BP V194, Abidjan (tel: 2021-4058).

Société pour le Développement Minier de la Côte d'Ivoire, BP 2816, Abidjan (tel: 2021-2994).

SODEMI (State Company for Mineral Development), BP 2816, 31 Boulevard Latrille, Abidjan Cocody-Nord, Abidjan 01 (tel: 2044-0994; fax: 2044-0821).

US Embassy, 5 rue Jesse Owens, 01 BP 171, Abidjan 01 (tel: 2021-0979).

World Trade Centre, PO Box V 68, Abidjan (tel: 2021-6189, 2022-4072/3; fax: 2022-7112).

National news agency: AIP (Agence Ivoirienne de Presse)

04 Avenue Chardy, BP 312, Adidjan 04 (tel: 20-22-64-13; fax: 20-21-57-12; internet: www.aip.ci).

Other news agencies: APA (African Press Agency): www.apanews.net

Panapress: www.panapress.com

Internet sites

Africa Business Network: www.ifc.org/abn

AllAfrica.com: allafrica.com

African Development Bank: www.afdb.org

Africa Online: www.africaonline.com

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