

KEY FACTS

Official name: République de Djibouti/Jumhuriyya Djibouti (Republic of Djibouti)

Head of State: President Ismail Omar Guelleh (from 1999; re-elected 8 Apr 2011)

Head of government: Prime Minister Dileita Mohamed Dileita (since 2001; re-appointed 2005)

Ruling party: Coalition called Union pour la Majorité Présidentielle (UMP) (Union for a Presidential Majority), (consists of five political parties, all supporters of President Ismail Omar Guelleh) (since 2005; re-elected 8 Feb 2008)

Area: 23,200 square km

Population: 889,000 (2012)* (818,159; 2009 census figure)

Capital: Djibouti-ville

Official language: French/Arabic (Somali/Afar are the national languages)

Currency: Djibouti franc (Df) = 100 centimes

Exchange rate: Df174.70 per US\$ (Jul 2013)

GDP per capita: US\$1,523 (2012)*

GDP real growth: 4.84% (2012)*

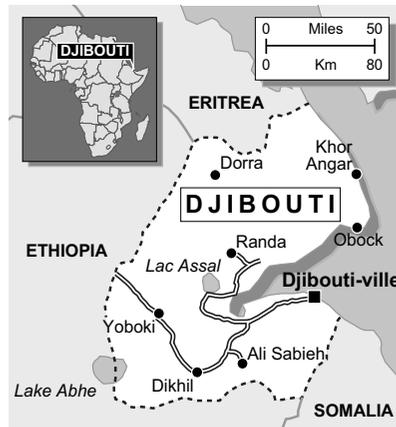
GDP: US\$1.35 billion (2012)*

Inflation: 3.74% (2012)*

Balance of trade: -US\$425.60 million (2011)

* estimated figure

Djibouti



Djibouti is at the crossroads of major sea routes for trading oil and other goods, and wants to become a hub for commercial, logistical and financial services for the Gulf of Aden countries. The government has launched an ambitious US\$4.3 billion investment programme, and in 2012, funding was obtained to build new port facilities for salt and potassium exports that will come into operation in 2013 and 2014. Projects planned for 2013 and 2014 include upgrading the railway line between Ethiopia and Djibouti (feasibility surveys have been commissioned) and improving roads after a regional integration agreement signed with Ethiopia and South Sudan as part of the wider framework of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).

These investments, reports the *African Economic Outlook 2013* (AEO), published jointly by the African Development Bank and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, along with foreign direct investment (FDI), which had been held up since the start of the 2008 financial crisis, will sustain economic growth until 2014. Regional politics have significantly helped the transport sector to expand – after the 1997–2000 war between Ethiopia and Eritrea, Djibouti became Ethiopia's main access to the sea, and since the break-up of Sudan and South Sudan there is the possibility of a pipeline from the south to

Previous investments were by the port operator Dubai Port World, especially the building of an oil terminal at Doraleh in 2006 and a container port in 2009, a luxury hotel (the Kempinski), residential housing and a free-trade zone. The firm also won contracts to manage the airport, sea ports, the oil terminal, the container port and the customs department. These investments increased the importance of transport and logistics in the economy and boosted growth of related sectors such as tourism and construction.

The economy

The economy remains dominated by the tertiary sector – transport, communications, commerce and tourism – which accounts for 73 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) and employs most of the working population. The smaller secondary sector is growing, but the primary sector remains insignificant.

Port activity, commerce, haulage and logistics still dominate the tertiary sector. Transport provides some 15,000 direct and indirect jobs, which is 15 per cent of the working population and which (with the civil service) remains the chief source of employment. These investments have improved the country's competitiveness in cross-border trade, for which Djibouti ranks 41 in the 2013 World Bank *Doing Business* report, but 171 out of 185 countries overall.

Other than its geographical position, Djibouti has few natural resources and most are not exploited. Energy sources are mostly geothermal and to some extent oil. The government is trying to raise funding for new test bores in 2013 to find and assess geothermal potential. If proven, extraction could start in 2014.

The country has mineral resources, but most have yet to be assessed. Vast sediments in the south-east could be mined in 2013 to make cement, and geothermal development could enable extraction of minerals such as zinc.

Djibouti also has reserves of diatomite, silica, gypsum, ignimbrite and perlite, which have industrial uses, as well as volcanogenic massive sulphides, which contain high concentrations of both base

and precious metals. No studies have yet clearly identified and quantified these deposits.

Djibouti has 372 kilometres of coastline with large quantities of fish that could provide an annual catch of 50,000 tonnes without hindering natural rebuilding of stocks. Current annual production is between 1,500 and 2,000 tonnes, mainly because small-scale fishing was originally promoted to protect resources and marine life. The sector is entering a new stage with the signing of a contract in October 2012 with an Algerian firm.

Development of natural resources has been too small (or nonexistent) to have brought growth-boosting structural change to Djibouti. Such change is emerging, however, with projects to resolve the energy and water constraints and gradual government efforts to develop these resources. The opening of the electricity line from Ethiopia, geothermal power prospects and building a desalination plant should help reduce still very high production costs. The business climate is hampered by small and costly supplies of water, electricity and labour. Apart from production costs, the general running of the country still needs improving to make it more attractive to foreign investors.

Growth revived in 2012 to reach 4.5 per cent, driven by the economy's two main elements, port activity and foreign direct investment (FDI). The port was boosted by a higher volume of transit goods, although still below the level previous to the 2008 world financial crisis. Increased FDI was mostly for salt mining at Lake Assal and building the Chabelley airport complex.

The government is also drafting a long-term development strategy called Vision 2035, and a study is being done of which leading sectors could diversify the sources of national growth and create jobs.

Industrial development is still hampered by high production costs, but these constraints could soon ease with important new water and energy infrastructure projects, which would help develop some of the few natural resources (chiefly mining) and create jobs.

Gross domestic product (GDP) increased by 4.5 per cent in 2012, mainly due to more port activity and a revival in FDI, but these two pillars of the economy are still below levels of before the 2008 world financial crisis. Overall growth should speed up until 2014 thanks to extensive investment in the port and transport sectors.

Transport and related logistical services remain the backbone of the economy. Port

activity has revived though trans-shipment operations remain small. The government launched a programme to develop the sector in 2012 by raising money to build two ports as well as road corridors. A port in Tadjourah to handle potassium exports from Ethiopia is expected to be ready by the end of 2014. A road from Tadjourah to Bahlo via Randa was completed in 2012 to carry 8 million tonnes a year of ore to the new terminal that will boost the country's port activity by 15–20 per cent. A bulk-carrier port at Goubet for salt from Lake Assal will open in 2013.

Telecommunications, construction and tourism continue to grow, although less than the dominant transport sector. Telecommunications is steadily expanding due to mobile phones, whose operators had 211,000 subscribers in an estimated population of 864,617 in 2011, but growth of subscriptions has slowed due to network saturation. Work begun in 2012 to allow third-generation (3G) connections will be complete in 2013 and expand network capacity to 600 000 subscribers.

The AEO noted that tourism also continued to grow and overnight stays increased by one-fifth in 2012, mainly with business travel connected with the foreign military bases and forces in the country, as well as with travel connected with efforts to fight piracy off the Horn of Africa. These visitors stayed in the capital despite the potentially very attractive sites elsewhere in the country.

Elections

The ruling coalition unexpectedly lost local elections in February 2012 when a new

party, the Rassemblement pour l'action de Développement et la Démocratie (RADD), won key municipal posts, including the mayoralty of the capital.

The opposition Union pour le Salut National (USN) (Union for National Salvation) boycotted the elections in 2008, but stood in 2013. The ruling Union pour la Majorité Présidentielle (UMP) (Union for a Presidential Majority) won 61.5 per cent of the votes (43 seats out of 65); USN 35.6 per cent (21). Turnout was 69.2 per cent. The USN contested the result for Djibouti City; their figures would have given them 25 seats and the ruling UMP 40. The elections included for the first time a 20 per cent proportional representation allowing opposition parties to sit in parliament

Because of its strategic geographic position in the Gulf of Aden, Djibouti has several foreign military bases on its soil: French and US and, since 2010, Japanese. Other foreign troops are present too, along with the European anti-piracy force, Operation Atalanta.

Risk assessment

Politics	Fair
Economy	Fair
Regional stability	Fair

COUNTRY PROFILE

Historical profile

1862 France reached agreements with local leaders which gave the French the right to settle in Djibouti. They also acquired the port of Obock. The country was called French Somaliland.

1888 Construction of Djibouti-ville began on the southern shore of Tadjoura Bay. At the end of the century, France signed an

KEY INDICATORS

Djibouti

	Unit	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Population	m	*0.78	0.82	*0.82	*0.84	*0.89
Gross domestic product (GDP)	US\$bn	0.98	1.05	1.14	1.24	*1.35
GDP per capita	US\$	1,253	1,305	1,383	1,467	*1,523
GDP real growth	%	5.8	5.0	3.5	4.5	*4.8
Inflation	%	12.0	1.7	4.0	5.1	*3.7
Exports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	68.8	77.4	78.7	85.0	–
Imports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	574.1	450.7	373.9	510.6	–
Balance of trade	US\$m	505.3	-373.3	-295.2	-425.6	–
Current account	US\$m	-225.4	-71.1	-50.5	-171.8	*-181.0
Total reserves minus gold	US\$m	175.5	241.8	249.0	–	249.0
Foreign exchange	US\$m	173.7	219.6	230.6	–	234.0
Exchange rate	per US\$	176.01	175.80	177.72	177.72	177.72
* estimated figure						

agreement with the Emperor of Ethiopia designating French Somaliland as the 'official outlet of Ethiopian commerce'. The agreement led to the construction of the vital Addis Ababa-Djibouti railway.

1892 Djibouti-ville became the capital of French Somaliland.

1917 The Addis Ababa-Djibouti railway was completed.

1946 French Somaliland was made an overseas territory, with its own parliament and representation in the French parliament.

1967 A referendum favoured continued French rule. French Somaliland was renamed the French Territory of the Afars and the Issas.

1977 The re-named Republic of Djibouti was granted independence by France after several years of growing protests and demonstrations. Hassan Gouled Aptidon of the Rassemblement Populaire pour le Progrès (RPP) (Popular Rally for Progress) was elected president.

1981 Djibouti became a one-party state, with the RPP as the only legal political party.

1991 The Front pour la Restauration de l'Unité et de la Démocratie (FRUD) (Front for the Restoration of Unity and Democracy) launched a civil war in northern Djibouti. The ethnic Afar organisation called for multi-party elections.

1992 Following several months of fighting, Aptidon agreed to a referendum, which led to a limited, multi-party constitution. In the elections to the Chamber of Deputies only four parties are allowed to take part; the RPP won 72 per cent of the vote while a newly formed alliance led by the Parti du Renouveau Démocratique (PRD) (Party of Democratic Renewal) won the remainder.

1993 President Aptidon was re-elected for a fourth term.

1994 Despite the new constitution, FRUD did not end its armed struggle until December, when the government and FRUD signed a peace accord confirming the constitutional and electoral reforms of 1992.

1997 President Aptidon was re-elected for a fifth term. FRUD joined RPP in a coalition government.

1999 The 83-year-old president resigned after 22 consecutive years in power. Ismael Omar Guelleh was elected president.

2001 Dileita Mohamed Dileita replaced Barkat Gourad Hamadou as prime minister.

2002 The law limiting four parties to contest elections, passed in 1992, expired. US led coalition troops arrived, in preparation for military action in Afghanistan and against al Qaeda targets in the region.

2003 The first fully multi-party elections held since independence, were won by parties supporting President Guelleh. Large numbers of illegal immigrants – estimated at 15 per cent of the population – were deported.

2005 In presidential elections, Ismail Omar Guelleh, the only candidate, was re-elected with 100 per cent of the vote.

2008 The opposition boycotted the parliamentary elections, won by the UMP coalition (consisting of five political parties, all supporters of President Ismail Omar Guelleh). Border clashes in the Mount Gabla area – also known as Ras Doumeira – that killed nine Djibouti troops and injured many more – were blamed, by the US, on 'military aggression' by Eritrea. The US and France called for a cease-fire and troop withdrawals on both sides and for negotiations to begin.

2009 Eritrea denied it had troops in Djibouti, contrary to a UN Security Council announcement that Eritrea had failed to withdraw.

2010 Parliament amended the constitution; a president may now serve for more than two terms although the mandate was reduced to five years in office and an upper age limit of 75 years was set. The amendment meant that President Guelleh would be allowed to run for office in 2011.

2011 The largest anti-government demonstration since independence was held in February in Djibouti-ville. Around 30,000 people called on President Guelleh to quit office. Security forces used teargas and rubber bullets to disperse the crowds. In March opposition groups decided to boycott the upcoming presidential election and called on voters to do likewise. The opposition warned that voting would not be free and fair and would most likely be rigged. Security forces arrested four opposition political leaders, as they planned to head a demonstration against Guelleh. In March, international observers (funded by the US) quit Djibouti, after they were declared 'illegal' by the foreign minister, Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, and accused of failing to maintain neutrality. In April, parliament voted to allow unlimited terms in office for a president. The presidential election took place on 8 April, incumbent President Guelleh won 80.58 per cent of the vote and Mohamed Warsama Ragueh 19.42 per cent; turnout was 69.68 per cent. Parliamentary elections that had been due to take place at the same time as the presidential election were postponed until 2013. In July, the UN issued an emergency appeal for US\$136.3 in funds to provide aid for thousands of malnourished people caught up in the drought in the Horn of Africa.

2012 In February, the IMF approved a US\$14 million loan to support the economy. In June, the year-on-year inflation rate reached 4.2 per cent. On 18 October, the United Arab Emirates agreed to provide financial assistance of US\$7 million to support the budget. On 21 October, a new 128-bed hospital in Arta, built with Chinese investment, was inaugurated by the president and the Chinese Ambassador.

2013 Parliamentary elections were held on 22 February. The ruling Union pour la Majorité Présidentielle (UMP) (Union for a Presidential Majority) won 61.5 per cent of the votes (43 seats out of 65); Union pour le Salut National (USN) (Union for National Salvation) 35.6 per cent (21). Turnout was 69.2 per cent. The USN (who had boycotted the last election in 2008) contested the result for Djibouti City; their figures would have given them 25 seats and the ruling UMP 40.

Political structure

Constitution

The constitution was amended in April 2010 so that a president may now serve for more than two terms, although the mandate was reduced to five years in office and an upper age limit of 75 years was set.

The executive

Executive power is vested in the president as Head of State, who is directly elected by absolute majority vote, is typically leader of the largest political party in parliament. The president appoints a prime minister as head of government and leader of the council of ministers, both of which are responsible to the president. There is no term limit on the presidency, although there is an upper age limit of 75 years. The term in office is five years.

National legislature

The unicameral Assemblée Nationale (National Assembly) has 65 members elected in multi-seat constituencies for five-year terms. Membership includes 30 representatives of Somali groups (of which 21 are Issa) and 32 Afar peoples.

Last elections

8 April 2011 (presidential); 2013 (parliamentary);

Results: Parliamentary: Union pour la Majorité Présidentielle (UMP) (Union for a Presidential Majority) won 61.5 per cent of the votes (43 seats out of 65); Union pour le Salut National (USN) (Union for National Salvation) 35.6 per cent (21). Turnout was 69.2 per cent. The USN contested the result for Djibouti City; their figures would have given them 25 seats and the ruling UMP 40.

Presidential: Ismail Omar Guelleh won 80.58 per cent of the vote, Mohamed

Warsama Ragueh 19.42 per cent; turnout was 69.68 per cent.

Next elections

2016 (presidential); 2018 (parliamentary)

Political parties

Ruling party

Coalition called Union pour la Majorité Présidentielle (UMP) (Union for a Presidential Majority), (consists of five political parties, all supporters of President Ismail Omar Guelleh) (since 2005; re-elected 8 Feb 2008)

Main opposition party

Union pour l'Alternance Démocratique (UAD) (Union for Democratic Change), has no seats in parliament having boycotted the 2008 elections.

Population

889,000 (2012)* (818,159; 2009 census figure)

Last census: 2009 818,159 (December 1960 81,200).

According to the 2009 census, 70.6 per cent of the population live in urban areas, with 58.1 per cent of the population resident in the city of Djibouti, especially in the Balbala and Boulaos neighbourhoods. The rest of the population is spread across the different regions: Dikhil (10.9 per cent), Ali Sabieh (10.6 per cent), Tadjourah (10.6 per cent), Arta (5.2 per cent) and Obock (4.6 per cent). There are 161,132 nomadic people, accounting for 19.7 per cent, while the sedentary rural population accounts for 9.7 per cent of the total. Of the total population 53.8 per cent are male and 46.2 per cent female and 60.7 per cent of the population are aged between 15 and 59 years old.

Population density: 28 inhabitants per square km. Urban population 76 per cent (2010 Unicef).

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

Ethnic make-up

About 60 per cent of the national total are Issas, of Somali origin and about 35 per cent are Afars who have links with Ethiopia; there are about 5 per cent European residents.

The population also includes refugees from the Ogaden and Eritrean wars in Somalia and Ethiopia.

The nomadic population (principally Afars) totals around 100,000.

Religions

Islam (94 per cent), Christianity (6 per cent)

Education

Literacy rate: 75.6 per cent men, 54.4 per cent women; adult rates (World Bank).

Enrolment rate: 45 per cent boys, 33 per cent girls, total primary school

enrolment of the relevant age group (including repetition rates) (World Bank).

Health

The results of this spending appear limited, due mainly to poor management and the high costs of foreign staff and medicines.

HIV/Aids

This percentage is high enough to pose a significant threat to the country's future prosperity. Under a funding agreement in June 2004, US\$12 million from the Global Fund to fight Aids, tuberculosis (TB) and malaria, will be spent on antiretroviral drugs to be supplied to Aids sufferers until 2007. From an initial 200 patients it is expected that 4,000 patients will be treated, however the estimate of HIV positive cases in Djibouti is 9,000, with only 1,000 people registered – gaining them access to free treatment – though there has been an improvement in the numbers of people being tested.

HIV prevalence: 2.9 per cent aged 15–49 in 2003 (World Bank)

Life expectancy: 56 years, 2004 (WHO 2006)

Fertility rate/Maternal mortality rate: 3.8 births per woman, 2010 (Unicef)

Child (under 5 years) mortality rate (per 1,000): 81 per 1,000 live births (WHO 2012); 18 per cent of children aged under five are malnourished (World Bank).

Head of population per physician:

0.18 physicians per 1,000 people, 2004 (WHO 2006)

Welfare

A new national poverty survey in 2012 showed living conditions had worsened, with 79 per cent of Djiboutians living in relative poverty (74 per cent in 2002). Unemployment affects 48 per cent of the working population.

Main cities

Djibouti-ville (capital, estimated population 513,669 in 2012), Ali Sabieh (24,456), Dikhil (20,908), Tadjourah (13,138), Arta (11,934), Obock (10,734).

Languages spoken

English is understood by the larger trading houses. Cushitic languages, as well as Somali and Saho-Afar are widely spoken.

Official language/s

French/Arabic (Somali/Afar are the national languages)

Media

Although the constitution provides for a free press, in practice the government maintains tight control of media outlets and circulation of information is highly restricted. Journalists generally have to avoid sensitive issues covering human

rights, the army, and the government, relations with Ethiopia and foreign financial aid. A law prohibits the dissemination of false information and regulates the publication of newspapers, which has led to journalists exercising self-censorship. Journalists are largely untrained and poorly paid.

Press

In French, the main locally published newspaper *La Nation* (www.lanation.dj) is government owned. Political parties, Parti National Démocratique publishes *La République*, and Union pour l'Alternance Démocratique publishes *Le Renouveau*.

Broadcasting

The government owns the only radio and television stations allowed within the country with news programmes uncritical of the government or government policy. External services are available.

Radio: Radio Télévision Djibouti (RTD) (www.rtd.dj) provides a national network for news, information, religious and musical programmes. External services via AM and local FM relays provide foreign broadcasts.

Television: RTD (www.rtd.dj) has a monopoly in broadcasting, providing a few hours TV per day.

National news agency: ADI (Agence Djiboutienne d'Information) (internet: (in French): www.adi.dj).

Other news agencies: Presidential Press Office: www.spp.dj

Economy

Djibouti's location on the Horn of Africa is the main economic asset of a country that is mostly barren. It is strategically located at the mouth of the Red Sea, close to the world's busiest shipping lanes and the Arabian oilfields; it is the terminus of freight traffic to Diré Dawa (Ethiopia), although services were suspended in 2010, and was still non-operational in 2012. Djibouti's economy is reliant on services, which constitute around 80 per cent of GDP. The agricultural sector is small at less than 5 per cent and industry constitutes only around 15 per cent of GDP, of which manufacturing is less than 5 per cent. Economic activity centres on the port and the adjacent free trade zone, which in 2009 sustained GDP growth of 5 per cent, although falling to 3.5 per cent in 2010, when the economy in general was sluggish. The trans-shipment of goods from the port to Ethiopia, in particular, and other hinterlands is the primary activity for the port. The authorities are planning to develop the port into a shipping hub; however the prevalence of Somali pirates in the region may have an adverse effect on this strategy.

The French military presence has been joined by the US which uses Djibouti as a

military base for activities in the region, while the port is used by foreign navies patrolling the busy, but vulnerable, shipping lanes leading to the Suez Canal. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) reported in 2009 that Djibouti had enjoyed the benefits of the expansion in port facilities and increased military personnel which successfully attracted foreign direct investment (FDI) – a record US\$227.7 million in 2008, falling dramatically to US\$36.5 million in 2010. GDP per capita remained fairly constant, averaging US\$1,259 (2007–10), before rising to an estimated US\$1,467 in 2011. In 2011, the UN Human Development Index (HDI) ranked Djibouti 165 (out of 187) for national development in health, education and income. In 2010, 47.3 per cent of the population experienced at least one indicator of poverty with the headcount poverty rate 29.3 per cent of the population (2000–10). Remittances were US\$33 million in 2010 (2.9 per cent of GDP), and were estimated to have risen to US\$35 million in 2011.

External trade

Djibouti is a member of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (Comesa), and operates within a free trade zone with 13 of the 19 member states. The country has few assets with an unskilled labour force, limited natural resources and little scope for agriculture with poor, unproductive soil. The majority of foreign earnings come from its strategic function as a trans-shipment corridor for goods transported to and from the Port of Djibouti and Ethiopia. There is a free trade zone near the port of Djibouti.

Imports

Principal imports are fresh fruits and vegetables (from Ethiopia), foods, beverages, transport equipment, construction material, chemicals and petroleum products.

Main sources: Saudi Arabia 18.1 per cent of total in 2011), China (16.5 per cent), India (14 per cent).

Exports

Principal exports transiting Djibouti are live animals, cotton, sugar, cereals, salt, skins, leather and coffee.

Main destinations: Somalia (77.2 per cent of total in 2011), Egypt (8.6 per cent), UAE (4 per cent).

Agriculture

Total agricultural land is 2.3 million hectares of which 73.3 per cent is pasture and 0.1 per cent arable. The underdeveloped agricultural sector employs 74 per cent of the workforce.

Due to poor terrain (mostly desert), most agricultural producers are nomads engaged in herding goats, sheep and camels. Drought has severely affected the

livelihoods of the herd owners. Around 95 per cent of food requirements are imported.

Projects under consideration include increasing the amount of arable land by irrigation schemes and rehabilitation of water dams and wells.

Industry and manufacturing

The industrial sector is limited to construction and small-scale concerns such as mineral water bottling, tanning, dairy and animal food plants. New industries set up in Djibouti include cement, tiles, paints and meat processing. Foreign investment is being encouraged and should be aided by renewed political stability in the region.

Tourism

The sector is small and underdeveloped and any visitor will need to be experienced in self-sufficiency to enjoy anything on offer outside the capital of Djibouti-ville. There are sites of natural wonder, such as active volcanoes, the bay of black lava, turned dark green near the western end of the Gulf of Tadjoura and the rare trees being conserved in the Day Forest National Park on Mount Goda.

Environment

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

Mining

Surveys have indicated the presence of minerals such as copper, gypsum and sulphur. No minerals are mined commercially. Salt is extracted and exported. There are no proved oil reserves; consumption of oil was 13,000 barrels per day in 2008, all of which were imported. Djibouti relies entirely on oil to generate electricity; it opened the Doraleh oil terminal, in 2006, which can manage and store up to 240,000 tonnes of oil. Any import and use of either natural gas or coal is commercially insignificant.

Energy

Total installed generating capacity was 150MW in 2008, producing over 250 million kilowatt hours. Djibouti is constrained in its energy generation by having no natural resources to exploit, it is without oil, natural gas and hydroelectric potential.

The state-owned *Electricité du Djibouti* is responsible for generation, transmission and distribution of electricity, which is only

available in cities and a few small towns, plus those villages that have financed their own diesel-powered generators. In urban areas that are supplied with electricity around 99 per cent of the population use it for lighting only, kerosene is commonly used for other domestic purposes such as cooking and heating.

Djibouti has been recognised as a country with high a potential for renewable power generation from solar, wind and geothermal sources.

The government signed an agreement with the Icelandic Reykjavik Energy Invest (REI) in 2008 to initially build a 50MW geothermal power plant in the Rift Valley, which, along with an additional seven other geothermal plants, will produce a total of 900MW.

Banking and insurance

Central bank

National Bank of Djibouti

Main financial centre

Djibouti-ville

Time

GMT plus three hours

Geography

Djibouti is in the Horn of Africa, at the southern entrance to the Red Sea. It is bounded on the north, west and south-west by Ethiopia, and on the south-east by Somalia. The land is volcanic desert.

Hemisphere

Northern

Climate

Very hot and arid from April–August; average temperature 32 degrees Celsius (C) and can reach 45 degrees C. Slightly cooler from October–March, with occasional light rain.

Dress codes

Djibouti has a large Muslim population so visitors should dress modestly, especially in the city. However, it is far less strict than other Islamic countries.

Entry requirements

Passports

Required by all. Must be valid for six months beyond date of departure.

Visa

Required by all, except French nationals. For business visits, a letter of invitation from a company in Djibouti is necessary.

Currency advice/regulations

No restrictions on import/export of local or foreign currency.

Health (for visitors)

Mandatory precautions

Yellow fever vaccination certificate if arriving from an infected area.

Advisable precautions

Yellow fever, typhoid, tetanus, hepatitis A and polio vaccinations. Malaria prophylaxis recommended as risk exists throughout the country. There is a rabies risk. Water precautions should be taken. Eat only well cooked meals, preferably served hot. Pork, salad and mayonnaise may carry increased risk. Vegetables should be cooked and fruit peeled.

Hotels

Available in Djibouti-ville – limited elsewhere. Service charge is normally included. Tipping is not usual.

Credit cards

Generally not accepted, except by airlines and Sheraton Hotel.

Public holidays (national)**Fixed dates**

1 Jan (New Year's Day), 1 May (Labour Day), 27 Jun (Independence Day), 25 Dec (Christmas Day).

Variable dates

Eid al Adha, Eid al Fitr, Islamic New Year, Birth of the Prophet.

Islamic year 1435 (5 Nov 2013–24 Oct 2014):

The Islamic year contains 354 or 355 days, with the result that Muslim feasts advance by 10-12 days against the Gregorian calendar. Dates of feasts vary according to the sighting of the new moon, so cannot be forecast exactly.

Working hours**Banking**

Sat–Thu: 0715–1145.

Business

Sat–Thu: 0630–1300.

Government

Sat–Thu: 0630–1300.

Shops

0730–1200, 1600–1900; closed Fri.

Telecommunications**Telephone/fax**

A 100 per cent automatic service; outside Djibouti-ville there are very few telephones.

Electricity supply

220V AC, 50 cycles.

Getting there**Air**

National airline: DAALLO Airlines

International airport/s: Djibouti-Ambouli (JIB), 5km south of city; restaurants, duty free shops, bureau de change, car hire.

Airport tax: US\$20

Surface

Road: There is a surfaced road from Addis Ababa (Ethiopia). Local advice should be taken as to when to travel by road as it can be difficult, with problems caused by the political situation.

Rail: There is a rail link with Ethiopia with a daily service, but it is not reliable or safe.

Main port/s: Djibouti-ville.

Getting about**National transport**

Air: Djibouti Airlines operates a daily domestic service to Obock and Tadjoura from Djibouti. Dikhil and Ali-Sabieh can be reached by chartered aircraft.

Road: There are surfaced roads to the Ethiopian border and to Arta, and from Djibouti-ville to Tadjoura; most roads are in need of repair. Take local advice when planning to travel by road.

Rail: Some towns are served on the Djibouti–Addis Ababa railway.

Water: Ferry service links Djibouti-ville with Tadjoura and Obock.

City transport

Taxis: They are available in main towns. Tipping is not usual as fares include gratuities; there is an official tariff, but it is usual for visitors to be charged 50 per cent more; there is a similar increase at night.

The journey from the airport to the centre of Djibouti-ville takes 10 minutes.

Car hire

Available in Djibouti-ville and at the airport. Valid international driving licence recommended. A temporary licence can be obtained on presentation of national licence. Traffic drives on 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 dialling code (IDD) for Djibouti is + 253 followed by subscriber's number.

Useful telephone numbers

Police: 17

Fire: 18

Chambers of Commerce

Djibouti International Chamber of Commerce et Industry, Place de LaGuarde, PO Box 84, Djibouti (tel: 351-070; fax: 350-096; e-mail: cicaid@intnet.dj).

Banking

Banque de Développement de Djibouti; PO Box 520, Angle Ave Georges Clémenceau et rue Pierre Curie, Djibouti-ville (tel: 353-391; fax: 355-022).

Banque Indosuez Mer Rouge; PO Box 88, 10 Place Lagarde, Djibouti-ville (tel: 353-016; fax: 351-638).

Banque pour le Commerce et l'Industrie-Mer Rouge; PO Box 2122, Place Lagarde, Djibouti-ville (tel: 350-857; fax: 354-260).

Central bank

Banque Centrale de Djibouti, Avenue Saint Laurent du Var, PO Box 2118, Djibouti-ville (tel: 352-751 fax: 356-288; e-mail: bndj@intnet.dj).

Travel information

DAALLO Airlines (Airline of Horn of Africa), PO Box 1954, Djibouti-ville (tel: 353-401, 356-660; fax: 351-765).

DAALLO Airlines (Corporate office), Office # J-21, Dubai Airport Free Zone, Dubai, United Arab Emirates (tel: +971-4-2994485; fax: +971-4-2994486).

Djibouti Airlines, Place Lagarde, PO Box 2240, Djibouti-ville (tel: 351-006; fax: 352-429).

Djibouti Airport, BP 204, Djibouti-ville (tel: 340-101 ext 300, 382-322; fax: 340-723).

Puntavia Airline de Djibouti, CP 2240, Djibouti-ville (tel: 351-036, 351-006; fax: 353-429, 356-660).

National tourist organisation offices

Office National du Tourisme de Djibouti, BP 1938, place du 27 Juin, Djibouti-ville (tel: 353-790; fax: 356-322; e-mail: onta@intnet.dj).

Ministries

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, BP 453, Djibouti-ville (tel: 351-297).

Ministry of Commerce, Transport and Tourism, BP 121, Djibouti-ville (tel: 352-540).

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation, BP 1863, Djibouti-ville (tel: 353-342).

Ministry of Industry and Industrial Development, BP 175, Djibouti-ville (tel: 350-340).

Other useful addresses

British Consulate, BP 81, Gellatly Hankey et Cie, Djibouti-ville (tel: 355-718; fax: 353-294); c/o Inchcape Shipping Office, Djibouti-ville (tel: 353-836/844).

Central Post Office, boulevard de la République, Djibouti-ville (tel: 350-669).

Compagnie du Chemin de Fer Djibouti-Ethiopien, BP 2116, Djibouti-ville (tel: 350-353).

Djibouti Embassy (USA), 1156 15th Street, NW, Washington DC 20005 (tel: (+1-202)-331-0270; fax (+1-202)-331-0302).

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Office National d'Approvisionnement et de Commercialisation (ONAC), BP 75, Djibouti-ville (tel: 350-327).

Office of the Prime Minister, BP 2086, Djibouti-ville (tel: 351-494; fax: 355-049).

Radiodiffusion Télévision de Djibouti (RTD), BP 97, Djibouti-ville (tel: 352-294).

Service de Statistique et de Documentation, BP 1846, Djibouti-ville (tel: 353-331).

US Embassy, BP 185, Villa Plateau du Serpent, Boulevard Maréchal Joffré, Djibouti-ville (tel: 353-995).

National news agency: ADI (Agence Djiboutienne d'Information)
(internet: (in French): www.adi.dj).

Other news agencies: Presidential Press Office: www.spp.dj

Internet sites

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

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

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

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

Information on Horn of Africa:
<http://www.djibouti.com>

Local online newspaper:
<http://www.djiboutipost.com>

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