

# Ethiopia

## KEY FACTS

**Official name:** Ityopia (Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia)

**Head of State:** President Girma Wolde Giorgise (elected by parliament 2001; re-elected 2007)

**Head of government:** Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn (from 22 Aug 2012)

**Ruling party:** Coalition Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), an alliance of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), the South Ethiopian Peoples' Democratic Front (SEPDF), the Amhara National Democratic Movement (ANDM), and Oromo People's Democratic Movement (OPDM) (from 1991, elected 1995, re-elected 2010)

**Area:** 1,251,282 square km

**Population:** 86.77 million (2012)\*

**Capital:** Addis Ababa

**Official language:** Amharic

**Currency:** Birr (Birr) = 100 cents

**Exchange rate:** Birr 18.80 per US\$ (Jul 2013)

**GDP per capita:** US\$483 (2012)\*

**GDP real growth:** 7.00% (2012)\*

**GDP:** US\$41.91 billion (2012)\*

**Inflation:** 22.75% (2012)\*

**Balance of trade:** -US\$5.30 billion (2011)

\* estimated figure



Ethiopia's basic natural resources are its people and its agriculture. Ethiopia has a young population, great biodiversity and distinctive ecosystems. With 18 major agro-ecological zones, more than 146 different crops can be grown and nearly half of the potentially cultivable land is still available. In addition, the number of livestock, including cattle, in Ethiopia is one of the highest in Africa. The *African Economic Outlook 2013* (AEO), published jointly by the African Development Bank and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, reports that agriculture accounts for almost 40 per cent of Ethiopia's GDP and 83 per cent of employment. Livestock, with better management of grazing lands and breeding, has significant potential.

The country has never had major forestry and fishing industries and minerals account for less than one per cent of GDP.

Only gold is of significance. It earned the country about US\$1.7 billion in 2012. A recent survey increased estimates of gold reserves to 500 tons. The government estimated that production could rise to 40 tons a year from just over four tons in 2012. Ethiopia also has gemstones such as diamonds and sapphires; industrial minerals including potash; and other precious and base metals. Development of these resources is a cornerstone of the government's export-oriented growth strategy and means there is less reliance on agriculture for diversifying the economy. Ethiopia has licensed 250 foreign firms to prospect for minerals.

Services are the major source of growth, rather than agriculture. This unintended structural transformation does not generate the foreign exchange which is required to sustain recent high growth levels and poverty reduction. The lack of transformation from agriculture to industry is also

mirrored by the structure of trade and the population. Ethiopia's exports are still dominated by primary commodities. The economy largely depends on this sector for foreign exchange. Urban dwellers make up less than 20 per cent of the population.

Government policy has been that agriculture development will drive industrialisation. However, Ethiopian agriculture remains stubbornly low input, low value, subsistence oriented and subject to frequent climatic shocks. It cannot generate the desperately needed rural transformation. The government has now launched a strategy to change the source of growth, or at least to lay the foundation for a positive structural transformation. It seeks an economy that has modern technology with the industrial sector playing a leading role. Expanding industry could help other sectors, particularly agriculture. Efforts are being concentrated on the industrial sector through a comprehensive industrial development policy and incentive packages. By 2015, the government projects the share of the industrial sector have reached 19 per cent of GDP, from the current 13 per cent.

### The economy

Ethiopia's economic growth for 2011/12 was estimated at 6.9 per cent, marking a ninth year of strong performance. The service sector was the main source of growth, followed by industry and agriculture, highlighting the broad base of the expansion.

The service sector was estimated to have grown by 11 per cent, driven mainly by the rapid growth of hotels and restaurants, financial intermediation, real estate, public administration and retail businesses.

A construction boom, expansion in mining and manufacturing helped the industrial sector to grow by 13.6 per cent in 2011/12. There are good prospects for 2013 and 2014 and the government is giving increased attention to industrial development.

The AEO notes that with a share of about 44 per cent of GDP, agriculture accounts for about 80 per cent of employment and 70 per cent of export earnings. In 2011/12 the sector grew by 5 per cent mainly attributable to a record 23.5 million tonnes of grain production. The robust agricultural production came as a result of favourable weather conditions for cereal growing, increased access to government services for smallholders and improved yields. There has also been an

expansion in use of land for crop cultivation. Yield per hectare increased from 1.7 million tonnes in 2010/11 to 1.9 million tonnes in 2011/12. The amount of land under crop cultivation increased by 0.3 million hectares in line with government efforts to intensify smallholder farming.

Vulnerability to environmental and climatic shocks, especially unreliable rainfall, remains a critical factor for Ethiopia's agriculture. Despite improvements in yields, productivity is still very low, partly owing to limited use of improved farming practices. The Ethiopian Commodity Exchange plays a pivotal role in disseminating price information to farmers but marketing institutions and infrastructure are still weak, leading to high transaction costs. The rising price of agricultural inputs such as chemical fertiliser does not help to enhance productivity. Soil erosion in the densely populated highlands, due to over-cultivation and over-grazing of land, and limited land conservation practices continue to hold back sustained agricultural output growth. Ethiopia has seen a decline in per capita land use due to the growing population. Hence, in 2011/12 close to 4 million people were dependent on emergency food aid and another 7.7 million people were chronically food insecure.

In spite of these challenges, agriculture's potential remains enormous. Ethiopia has only cultivated 15 per cent of its arable land potential so far and productivity is among the lowest in sub-Saharan Africa. This indicates untapped

opportunities to increase production and productivity by promoting modern farming practices and putting more land under cultivation. Promoting the use of modern technology, supporting the commercialisation of agriculture and production of high value crops, encouraging micro-irrigation schemes and improving marketing and infrastructure are some of the key tools the government is pursuing to enhance agricultural production and productivity. The government's Growth and Transformation Plan aims to overhaul the economy by radically altering the agricultural sector and boosting industry through expanded investment in the sector. The aim is to move from subsistence farming to commercially oriented, small-scale production, including for export. There are obstacles to overcome, such as security of tenure, inefficient input and output market structure, access to credit, improved extension services and promoting irrigation. Addressing property rights issues and plot fragmentation is one approach to assist in the transition from smallholder farming to commercial agriculture. There should be a greater use of co-operatives to increase the size of farms.

### Renewable energy

Ethiopia could have significant energy resources, including biomass, water, natural gas and other fossil fuels, geothermal and solar energy. Ethiopia's largest renewable energy resource is hydropower. The gross hydro-energy potential is estimated at 650 Terawatt hours (Twh) per year, of which

KEY INDICATORS		Ethiopia				
	Unit	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Population	m	80.71	*82.81	*84.80	*86.83	*86.77
Gross domestic product (GDP)	US\$bn	26.40	32.30	29.70	31.30	*41.91
GDP per capita	US\$	333	390	350	360	*483
GDP real growth	%	11.2	10.0	8.0	7.5	*7.0
Inflation	%	25.3	36.4	2.8	18.1	*22.8
Industrial output	% change	10.4	8.9	8.8	–	–
Agricultural output	% change	7.5	6.4	5.8	–	–
Exports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	1,554.7	1,538.1	2,479.5	3,029.0	–
Imports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	7,206.3	6,819.0	7,364.5	8,328.9	–
Balance of trade	US\$m	-5,651.6	-5,280.9	-4,885.0	-5,299.8	–
Current account	US\$m	-1,805.7	-2,190.7	-1,194.0	201.0	*-2,437.0
Total reserves minus gold	US\$m	870.5	1,780.9	–	–	–
Foreign exchange	US\$m	859.0	1,741.7	–	–	–
Exchange rate	per US\$	9.60	11.78	14.41	16.75	*18.08
* estimated figure						

25 per cent is exploitable for power. Studies on domestic fossil fuel resources have confirmed the existence of about 2.7 million cubic feet of commercial quantities of natural gas. More than 100 megawatts (MW) of geothermal power has been discovered. Total geothermal-based electricity generation capacity is estimated at 700 MW. Solar energy and wind resources are other potential sources of energy in Ethiopia. The total solar radiation reaching the territory is about 2.3 million Twh per year. Few coal deposits have been found.

Minister of water, irrigation and energy, Alemayehu Tegenu, told a meeting of the Great Rift Valley Energy Summit in Addis Ababa in October 2013 that Africa should open up development of sustainable energy supplies such as solar hydro-power. He told the energy summit that Africa has to choose '... appropriate strategies to build climate resilient economy in the face of uncompromising facts of declining resource base to support economic growth and livelihood.'

**Outlook**

Hailemariam Desalegn was confirmed as prime minister in September 2012, following the death of Meles Zenawi a month earlier. Although the transition was smooth, Mr Desalegn is likely to face challenges sustaining the system built up by his predecessor. The Arab Spring events demonstrate how quickly stability can change, and how much that stability depends on meaningful progress in economic opportunity, democracy and social accountability. These latter two areas have generally been lacking throughout Ethiopia's history.

The opposition says there has been a narrowing of the democratic and political space with the EPRDF guarding its position using restrictive laws governing the media, civil society and political funding. In early 2013 the government stopped a demonstration taking place by opposition party Semayawi (Blue). The party leader, Yilekal Getachew, said that several hundred protestors had been arrested, and some beaten severely.

On the international front, an ongoing border conflict with Eritrea remains unresolved though an outright conflict remains improbable. Conflict in neighbouring Somalia poses more immediate security challenges, while the government has taken a measured diplomatic approach to tensions between Sudan and South Sudan. Ethiopia's southern border with Kenya continues to pose difficulties with members of the rebel group al

Shabab able to pass from Somalia to Kenya and Ethiopia.

**Risk assessment**

Politics	Fair
Economy	Fair
Regional stability	Poor

**COUNTRY PROFILE**

**Historical profile**

100 BC A kingdom including part of modern-day Ethiopia existed around Axum.  
 450 AD The kingdom converted to Christianity and the Ethiopian church became part of the Coptic community.  
 1896 Italy tried to seize Ethiopia but lost the Battle of Adwa. The Italians held on to Eritrea on the Red Sea coast.  
 1916 Ras Tafari, later known as Emperor Haile Selassie, gained power over local lords but his appeal to the League of Nations for help against the occupying Italians went unheeded.  
 1936 Benito Mussolini's Fascist Italian army invaded Ethiopia, which became part of Italian East Africa. Haile Selassie went into exile in Bath, England.  
 1941 British and Commonwealth troops along with the *Arbegnoch* (patriots), Ethiopian resistance fighters battled the Italian occupiers. Emperor Haile Selassie returned to Addis Ababa on 5 May 1941.  
 1962 Eritrea was annexed by Ethiopia.  
 1974 Haile Selassie was deposed in coup led by Teferi Benti.  
 1975 Haile Selassie died in custody.  
 1977 Benti was killed and replaced by Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam, who led a brutal regime known as the Dergue. At least 100,000 opponents or critics were killed.  
 1977 Somalia tried to annex part of Ethiopia's Ogaden region, where most people are ethnic Somalis. Cuban and Soviet troops and tanks assisted Ethiopia in repelling the Somali invasion.  
 1984 Drought led to a famine in which as many as one million people may have died.  
 1987 A Soviet-style constitution was adopted and the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia was formed. The regime was supported by the Soviet Union.  
 1991 Rebellions in Eritrea, led by the leftist Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) and, in Tigray province, by the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) ensued. Mengistu fled to Zimbabwe as the EPLF took control of Eritrea and a TPLF-led coalition, the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), led by Meles Zenawi, who became president in a transitional government.  
 1995 A general election was won by the EPRDF. The country was officially

renamed the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. Negaso Gidada became titular president; Meles Zenawi took up the post of prime minister.

1998 Border disputes resulted in Eritrea and Ethiopia resuming full-scale fighting in mid-year and sporadic clashes thereafter.  
 1999 Eritrea refused to withdraw from the disputed Badme area and armed conflict ensued.  
 2000 Former head of state, Haile Selassie was buried in Trinity Cathedral, Addis Ababa. The EPRDF parties won the legislative elections. UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) peacekeepers opened a 1,000km cease-fire buffer zone between Ethiopia and Eritrea after the two countries signed a peace deal in Algiers, ending the two-year war.  
 2001 President Gidada quit the ruling coalition but finished his term in office. Girma Wolde Giorgise was elected, by parliament, to the largely ceremonial position of president.  
 2002 Eritrea and Ethiopia accepted a ruling by the international Boundary Commission in The Hague on their border dispute and a new 1,000km frontier was established. Ethiopia, ravaged by drought, requested food aid for nearly six million people.  
 2004 A resettlement programme started to move over two million people away from parched, over-worked highlands to the pastoral, but disease rife plains of south-west Ethiopia. Long-term drought in Afar region resulted in over 350,000 people needing food aid, when livestock deaths became widespread.  
 2005 The ruling EPRDF and its allies won disputed parliamentary elections; Meles Zenawi was elected prime minister. The independent commission at the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague, set up as part of the peace deal signed in Algiers in 2000 between Eritrea and Ethiopia, ruled that Eritrea had launched unlawful attacks against Ethiopia in 1998, thereby triggering the border war between the two countries. The Ethiopian government said that it would lodge a claim for compensation. Donors put on hold US\$375 million of budget support because of a government crackdown on opposition supporters.  
 2006 A new Alliance for Freedom and Democracy was formed by several opposition parties and rebel groups. Ethiopian troops intervened in Somalia to support the transitional government against Islamist militia forces. Ethiopia, together with Eritrea, rejected international proposals to settle their continuing border dispute.  
 2007 A limited census was undertaken; it did not include populations in Afar and

Somali which were due to be recorded separately at a later date. Ethiopia, which uses the Coptic calendar of 13 months and is seven years later than the Gregorian calendar, celebrated its millennium. Parliament re-elected President Giorgise. Talks on an Ethiopia and Eritrea border agreement reached an impasse. The Ethiopia-Eritrea Border Commission duly considered the border it drew in 2006 to be binding. While Ethiopia and Eritrea accepted the ruling neither attempted to implement its recommendation; the 1,700 United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) peace-keeping troops remained in the area in a notional demilitarised zone.

2008 Ethiopia severed diplomatic ties with Qatar because of 'its hostility to Ethiopia' and the *Al Jazeera* media coverage of Ethiopian affairs. The UN Security Council terminated the UNMEE mandate. A new national coffee exchange was established in Addis Ababa. Ethiopia is Africa's largest coffee producer. Ethiopia consolidated its coffee collection and sales to increase quality and pay farmers a better return on their crop.

2009 Ethiopia began withdrawing its troops from Somalia.

2010 Israel restarted the immigration scheme for Ethiopians of Jewish descent after halting it in 2008. Members of the Falash Mura community, who had been pressurised into converting to Christianity in the nineteenth century and the last remaining Jewish community in Ethiopia, trace their roots back to King Solomon. Some 20,000 Ethiopians had been admitted in 2003. In parliamentary elections held on 23 May the EPRDF won 59.8 per cent of the vote (327 seats out of 547), which, coupled with seats won by its allies, gave the ruling party 499 seats out of 547; opposition parties won only two seats. The opposition rejected the results as 'completely fraudulent'. International observers claimed that government intimidation of voters for a period of months before the election had influenced the outcome, although voting on the day remained 'peaceful and calm' and the AU declared that the elections were 'free and fair' and had met all AU election standards. Opposition leader, Birtukan Mideksa, was released after serving five years of a life sentence.

2011 In February the UN World Food Programme (WFP) appealed for US\$226.5 million in relief funds as the worst drought for over 50 years, resulting in ruined crops and the death of herds, and threatening 1.3 million southern Ethiopians with severe hunger. In May, the consumer price index (CPI) for food increased by over 40 per cent. In June, the UN estimated that 10 million people in

the Horn of Africa were affected by severe food insecurity. In July the WFP increased its appeal for US\$477 million to cope with the developing disaster as food aid was scaled up. Refugees for Somalia added to Ethiopia's food supply problems as thousands crossed the border to find relief from the famine.

2012 On 17 January, five European tourists were killed, two seriously injured and four kidnapped in Ethiopia's Afar region (close to the border with Eritrea). Ethiopia held Eritrea responsible for the attack as the kidnap victims were taken into Eritrea. On 15 March, Ethiopian military forces crossed into Eritrea in retaliation for earlier border incursions. Ethiopia said that it had attacked three military bases where militants were being trained. Eritrean minister of information, Ali Abdu, announced that Eritrea would not retaliate for the cross-border incursion. Prime Minister Meles Zenawi died in hospital in Belgium on 18 July, having received treatment for a stomach ailment. Hailemariam Desalegn became acting prime minister on 20 August and then confirmed into the post on 21 September.

2013 The government stopped a demonstration taking place by opposition party Semayawi (Blue). The party leader, Yilekal Getachew, said that several hundred protesters had been arrested, and some beaten severely. On 24 October the state-run Ertu news agency announced the government was banning travel overseas for work.

#### Political structure

##### Constitution

A constitution was adopted 8 December 1994 which established a federal system of government. The constitution formally came into force in August 1995 when the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia was proclaimed.

Ethiopia comprises 11 semi-autonomous administrative regions organised loosely along major ethnic lines.

##### Form of state

Federal democratic republic

##### The executive

The role of president is largely a figure-head position. The prime minister, who is elected by parliament for a five-year term, holds executive power.

The president is elected by parliament for a six-year term.

##### National legislature

The bicameral Federal Parliamentary Assembly consists of the Yehizbtewekayoch Mekir Bet (Council of People's Representatives) with 527 members, elected for a five-year term in single-seat constituencies, of which 22 are reserved for representatives of minority peoples, and the Yefedereshn Mekir Bet (Council of the

Federation) with 117 members, elected by subordinate assemblies, of which 22 represent each of the designated minority nationalities and the remainder representatives of the professional sector and any other interests so designated.

##### Last elections

23 May 2010 (parliamentary); 9 October 2007 (presidential)

**Results:** Presidential: Girma Wolde Giorgise was elected by parliament with 430 votes in support, 88 against and 11 abstentions.

Parliamentary: the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) (coalition of four political parties) won 59.8 per cent of the vote (327 seats out of 547), Coalition for Unity and Democracy (coalition of four political parties) 19.9 per cent (109), United Ethiopian Democratic Forces (coalition of five political parties) 9.5 per cent (52), Somali People's Democratic Party 4.3 per cent (24), Oromo Federalist Democratic Movement 2.0 per cent (11); six political parties and an independent candidate all won less than 2 per cent and shared the remaining 24 seats. Turnout was 90 per cent.

##### Next elections

2013 (presidential); 2015 (parliamentary)

#### Political parties

##### Ruling party

Coalition Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), an alliance of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), the South Ethiopian Peoples' Democratic Front (SEPDF), the Amhara National Democratic Movement (ANDM), and Oromo People's Democratic Movement (OPDM) (from 1991, elected 1995, re-elected 2010)

##### Main opposition party

No effective opposition party exists in parliament.

#### Population

86.77 million (2012)\*

Ethiopia is the third most populous country in Africa. About 46 per cent of the population is under 14 years; 51 per cent 15–64; 3 per cent over 65.

**Last census:** 28 May 2007: 73,918,505.

The country's third national census was taken over a nine-day period and cost US\$45.7 million.

**Population density:** 49.9 inhabitants per square km. Urban population 17 per cent (2010 Unicef).

**Annual growth rate:** 2.7 per cent, 1990–2010 (Unicef).

**Internally Displaced Persons (IDP)** 132,000 (UNHCR 2004)

##### Ethnic make-up

Oromo (40 per cent), Amhara and Tigrayan (32 per cent), Sidamo (9 per cent), Shankella (6 per cent), Somali (6

per cent), Afar (4 per cent), Gurage (2 per cent).

### Religions

The Ethiopian Coptic Church is influential, particularly in the north. There is a large Muslim community in the south, made up mainly of Arabs, Somalis and Oromos. Ethiopian Orthodox (40 per cent), Muslim (40 per cent), animist and other (20 per cent).

### Education

Ethiopia has one of the world's lowest school enrolment rates. The government aims to enrol 5.3 million children in primary schools by 2005. The pattern of enrolment shows large gender gaps with girls being more likely to drop out in the early stages. Oxfam estimates that fewer than one-third of boys and one-tenth of girls aged 6–11 start school and one quarter of these drop out during the first two grades. Female literacy rates are only 32 per cent and girls of primary school age work 14–16 hours a day on a variety of tasks, either helping out at home or earning an income. In regions where tuition fees have been abolished, school enrolment has increased by up to 20 per cent.

In secondary schools, English has replaced Amharic as the medium of instruction, although several local languages are also used.

**Literacy rate:** 42 per cent adult rate; 57 per cent youth rate (15–24) (Unesco 2005).

**Pupils per teacher:** 43 in primary schools.

### Health

The government aimed at reorganising health services through a twenty-year health development strategy, with a series of five-year investment programmes; the second phase began in 2003. The system provides access to health services for only about half of the population, mainly in the urban areas. Estimates suggests that 24 per cent and 15 per cent of the population respectively had access to improved water and sanitation facilities.

In 2005 the World Health Organisation – Global Polio Eradication Initiative (WHO – Polio Eradication) launched an Africa-wide mass polio immunisation programme, this coincided with the first case of the disease reported in Ethiopia in four years; its re-emergence was due to infected travellers. In a synchronised campaign with Somalia and Kenya, inoculation began for under fives by WHO – Polio Eradication and the country's health authorities in 2006.

### HIV/Aids

There were 1.4 million people HIV positive in 2003, of which 770,000 were women, plus 120,000 children were HIV

positive and 720,000 children were made orphans. There were 120,000 deaths due to aids in 2003.

The loss in annual GDP growth per capita was projected to be 0.6 per cent between 2002–10 due to the impact of the disease.

In Addis Ababa the prevalence rate of HIV/Aids has been falling from a high of 24 per cent in 1995 to 11 per cent in 2004.

**HIV prevalence:** 4.4 per cent aged 15–49 in 2003 (World Bank)

**Life expectancy:** 50 years, 2004 (WHO 2006)

**Fertility rate/Maternal mortality rate:** 4.2 births per woman, 2010 (Unicef); maternal mortality 18 per 1,000 live births (World Bank).

**Child (under 5 years) mortality rate (per 1,000):** 68 per 1,000 live births (WHO 2012); 47 per cent of children aged under five were malnourished (World Bank).

**Head of population per physician:** 0.03 physicians per 1,000 people, 2003 (WHO 2006)

### Welfare

Ethiopia is one of the poorest countries in the world, with annual income per capita below US\$100. Following the end of the border conflict with Eritrea in 2000, the government of Ethiopia started to implement an ambitious adjustment and reform programme and renewed its commitment to poverty reduction.

### Main cities

Addis Ababa (capital, estimated population 3.5 million in 2012), Dire Dawa (355,641), Nazret (299,621), Gondar (252,537), Mek'ele (219,818), Desé (219,423), Bahir Dar (218,429), Jimma (207,573), Debre Zeyit (171,115).

### Languages spoken

Oromigna and Tigrigna are widely spoken. English is taught in schools; as well as Arabic, French and Italian, it is used in business circles and understood in most hotels and major towns. Over 80 local languages are also spoken.

### Official language/s

Amharic

### Media

#### Press

Newspaper circulation is limited to the urban literate. The government maintains a strict control over journalists and many are in exile.

**Dailies:** In Amharic, *Addis Zemen* ([www.ethpress.gov.et](http://www.ethpress.gov.et)) is a state-owned, *Addis Admass* ([www.addisadmass.com](http://www.addisadmass.com)) is privately owned. In English, the *Ethiopian Herald* ([www.ethpress.gov.et](http://www.ethpress.gov.et)) is a state-owned, *The Africa Monitor* (with *The Daily Monitor*, as an imprint)

([www.theafricamonitor.com](http://www.theafricamonitor.com)) is privately owned.

**Weeklies:** There are a few magazines published in Amharic and English, including *Ethiopian Weekly Press Digest* and *The Sun*. There are many more online publications.

**Business:** In English, weekly publications include *Capital* ([www.capitalethiopia.com](http://www.capitalethiopia.com)) and *Addis Fortune* ([www.addisfortune.com](http://www.addisfortune.com)), both provide business news and features.

### Broadcasting

The national broadcaster is the Ethiopian Radio and Television Agency (ERTA) ([www.erta.gov.et](http://www.erta.gov.et)).

**Radio:** Radio services are the main medium of mass communication and sources of news and information.

The government-owned Radio Ethiopia ([www.angelfire.com/biz/radioethiopia](http://www.angelfire.com/biz/radioethiopia)) operates nationally over several AM frequencies in 11 languages including Amharic, Arabic, English, French and local languages.

There are just a few private, independent radio stations, including Radio Fanaa ([www.radiofanaa.com](http://www.radiofanaa.com)) and Radio Jigjiga ([www.radiojigjiga.com](http://www.radiojigjiga.com)). External services include Voice of America (VOA). Ethiopia admitted jamming the Amharic broadcasts of VOA in March 2010.

**Television:** The state-controlled Ethiopian Television ([www.erta.gov.et](http://www.erta.gov.et)) is a monopoly, which broadcasts to most of the country via a microwave link-up. Foreign satellite services are available from Jump TV ([www.jumpvtv.com](http://www.jumpvtv.com)).

Erta news agency, state-run

**National news agency:** Ethiopain News Agency

**Other news agencies:** AllAfrica: [www.allafrica.com](http://www.allafrica.com)

The Reporter:

<http://en.ethiopianreporter.com>

Walta Information Centre (WIC):

[www.waltainfo.com](http://www.waltainfo.com)

### Economy

The World Bank rates Ethiopia as a low income economy, with agriculture as the principal component of the economy, constituting over 45 per cent of GDP, and characterised as subsistence farming. Nevertheless, agriculture provides over 85 per cent of exports with its coffee and teas considered some of the best in the world. Ethiopia also exports spices, fruit, vegetables and flowers to Europe and other African countries. Ethiopia is ranked first in Africa for livestock, with over 49 million cattle, 22 million goats, 17 million sheep and 38 million chickens in 2008–09. Ethiopia is Africa's largest coffee producer and it established a national coffee exchange in 2008, to consolidate its coffee collection and sales to increase quality

and pay farmers a better return on the value of their crop. In 2010, coffee exports amounted to US\$320 million. The industrial sector, which constitutes around 15 per cent of GDP, is dominated by mining, with mineral reserves in iron ore, gold, platinum and copper that have yet to be fully exploited. Gold generated US\$300 million in 2009/10, and was estimated to have been higher in 2011, becoming Ethiopia's fourth largest foreign exchange earner.

The service sector accounts for around 40 per cent of GDP, of which the greater part is government services. The tourist sector is still dependent on intrepid, self-reliant travellers who can provide for themselves, visiting world-renowned archaeological sites (the cradle of Mankind) and wildlife and game reserves. The private sector is mostly small-scale, informal and service-orientated.

GDP growth was 11.2 per cent in 2008, which weakened in 2009 to 10 per cent and further still to 8 per cent in 2010. This was partly due to a drought in 2009 and the devaluation of the birr in 2010, but offset by a bumper harvest and higher exports of gold. Inflation has been a long-term problem and although the consumer price index (CPI) inflation fell from a high of 36.4 per cent in 2009 to 2.8 per cent in 2010, non-food inflation in 2009/10 was 15.6 per cent.

In 2010 the birr was allowed to depreciate by 16.5 per cent, which boosted exports and the country's competitiveness, as well as import substitution. It also encouraged remittances.

Although Ethiopia is one of the poorest countries in the world, despite a wealth of resources, economic development has been held back by various factors, including poor infrastructure, desertification, recurrent droughts, deterioration in the terms of trade and the effects of the war with Eritrea. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has emphasised the importance of tax reforms for macroeconomic stability, which should raise government revenue from domestic sources to at least 11.3 per cent of GDP.

A series of reform programmes to alleviate poverty, including targeted spending on education, health and infrastructure, showed some initial successes and meant Ethiopia would be on target to reach a poverty rate of 22 per cent by 2015. However, rising food prices and poor harvests in 2008–09, lead to an increase in the rate of those just above the poverty line, with over 70 per cent of the population living on less than US\$2 a day.

The Export and Import Bank of China has agreed to fund part of a massively ambitious 5,000km rail network radiating out from Addis Ababa. Currently the only rail

link is between Dire Dawa and Djibouti. The project involves two phases, the first the construction of five lines. It is estimated that the cost will be some US\$336 million annually for five years, and will provide around 300,000 jobs.

The project was launched in 2010 by the Ethiopian Railway Corporation (ERC). The railway is part of a five-year infrastructure expansion plan, coupled with a boost of 10,000MW of electricity to the current 2,000MW, to enhance Ethiopia's ability to gain growth from its productive potential.

In 2011, the UN Human Development Index (HDI) ranked Ethiopia 174 (out of 187) for national development in health, education and income. Since 2000, Ethiopia's progress has grown but has not matched the improvement of other countries in sub-Saharan African countries. In 2010, 63.5 per cent of the population experienced at least one indicator of poverty, while 39 per cent lived on less than the equivalent of US\$1.25 per day; the headcount poverty rate was 88.6 per cent of the population over 2000–10.

Remittance from migrant workers amounted to US\$345 million (0.9 per cent of GDP) in 2010 and were estimated to have reached US\$371 million in 2011. In August 2012, Ethiopia's long-serving leader, Prime Minister Meles Zenawi died and left a country with a strong GDP growth, but no obvious successor. With Ethiopia caught up in a regional conflict against Islamic extremists in Somalia and an on-going border dispute with Eritrea, the new leader will have his work cut out to maintain growth.

#### External trade

Ethiopia is a member of the Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa (Comesa), which in 2009 launched a customs union between all 19 member states. In 2009, Ethiopia became a member of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), which under the auspices of the African Union (AU) promotes economic growth through agricultural-led development, designed to eliminate hunger, reduce poverty and food insecurity and enable expansion of exports.

Ethiopia is the origin of the coffee plant, and coffee beans are still a major export product providing over 30 per cent of the country's foreign earnings (a fall from over 60 per cent in the mid-1990s due to a slump in world prices).

#### Imports

Principal imports are food and live animals, petroleum and petroleum products, chemicals, machinery, motor vehicles, cereals, textiles, semi-manufactured goods and fertilisers.

**Main sources:** China (19.3 per cent of total in 2011), Saudi Arabia (10.1 per cent), India (8.4 per cent).

#### Exports

Principal exports are coffee, khat, gold, leather products, live animals, oilseeds, marble and other minerals.

**Main destinations:** Germany 12.2 per cent of total in 2011), China (10.8 per cent), Somalia (9.3 per cent).

#### Agriculture

The agricultural sector is the mainstay of the economy. Total agricultural land is 100 million hectares of which 20 per cent is pasture and 13.9 per cent arable and employs 77 per cent of the workforce. Large parts of the country is affected by soil erosion. Intensive subsistence agriculture has depleted the soil and Ethiopia can no longer feed its population, even when the weather is good. Very little of the cultivated area is irrigated.

Ethiopia, as Africa's largest coffee producer, has benefited from rising coffee prices and the establishment of a new national coffee exchange opened in 2008. It will consolidate coffee collection and sales to increase quality and pay farmers a better return on the value of their crop. Many growers have responded by switching to the production of qat. While coffee fell from 60 per cent of total exports to 35 per cent, export of qat increased to 15 per cent from 6 per cent.

Other cash crops include cotton and sugar, as well as the mildly narcotic plant qat, which has a traditional market in the Middle East. The main food crops are maize, sorghum, wheat, barley, millet and teff.

Despite the insurery and harrasing from bandits, a booming trade in livestock has thrived for more than two decades along the borders between Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya.

Only 4 per cent of Ethiopia's land area is forested. Since the mid-1970s, there has been extensive deforestation with up to 75 per cent of forest cover cleared or degraded, according to the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). The overwhelming majority of timber production is used as domestic fuel.

Ethiopia is one of the world's largest exporters of natural gum and gum resin (gum Arabic). Between 1996–2002 it exported over 13,000 tonnes of natural gum, worth US\$17 million. However, industry experts warned, in March 2006, that damage from forest fires, woodfuel harvesting and improper gum tapping was causing serious damage to the resources, added to which, resettlement programmes were also destroying woodland habitats.

### Industry and manufacturing

The industrial sector contributes 12.4 per cent of GDP and employs about 7 per cent of the workforce. Manufacturing of small handicrafts and other small industry sub-sectors make up around 7 per cent of GDP.

Industry is primarily based on the processing of agricultural raw materials. Principal among these is food processing, but textiles, handicrafts, and leather production are also significant.

Growth is constrained by a lack of raw materials, outdated machinery and techniques and the need for imports throughout the sector.

### Tourism

The ancient culture of Ethiopia offers any visitor a variety of experiences, including natural sites such as the Simien National Park with its spectacular landscapes and rare animals. Historic and cultural sites include the classical ruins of Aksum, the fortress city of Fasil Ghebbi, the medieval monolithic cave churches of Lalibela and the archaeological site of Tiya. These and more are included on Unesco's World Heritage List.

The tourist sector had been left undeveloped during the 1970–80s with the lack of hotels and poor quality of roads hampering growth. From a low start, the contribution of travel and tourism to GDP almost doubled from 5.9 per cent (US\$736 million) in 2005 to 10.5 per cent (US\$1.6 billion) in 2006. Since then, the contribution has remained above 10 per cent – 10.7 per cent (US\$2.7 billion) in 2010. Employment in the sector reflects the growth of tourism, with 9.1 per cent of the workforce (1.9 million jobs) in 2006, rising to 9.2 per cent (2.2 million jobs) in 2010.

In 2010 the government launched a series of marketing campaigns in its effort to develop the industry and attract international visitors. A new Tourism Development Policy has been implemented to integrate policy and strategies for the key sectors. The national carrier, Ethiopian Airlines, Africa's most profitable airline, introduced new destinations within Africa while also expanding its European, North American and China services, using newly commissioned long-haul aircraft. Not only is eco-tourism becoming a popular activity for visitors there has also been a growth in business and conference tourism. The new headquarters of the African Union was opened in Addis Ababa in January 2012.

### Environment

In June 2010 the African Union backed a proposal to build the 'Great Green Wall' project, of a 15km wide, 7,775km long, continuous belt of trees from Senegal in

the west to Djibouti in the east (traversing 11 countries) in an effort to halt the advance of the Sahara Desert. The trees to be used would be drought-adapted, preferably native to the area from a list of 37 possible species, and should help to slow soil erosion and filter rain water.

### Mining

The mining sector accounts for around 6 per cent of GDP.

The government says there are at least 500 tonnes of proven gold reserves in the country. Activity is limited to small-scale gold mining.

The country has substantial reserves of iron ore and untapped reserves of platinum, tantalum (used in the electronics industry), nickel, phosphate, diatomite, copper, zinc, soda ash and potash. Tantalum reserves are estimated at 25,000 tonnes at one site alone.

The output of non-metallic minerals such as limestone and marble has increased significantly.

A number of foreign mining companies have been awarded exploration concessions.

### Hydrocarbons

Ethiopia does not produce oil, but there is considered to be commercial potential and foreign interest and investment in the sector is high. An exploration deal between the Ethiopian government and White Nile (UK) was signed in 2008, one of many inward investments into the oil industry. Ethiopia relies on imports of refined oil to meet energy requirements, which was 35,000 barrels per day (bpd) in 2007. Sudan became an important source of supplies, as shipment by tanker truck along a new road began.

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed between South Sudan and Ethiopia on 10 February 2012, to build a new oil pipeline, taking South Sudanese oil through Ethiopia to the Ports of Lamu (Kenya) and Djibouti. Industry analysts consider that such a pipeline, of 1,000km through rugged terrain, with roving band of militia, could take up to three years to build at a cost of US\$4 billion. On 2 March construction began on the US\$23 billion port and oil refinery project in Lamu District, southern Kenya. The presidents of Kenya, South Sudan and Ethiopia were at the launching ceremony, amid tight security in an area close to the border with war-torn Somalia. The project, known as the Lamu Port South Sudan Ethiopia Transit Corridor (Lapsset), is due to be completed by 2016, with initial investment from all three countries, with plans to attract international investment. Lapsset will be one of Africa's largest civil engineering projects.

Natural gas reserves were 24.9 billion cubic metres in 2007.

Coal is not imported and any produced or used is commercially insignificant.

### Energy

Ethiopia has 813.82MW installed electricity-generating capacity, of which 85 per cent is produced by hydropower. Full hydroelectricity potential is estimated at 45,000MW but the Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation (EETPC), which is responsible for generating, distributing and sales of electricity, has only eight hydropower stations. There are, nationally, 22 stations in total, mostly small diesel powered plants and one geothermal plant at Aluto Langano. Around 22 per cent of the population has access to electricity and EETPC has electrified 1,658 towns and the programme is ongoing. The joint Ethiopian-UAE, Grand Millennium Dam hydroelectric project, designed to regulate the flow of the Nile River and produce 5,000MW for export to neighbours, will not reduce the flow of water to Egypt, according to the Minister of Industry Tadesse Haile, in July 2011. The US\$4.5 billion project, under construction since April 2011, should have a strong influence on Ethiopia's future economic prospects.

### Financial markets

#### Commodity exchange

Ethiopia Commodity Exchange (ECX)

### Banking and insurance

#### Central bank

National Bank of Ethiopia

#### Main financial centre

Addis Ababa

### Time

GMT plus three hours

The Ethiopian day officially begins at 0600 (midnight elsewhere).

### Geography

Ethiopia extends inland from the Red Sea coast of eastern Africa. The country has a long frontier with Somalia near the Horn of Africa. Sudan lies to the west, Djibouti to the east, Eritrea to the north and Kenya to the south.

The country is a high central plateau, at 1,800–3,000 metres above sea level which is dissected by the Great Rift Valley that runs diagonally across the country. The tallest peak is Mount Ras Dashen, at 4,620 metres in the Simien Mountains, in the rugged north. In the north-west the Blue Nile rises in Lake Tana. The landscape in the south is flatter and more suited to agriculture.

### Climate

Dependent on altitude. Lowland regions are very hot and dry throughout the year. On the plateau (including Addis Ababa)

dry season from October–May with temperature range from as low as 6 degrees Celsius (C) in December to 26 degrees C in March (light rain from February–April). Temperatures can fall sharply at night during the dry season. Rainy season from June–September with average temperature 21 degrees C.

### Entry requirements

#### Passports

Required by all. Must be valid for at least six months.

#### Visa

Required by all. For business visas, an application should be accompanied by a letter from a sponsoring organisation or company. For those self-employed, a letter from a solicitor, accountant or business registration authority should suffice. Visas are usually issued for a one month period; heavy penalties may be imposed for unauthorised extensions. If necessary, contact the Immigration Office for an Alien's Registration Card and an exit visa. Visa application forms can be downloaded from a number of Ethiopian embassy websites

([www.mfa.gov.et/Consular\\_Affair\\_Diplomatic/Consular\\_Affair.php](http://www.mfa.gov.et/Consular_Affair_Diplomatic/Consular_Affair.php)).

An international certificate of vaccination against yellow fever is required when applying.

Foreign nationals are advised to register their arrival with the consular representative of their embassy.

#### Currency advice/regulations

Up to Birr100 can be imported, if a visitor has a re-entry permit Birr100 may be exported, or else local currency export is prohibited.

Unlimited foreign currency may be imported but it must be declared on arrival. Export of foreign currency is allowed up to the amount declared.

Travellers cheque are accepted and are best taken as either US dollars or pound sterling.

#### Customs

Skins, hides and any antique articles require an export certificate. Laptop computers must be declared upon arrival and departure. Tape recorders require special customs permits.

### Health (for visitors)

Health facilities are extremely limited in Addis Ababa and inadequate outside the city. Travellers should bring their own prescription drugs and a doctor's note describing the medication. If the quantity of drugs exceeds that expected for personal use, a permit from the ministry of health is required.

The altitude in Addis Ababa may cause health problems.

#### Mandatory precautions

A yellow fever inoculation certificate.

### Advisable precautions

Visitors should be in date for the following vaccinations: yellow fever, polio, typhoid, tetanus, hepatitis A and B, meningitis. There is a rabies risk.

Malaria prophylaxis recommended before visiting the lowlands. There is no malaria risk in Addis Ababa.

Tap water must be treated as unsafe unless boiled and filtered (bottled water is available in the main cities). Eat only well cooked meals, preferably served hot; vegetables should be cooked and fruit peeled. Dairy products are unpasteurised and should be avoided

A first aid kit that includes disposable syringes, is a reasonable precaution. Medical insurance is essential, including emergency evacuation, and an adequate supply of personal medicines is necessary.

### Hotels

Hotels are available in Addis Ababa and other main centres. A service charge of 10 per cent and a tax of 2 per cent are added to bills but a small tip is usual in addition to the service charge. Payment is generally required in foreign currency.

### Credit cards

Credit cards are accepted by airlines and the larger hotels only.

### Public holidays (national)

#### Fixed dates

^ 7 Jan (Genna/Ethiopian Christmas Day), ^ 19 Jan (Timket/Epiphany), 2 Mar (Victory of Adwa Day), 28 May (Downfall of the Dergue), ^ 11 Sep (Enkutatash/New Year's Day), ^ 26 Sep (Meskel/Finding of the True Cross).

#### Variable dates

^ Ethiopian Good Friday, ^ Ethiopian Easter Day, Eid al Adha, Birth of the Prophet, Eid al Fitr.

^ Coptic Christian feasts only.

Ethiopia follows the Julian calendar, instead of the Gregorian calendar, used in most other parts of the world. The Ethiopian calendar year is divided into 13 months: 12 months of 30 days each and one month of five days (six in a leap year). The Ethiopian year commences on 11 September and runs seven years and eight months behind the Gregorian calendar.

#### 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

Mon–Thu: 0800–1500; Fri: 0800–1100, 1330–1500; Sat: 0830–1100.

### Business

Mon–Thu: 0830–1230, 1330–1730; Fri: 0830–1130, 1330–1730. Most private businesses also work on Saturdays.

### Government

Mon–Thu: 0830–1230, 1330–1730. Fri: 0830–1130, 1330–1730.

### Shops

Mon–Sat: 0800–1300, 1400–2000. Local variations.

### Telecommunications

#### Mobile/cell phones

A GSM 900 service is available in large cities and towns only.

### Electricity supply

220V, 50 cycles AC. Plugs are of the two-pin variety.

### Social customs/useful tips

Handshaking is the usual mode of greeting. The first name is followed by that of the father – there are no family names.

The words Ato, Woizero and Woizritry are the equivalents of Mr, Mrs and Miss respectively, and should be used when addressing people.

Smoking is not popular among traditional people, or in front of priests. Dress should be modest. Shoes are removed on entering churches/mosques. Private formal entertaining is common in Addis Ababa, and cocktail parties are not uncommon.

Ethiopian law strictly prohibits the photographing of military installations, police/military personnel, industrial facilities, government buildings and infrastructure.

### Security

Crime is an increasing problem in Addis Ababa. Normal precautions should be taken.

Exercise caution if travelling to the northern Tigray and Afar regions (within 50km of the Ethiopian/Eritrean border) because of landmines and unsettled conditions in the border area. Travel to the Ogaden Region is considered very dangerous and should not be attempted. Limit road travel outside major towns to daylight hours only.

### Getting there

#### Air

**National airline:** Ethiopian Airlines

**International airport/s:** Addis Ababa-Bole International (ADD), 8km from city, bar, restaurant, bank, post office, shops, car hire.

**Airport tax:** International departures US\$20 in cash and exact amount, excluding transit passengers.

#### Surface

**Road:** Entry by land into Ethiopia is possible, if difficult, via Dewale and Galafi (Ethiopia-Djibouti), Moyale (Ethiopia-Kenya), Humera and Metema (Ethiopia-Sudan), Jijiga (Ethiopia-Somalia). The

road linking Nairobi and Addis Ababa forms part of the Trans-East African Highway.

**Rail:** The rail route from Djibouti to Addis Ababa is subject to disruption.

**Water:** Ethiopia has been landlocked since Eritrea gained independence.

**Main port/s:** Until the outbreak of hostilities with Eritrea in 1998, Ethiopia relied heavily on the Eritrean ports of Assab and Massawa. Djibouti has subsequently become Ethiopia's principal trading gateway.

### Getting about

#### National transport

**Air:** Ethiopian Airlines operates domestic service to main towns.

**Road:** An all-weather road network connects principal towns. The road system is undergoing expansion.

There are border posts at Moyale on the Kenyan border, Adwa and Adigrat near the border with Eritrea, and Dewelle for Djibouti.

Roads are impassable to Lalibela from June to September.

Drivers bringing their own vehicles to Ethiopia will require a  *carnet de passage*.

**Buses:** Coach services (liable to suspension) Addis Ababa-Gondar.

**Rail:** A line runs from Addis Ababa to Dire Dawa (and on to Djibouti). However, visitors are advised not to use this line for security reasons.

#### City transport

**Taxis:** In Addis Ababa, the National Tour Operations (NTO) provides taxis at the main hotels and the airport, although independent and communal cabs are available. It is advisable to check the fare and the destination before entering the cab. The most reliable taxis are available from the office of the Hilton Hotel. The taxi journey from the airport to the city centre takes about 30 minutes. Tipping is not usual.

**Buses, trams & metro:** Journey time from airport to city centre 30 minutes.

#### Car hire

Car hire (with or without driver) is available in the main centres. A valid international driving licence is required. Traffic drives on the right.

Payment for car rental is generally required in foreign currency.

### 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 Ethiopia is +251 followed by area code and subscriber's number.

Addis Ababa	11	Gondar	58
Awassa	46	Jimma	47
Bahir Dar	58	Mekelle	4
Dire Dawa	25	Nazareth	22

### Chambers of Commerce

Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 2458, Addis Ababa (tel: 515-055; fax: 511-479; e-mail: aachamber1@telecom.net.et).

Awassa Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 167, Awassa (tel: 200-375; fax: 205-197).

Bahir Dar Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 48, Bahir Dar (tel: 200-481; fax: 201-787).

Dire Dawa Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 198, Dire Dawa (tel: 113-082; fax: 112-468; e-mail: luiji@telecom.net.et).

Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 517, Addis Ababa (tel: 518-240; fax: 517-699; e-mail: ethcham@telecom.net.et).

Gondar Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 50, Gondar (tel: 110-320; fax: 115-656).

Mekelle Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 503, Mekelle (tel: 402-529; fax: 408-914).

Nazareth Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 36, Nazareth (tel: 112-083; fax: 122-699).

### Banking

Awash International Bank SC; PO Box 12638, Bole Road, Addis Ababa (tel: 614-482/83, 612-919; fax: 614-477).

Bank of Abyssinia SC; PO Box 12947, Addis Ababa (tel: 514-130, 514-752; fax: 511-575).

Commercial Bank of Ethiopia; PO Box 255, Unity Square, Addis Ababa (tel: 511-271, 515-004; fax: 514-522, 512-166).

Construction and Business Bank, PO Box 3480, Addis Ababa (tel: 512-300; fax: 515-103).

Dashen Bank SC; PO Box 12752, Garad Building, Debre Zeit Road, Addis Ababa (tel: 661-380, 655-525; fax: 661-640, 653-037).

Development Bank of Ethiopia, PO Box 1900, Josep Broz Tito, Addis Ababa (tel: 511-188; fax: 511-606).

Wegagen Bank SC; PO Box 1018, Addis Ababa (tel: 655-015; fax: 653-330).

### Central bank

National Bank of Ethiopia, PO Box 5550, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (tel: 517-430; fax:

514-588; email: nbe.excd@telecom.net.et; internet: www.nbe.gov.et).

### Commodity exchange

Ethiopia Commodity Exchange (ECX), www.ecx.com.et

### Travel information

Addis Ababa-Bole Airport, PO Box 978, Addis Ababa (tel: 180-455; fax: 612-533).

Antiquities Authority, National Museum of Ethiopia, PO Box 76, Addis Ababa (tel: 117-150; fax: 553-188).

Ethiopian Airlines, PO Box 1755, Bole International Airport, Addis Ababa (tel: 612-222; fax: 611-474); town office (tel: 517-000; fax: 611-474; internet: www.flyethiopian.com).

National Tour Operations (NTO), PO Box 5709, Addis Ababa (tel: 512-955; fax: 517-688).

### National tourist organisation offices

Ethiopian Tourism Commission, PO Box 2183, Addis Ababa (tel: 517-470, 150-609, 513-962; fax: 513-899; internet: www.visitethiopia.com).

### Other useful addresses

African Union, PO Box 3243, Addis Ababa (tel: 557-700; fax: 511-299).

British Embassy, Commercial Section, Fikre Mariam Abatehan Street, Addis Ababa (tel: 612-354; fax: 610-588).

Central Statistical Office, PO Box 1143, Addis Ababa (tel: 113-010).

Department of Immigration and Refugee Affairs, PO Box 5741, Addis Ababa (tel: 553-899).

Djibouti-Ethiopian Railway Corporation, PO Box 1051, Addis Ababa (tel: 517-250; fax: 513-533).

Ethiopian Customs Office, PO Box 3248, Addis Ababa (tel: 513-100; fax: 518-355).

Ethiopian Embassy (USA), 3506 International Drive, NW, Washington DC 20008 (tel: 202-364-1200; fax: 202-686-9551; e-mail: ethiopia@ethiopianembassy.org).

Ethiopian Investment Authority, PO Box 2313, Addis Ababa (tel: 510-033; fax: 514-396).

Ethiopian Privatisation Agency, PO Box 11835, Ethiopian Investment Authority Building, Bole Road, Addis Ababa (tel: 521-833; fax: 513-955).

Ethiopian Private Industries' Association, PO Box 8739, Addis Ababa (tel: 512-384; fax: 552-633).

Ethiopian Television, PO Box 5554, Addis Ababa.

Ethiopian Tourist Trading Enterprise, PO Box 8640, Addis Ababa (tel: 612-277; fax: 610-500).

Maritime and Transit Services, PO Box 1186, Addis Ababa (tel: 510-666; fax: 514-097).

Ministry of Culture and Information, PO Box 1364, Addis Ababa (tel: 551-011; fax: 551-609).

Ministry of Economic Development & Co-operation, PO Box 2428, Addis Ababa (tel: 519-684; fax: 517-988).

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PO Box 393, Addis Ababa (tel: 517-345; fax: 514-300).

Ministry of Trade and Industry, PO Box 2559, Addis Ababa (tel: 518-200; fax: 514-288).

Voice of Ethiopia, PO Box 1020, Addis Ababa.

Wildlife Conservation Department, PO Box 386, Addis Ababa (tel: 510-455; fax: 510-168).

**National news agency:** Ethiopain News Agency

PO Box 530 Addis Ababa (tel: 155-0011; fax: 155-1609; internet: [www.ena.gov.et](http://www.ena.gov.et)).

**Other news agencies:** AllAfrica: [www.allafrica.com](http://www.allafrica.com)

The Reporter: <http://en.ethiopianreporter.com>

Walta Information Centre (WIC): [www.waltainfo.com](http://www.waltainfo.com)

**Internet sites**

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

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

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

ENA - Ethiopian News Agency: <http://www.telecom.net.et/~ena>

Ethiopian Mission to the UN: <http://www.undp.org/missions/ethiopia>

Ethiopian Privatisation Agency: <http://www.undp.org/missions/ethiopia>

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