

## KEY FACTS

**Official name:** République de Guinée  
(Republic of Guinea)

**Head of State:** President Alpha  
Condé (RPG) (from 21 Dec 2010)

**Head of government:** Prime Minister  
Mohamed Said Fofana (from 24  
Dec 2010)

**Ruling party:** A transitional council  
has served as a parliament since  
2010, pending postponed  
elections. In the meantime, the  
President's party, the  
Rassemblement du Peuple  
Guinéen (RPG) (People's Party of  
Guinea) is the main party.

**Area:** 245,857 square km

**Population:** 10.85 million (2012)\*

**Capital:** Conakry

**Official language:** French

**Currency:** Guinean franc (Gf)

**Exchange rate:** Gf7,000.00 per US\$  
(Jul 2013)

**GDP per capita:** US\$519 (2012)\*

**GDP real growth:** 3.94% (2012)\*

**GDP:** US\$5.63 billion (2012)\*

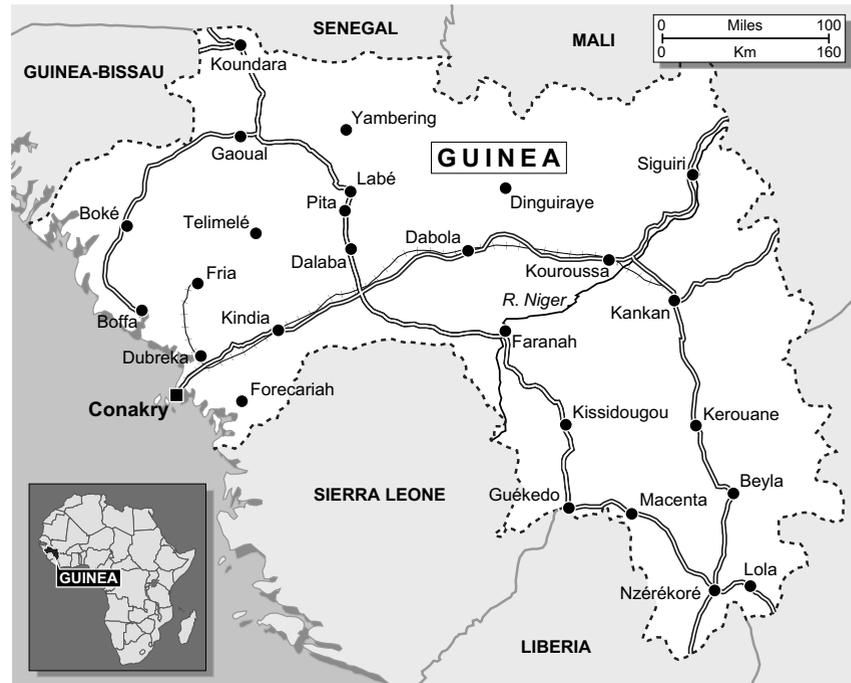
**Inflation:** 15.23% (2012)\*

**Balance of trade:** -US\$668.80  
million (2011)

**Annual FDI:** US\$896.45 million  
(2011)

\* estimated figure

# Guinea



**G**uinea's main mining resources of economic interest are bauxite, iron ore, gold and diamonds. While iron ore has only recently been exploited, bauxite, gold and diamonds make up almost 88 per cent of exports of goods and produce 20.57 per cent of internal revenues. Local added value is put at 14.2 per cent. The sector is the main destination of foreign direct investment (FDI) and is made up of semi-private companies, which have run into difficulties in the past ten years because equipment and infrastructure have become antiquated and as a result of competition in world markets.

There are estimated to be more than 9.4 billion tonnes of iron ore deposits with 350 million tonnes at Mount Nimba with a 66.5 per cent content, but bauxite is the major mineral with proven and probable reserves of more than 20 billion tonnes, or two-thirds of world reserves.

### Limited impact

The *African Economic Outlook 2013* (AEO), published jointly by the African Development Bank and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development,

reports that despite this the mining sector has a limited impact on economic activity, both upstream and downstream. The goods and equipment used to extract bauxite and to process it are not produced in Guinea. Any rise in mine production or exports does not stimulate production in other sectors but increases imports. The downstream impact depends on the degree to which mining products can be processed locally. In Guinea only the Rusal alumina plant can be regarded as a source of substantial added value, on which increased production could have an impact.

In addition mining exploitation and exports are highly capital-intensive. The two activities use a large amount of capital but relatively little labour, with the result that the sector's ability to create jobs and induce structural change, even at a time of growth, is necessarily limited. It becomes clear, accordingly, that the modern mining sector has not helped act as a driver of inclusive growth or substantially reduce poverty, two essential conditions for carrying out deep structural change.

The Guinea economic forum held in September 2012 concluded that there are

no close ties between the mining sector and the other sectors of the economy, a point of view confirmed by its especially outward-looking character. A greater integration of the mining sector into the rest of the economy could have a more intensive ripple effect on the other sectors as investment in mining increases.

In tax terms, until the institution of the Second Republic (1984), the mining sector used to be the greatest contributor to the public purse (82.4 per cent of revenues in 1986) thanks to the increase in bauxite exports and high prices on the world market. A change in conditions on the world market for aluminium saw a sharp drop in public revenues, to 24.7 per cent in 2000 and 20.6 per cent in 2012. The implementation of a policy to diversify non-mining fiscal resources led to a change in the structure of taxation.

Surveys of poverty and inequality conducted in 2012 showed that the Boké and Kindia regions, the main areas where bauxite-producing companies operate, are among those hardest hit by poverty with rates of 58.9 per cent and 62.5 per cent, respectively. The resurgence of poverty and the lack of infrastructure in these places indicate that the use of local resources has little impact on the economies and well-being of local populations.

In 2012 the government undertook a review of the 1995 mining code to encourage more investment in the sector and tried to improve the law relating to mining, which needs variously to be clarified, completed or adapted. It restricted the mining tax rate and base to make the sector more attractive and hopes to see an increase in the level of revenues.

One of the aims of the mining code is to expand and diversify in the long term the exploration, exploitation and processing of mineral resources. The government acts as a guarantor of mining exploitation and exploration as long as regulations are respected and has made support for the private sector a basic element of its mining policy. Its role is restricted to setting the policy framework, in particular in regard to imports, licences, titles, jobs, the environment, and extracting value from resources, as well as ensuring that the steps implemented are monitored and the necessary support forthcoming.

### Adding value, creating jobs

The process of deriving real, major and supervised value of the country's mining potential will make it possible, in the long run, to make the sector the engine of economic growth on condition that future

investment has implications and impacts in respect of the other sectors of the economy. It is possible to imagine investment of US\$70 billion in the mining sector in the years to come with a resulting perceptible rise in GDP and the direct or indirect creation of 600,000 jobs.

The plan to build an alumina plant at Kabatade should generate 3,000 jobs during construction and 1,000 in exploitation. The integrated project at Dian-Dian with a capacity of 15 million tonnes a year of bauxite and 2.8 million tonnes of alumina should produce 7,000 construction jobs and 2,000 operational jobs. The alumina project at Sangarédi with a capacity of 3.2 million to 5.6 million tonnes should generate 7,000 to 10,000 jobs in the building phase and 1,500 when it becomes operational. According to the department responsible for prospective studies at the ministry in charge of mining, the Compagnie des bauxites de Guinée (CBG) (Guinea Bauxite Company), with exports of 12.5 million tonnes of bauxite and a turnover of around US\$300 million would earn almost US\$2 billion if it processed it into alumina and around US\$5 billion if it processed it into aluminium".

The Bellzone Kalia project with a capacity of 50 million tonnes of iron ore could generate 9,000 construction jobs and 3,500 operational jobs. The iron-deposit exploitation project at Simandou, although currently on hold as a dispute between the government, Beny Steinmetz Group Resources and Rio Tinto is settled, could lead to the building of a trans-Guinean railway and of a deep-water seaport at Benty.

Building these installations will require more energy. The development of a

potential estimated at 6,000 megawatts (MW) has begun with the forthcoming construction of a dam at Kaléta, which should produce 200MW and for which the government plans to train 1,000 young people.

These huge projects are of vital importance for the economic and social future of the country, but if they are to be realised there has to be an improvement in Guinea's business climate, in particular in terms of security of investments, and an upturn in the global economy. If circumstances are less favourable, in the medium term the country could remain at its current pace of development with annual growth rates of between 4 per cent and 5 per cent with only a limited impact on the social dimension.

### Economy

After more than 50 years of independence (from France) and bad governance Guinea is ranked 178 out of 187 countries on the Human Development Index (HDI) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Infrastructure and services are inadequate, administration is weak and the private sector embryonic.

Economic growth was estimated at 4.2 per cent for 2012, up from 3.9 per cent in 2011, driven chiefly by higher agricultural production and the good performance of the secondary sector. The rate of inflation was 13.1 per cent in 2012, compared with 21.4 per cent in 2011. Normalisation of the country's development context was combined with stricter monetary and foreign-exchange management. As a result, the gap between the black-market rate and the official rate shrank from 10 per cent at the end of 2010

## KEY INDICATORS

## Guinea

	Unit	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Population	m	9.83	10.08	*10.33	*10.59	*10.85
Gross domestic product (GDP)	US\$bn	4.50	4.40	4.60	5.20	*5.63
GDP per capita	US\$	439	414	448	492	*519
GDP real growth	%	4.9	-0.3	1.9	3.6	*3.9
Inflation	%	18.4	4.7	15.5	21.5	*15.2
Industrial output	% change	6.4	6.7	6.8	-	-
Agricultural output	% change	3.6	-28.4	6.2	-	-
Exports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	1,342.0	1,049.7	1,471.2	1,428.4	-
Imports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	1,366.1	1,060.1	1,404.9	2,097.1	-
Balance of trade	US\$m	-24.1	-10.4	66.3	-668.8	-
Current account	US\$m	-440.1	-329.2	-566.0	-1,049.0	*-1,918.0
Exchange rate	per US\$	5,500.00	5,197.00	5,010.00	6,940.00	7,000.00
* estimated figure						

to 0.5 per cent and it was possible to rebuild the reserves, with coverage of 4.6 months of imports at the end of 2011 compared with 0.7 months in 2009 and 2010. Even so, financial conditions remain difficult. The trade deficit worsened in 2012, rising to 16.5 per cent of GDP in 2012, compared with 14 per cent in 2011.

**Elections**

Elections were initially promised by President Condé for 6 July 2012, but in April they were postponed indefinitely. The political scene has long been conspicuous for its inadequate dialogue between the protagonists, especially as the 2013 parliamentary elections approached. Tensions eased somewhat in the run up to the 28 September elections, relatively speaking, as the government took into account some of the opposition’s demands, such as suspension of the process of revising the electoral register and recomposition of the independent national electoral commission (CENI) on a basis of parity.

Somewhat to the surprise of the international community, the elections took place as planned. Initial results showed President Alpha Conde’s ruling party, the Rassemblement du Peuple Guinéen (RPG) (People’s Party of Guinea), had won 53 seats (out of 114) and the Union des Forces Démocratiques de Guinée (UFDG) (Union of Democratic Forces of Guinea) 37.

**Risk assessment**

Politics	Poor
Economy	Poor
Regional stability	Poor

**COUNTRY PROFILE**

**Historical profile**

From the thirteenth to fifteenth centuries Guinea was part of the Mali Empire which covered a large part of West Africa.  
 1450s The coastal region began to be settled by European traders.  
 1849 The French declared the area around Boké a protectorate. France’s influence grew as it took over most of the rest of the country calling it Rivières du Sud (rivers of the south).  
 1891 French Guinea was formally constituted a colony, separate from Senegal.  
 1956 In a referendum Guinea voted to opt out of the French Community.  
 1958 Guinea became independent under the leadership of Sekou Touré. France severed all financial and technical ties.  
 1960s Despite having the backing of the Soviet Union, Guinea expelled the Soviet ambassador for interference in internal matters. Guinea began to improve its

relations with the West although it remained a non-aligned, Marxist, one-party state.

1977 Private trade had been banned until demonstrations by traders in the market women’s revolt led to a change in government policy.

1984 Touré died. In a bloodless coup, Colonel Lansana Conté became president and introduced IMF-backed austerity measures as well as a new currency, the Guinean franc, which replaced the syli. The Second Republic came into being on 3 April.

1990 A new constitution was approved and the Third Republic established.

1991 Union des Forces Démocratiques de Guinée (UFDG) (Union of Democratic Forces of Guinea) was formed.

1993 Conté won the presidency in multi-party elections, which were marred by killings and alleged fraud.

1995 The Parti de l’Unité et du Progrès (PUP) (Party of Unity and Progress), led by President Conté, won the multi-party legislative elections.

1996 As much as a quarter of the army mutinied due largely to low pay.

1998 President Lansana Conté was re-elected.

1999 Lamine Sidime (PUP) was appointed prime minister.

2001 The government accused neighbouring Liberia and rebels from Sierra Leone of aiding its army mutineers and attempting to destabilise the country. The number of displaced peoples, locally and from abroad, grew. There were rebel attacks along the borders between Guinea and Liberia, and Sierra Leone. A constitutional referendum permitted Conté to retain the presidency and run for a third and extended term (from five to seven years).

2002 The ruling PUP won parliamentary elections, delayed by two years allegedly due to the fighting between Guinea and Sierra Leone, and Liberia.

2003 Incumbent Lansana Conté won the presidential elections. The National Assembly voted unanimously for an amnesty for those convicted of political crimes, allowing them to stand for positions in national politics.

2004 Cellou Dalein Diallo was named prime minister.

2006 A general strike lasted five days. A power struggle among Conté’s inner circle resulted in Prime Minister Diallo’s sacking and the post of prime minister being dropped with its responsibilities given to other, expanded ministries. Fode Bangoura became minister of presidential affairs, with control of the military and the economy.

2007 An 18-day general strike disrupted the vital bauxite industry causing President Conté to dismiss his long-term supporter,

Fode Bangoura, in an effort to placate the unions. Eugène Camara (a hard-line supporter of the president) was appointed to the vacant post of prime minister.

Camara’s appointment sparked riots.

Martial law was imposed as another national general strike began and opposition and union leaders called on the president to resign. Lansana Kouyaté, a candidate acceptable to the opposition, was appointed prime minister, ending the general strike.

2008 President Conté sacked Prime Minister Kouyaté; Ahmed Tidiane Souaré became prime minister. Parliamentary elections were postponed by the electoral commission as voter registration was incomplete. President Conté died, of natural causes. The army launched a *coup d’état* and suspended the constitution.

Coup leader Captain Moussa Dadis Camara seized the presidency, taking control through Le Conseil National de Défense et de Développement (CNDD) (the National Council for Defence and Development); he appointed Kabiné Komara as prime minister. Although the coup led to the African Union (AU) suspending Guinea from its organisation, the Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas) took a more positive attitude, trusting the transfer of power would allow ‘democratic growth’.

2009 All mining operations, including Guinea’s huge bauxite reserves and gold, diamond and ferrous metals, were suspended until ‘renegotiations’ of existing contracts had been agreed. Ousmane Conté, the son of the late president Lansana Conté, confessed to drug trafficking on state television. Hundreds of opposition protesters were wounded and dozens were shot dead or trampled to death attempting to flee from a sport stadium in the capital, Conakry, after security forces had opened fire and used teargas. Thousands were attending a rally in the stadium demanding a return to civilian rule and objecting to Captain Camara standing in forthcoming presidential elections. President Camara received medical attention in Morocco following an assassination attempt by an *aide-de-camp*.

2010 The Joint Ouagadougou Declaration confirmed Sékouba Konaté as interim president and the ruling military council appointed Jean-Marie Doré as prime minister. Parliamentary elections, originally scheduled to take place in 2009 were, by agreement, postponed until after presidential elections took place. Presidential elections, postponed twice, were finally held; 24 candidates took part including four former prime ministers. Cellou Dalein Diallo (UFDG) won 39.72 per cent and his closest rival, Alpha Condé (Rassemblement du Peuple

Guinée (RPG) (People's Party of Guinea) (a party mainly based among the Mandinka population) 20.67 per cent. As no candidate won 50 per cent of the vote, a second round was scheduled, but was postponed as Condé challenged the results, claiming the election was 'flawed'. The Supreme Court confirmed the results of the first round. The runoff was postponed twice but when it was due to be held, a week of street violence between rival political supporters forced the elections to be postponed two more times. In the run-off, opposition leader Condé won 52.52 per cent of the vote and Diallo 47.48 per cent; turnout was 68.87 per cent. Diallo conceded defeat, after the Supreme Court rejected his complaint of election fraud.

2011 In February, President Condé declared the previous ruling military junta (2008–10) had bankrupted the country, so that the economy was in tatters, with no agricultural production and unpaid customs officials. President Condé's private residence was attacked in July. Up to 37 soldiers, some of who had been close to the members of the military junta who had handed over power in 2010, were arrested the following day. The president was not injured.

2012 On 28 April, President Condé postponed indefinitely parliamentary elections due on 8 July. He cited 'technical problems' for the decision. The European Union warned that without democratic elections it would not release aid funds to Guinea. On 25 October 2012, the Paris Club of creditor nations agreed to cancel nearly all of Guinea's debt with it of up to US\$356.3 million and also provide additional relief aid. This move followed the securing of US\$2.1 billion in debt relief from the World Bank and IMF in September. On 29 October President Condé appointed a 25-person electoral body to organise preparations for parliamentary elections. The opposition cried foul, because their 10 nominees for inclusion in the body had been rejected by the president, contrary to the compromise deal agreed after the previous commission was deemed biased towards the RPG.

2013 Clashes in July between the Guerze and Konianke tribes in the south-east resulted in the deaths of some 54 persons. The government deployed troops to quell the disorder. The elections initially due in 2009 finally took place on 28 September. Initial results showed President Alpha Condé's ruling party, the RPG, had won 53 seats (out of 114) and the UFDG 37.

## Political structure

### Constitution

The constitution was promulgated in 1990. In 2001 a constitutional

amendment revised the length of the presidential term from five years to seven, with no legal limit to the number of terms a president may sit.

### Form of state

Republic

### The executive

Prior to the constitutional amendments, made in 2001, the president was elected for a five-year term, renewable only once. Following the changes, the mandate increased to a seven-year term with no legal limit as to the number of times that it could be renewed.

The prime minister and the Council of Ministers are appointed by the president.

### National legislature

The unicameral Assemblée Nationale Populaire (People's National Assembly) was dissolved in December 2008; it will be re-convened following new elections, originally scheduled for 2009, but not held until 28 September 2013. Membership is 114, of which 76 are directly elected by proportional representation from party lists and 38 are elected in single seat constituencies by simple majority. All members serve five-year terms.

### Legal system

The legal system is based on French civil law, customary law and decree.

### Last elections

27 June and 7 November 2010 (presidential, first and second round); 28 September 2013 (originally scheduled for 2009)

**Results:** Presidential: (first round) Cellou Dalein Diallo (UFDG) won 39.72 per cent, Alpha Condé (Rassemblement du Peuple Guinée (RPG) (People's Party of Guinea)) 20.67 per cent, Sitya Touré (L'Union des Forces Républicaines (UFR) (Union of Republican Forces)) 15.6 per cent, Lansana Kouyaté (Parti de l'Espoir pour le Développement National (PEDN) (Hope Party for National Development)) 7.75 per cent, 20 other candidates each won less than 5 per cent. Second round: Alpha Condé won 52.52 per cent, Cellou Dalein Diallo 47.48 per cent. Turnout was 67.87 per cent.

### Next elections

11 October 2009 (parliament) postponed indefinitely; 24 September 2013.

### Political parties

Political parties were legalised from 1992.

### Ruling party

A transitional council has served as a parliament since 2010, pending postponed elections. In the meantime, the President's party, the Rassemblement du Peuple Guinée (RPG) (People's Party of Guinea) is the main party.

### Main opposition party

Union des Forces Démocratiques de Guinée (UFDG) (Union of Democratic Forces of Guinea)

### Population

10.85 million (2012)\*  
About 47 per cent of the total population is under 15 years.

**Last census:** December 1996:  
7,156,406 (provisional)

**Population density:** 28 inhabitants per square km. Urban population 35 per cent (2010 Unicef).

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

**Internally Displaced Persons (IDP)**  
100,000 (UNHCR 2004)

### Ethnic make-up

Fulani (35 per cent), Malinke (30 per cent), Soussou (20 per cent).

### Religions

Islam (85 per cent), a small number of Roman Catholics (8 per cent) and traditional beliefs (7 per cent).

### Education

Guinea shows an upward trend in gross enrolment rate with increasing demand for teachers, school facilities, and other resources. The government has initiated the third phase of the project Basic Education for All (2001–2012) focussing on increased access, improved quality and efficiency through decentralisation processes.

Despite significant urban/rural and gender disparities in enrolment ratios, there is overall improvement. The crisis in teacher supply persists despite the World Bank and the government's intensive teacher-training programme (FIMG), which had planned recruitment of approximately 6,000 teachers for the entire 1998–2001 period.

Government expenditure on education is about 25–26 per cent of the total national budget.

**Enrolment rate:** 45.2 per cent net enrolment in primary; 11.9 per cent net enrolment in secondary schooling (World Bank).

In rural areas the enrolment rate for girls remains at only 26 per cent.

**Pupils per teacher:** 49 in primary schools.

### Health

Improved water sources and sanitation facilities are available to 48 per cent and 58 per cent of the population, respectively.

### HIV/Aids

HIV/Aids infection is currently concentrated in urban areas. Overall 2.8 per cent of pregnant women, 42 per cent of sex workers and 2.5 per cent of young adults (aged 15–24) are HIV positive.

With governmental initiatives and local education, it is hoped to avert a potential pandemic if the rates in rural areas follow the urban trend.

**HIV prevalence:** 3.2 per cent aged 15–49 in 2003 (World Bank)

**Life expectancy:** 53 years, 2004 (WHO 2006)

**Fertility rate/Maternal mortality rate:** 5.2 births per woman, 2010 (Unicef); maternal mortality 620 per 100,000 live births (World Bank).

**Child (under 5 years) mortality rate (per 1,000):** 101 per 1,000 live births (WHO 2012); 23 per cent of children under aged five are malnourished (World Bank).

**Head of population per physician:** 0.11 physicians per 1,000 people, 2004 (WHO 2006)

### Welfare

Guinea's social insurance system provides coverage for unemployed people, pensions, old-age benefits and survivor benefits (payable to widows, orphans and dependant relatives). Old age pensions are applicable to all those aged 55 and over. The system also provides sickness and maternity benefits as well as allowance for those families with children under the age of 17.

### Main cities

Conakry (capital, estimated population 2.2 million in 2012), Guékédou (346,908), Nzérékoré (280,256), Kankan (240,635), Kindia (218,160), Boké (159,152).

### Languages spoken

African languages are in daily use. English is seldom used.

### Official language/s

French

### Media

The government maintains a tight control of the media, with censorship of newspapers and controls to close private radio stations and interrupt international relays, while the military has a secure hold of the national broadcaster.

### Press

The high cost of printing hampers and restricts independent publishing and disrupts regular print runs.

In French, the only business publication is the *Sud Economic* (<http://sud-economie.press-guinee.com>), other general news publications include *Le Diplomate* ([www.nouvelle-tribune.com](http://www.nouvelle-tribune.com)), *L'Enqueteur* (<http://enqueteur.boubah.com>), *La Nouvelle Tribune* ([www.nouvelle-tribune.com](http://www.nouvelle-tribune.com)), *L'Observateur* ([www.observeur-guinee.com](http://www.observeur-guinee.com)) and *Le Populaire* (<http://lepopulaire.press-guinee.com>).

The *Sanakou*

(<http://sanakou.press-guinee.com>) is published in Labé. The *Le Lynx* ([www.mirinet.net.gn/lynx](http://www.mirinet.net.gn/lynx)) is an independent satirical weekly.

### Broadcasting

**Radio:** The state-owned, commercial Radiodiffusion-Télévision Guinéenne (RTG) operates Radio Guinée in several languages including French, English, Arabic, Portuguese and a series of Radio Rurale in local languages. Private stations include Familia FM, Liberte FM, Radio Nostralie Guinea and Soleil FM. Radio France Internationale and BBC World Service can both be received.

**Television:** The state-owned, commercial Radiodiffusion-Télévision Guinéenne (RTG) has one channel.

**National news agency:** Agence Guinéenne de Presse

**Other news agencies:** APA:

[www.apanews.net](http://www.apanews.net)

Panapress: [www.panapress.com](http://www.panapress.com)

### Economy

Guinea has the potential to be a wealthy country, with extensive resources in minerals and fertile land, but it remains one of the world's poorest and Africa's more underdeveloped economies. The country possesses around 50 per cent of the world's bauxite reserves, also diamonds, iron ore, salt and uranium. The agriculture sector includes rice, coffee, bananas, palm oil, cattle, sheep and goats, fish and timber. It has greater potential for producing hydroelectricity than the 75MW being produced in 2009. The mining of bauxite and iron ore along with other minerals accounts for around 80 per cent of foreign earnings.

GDP growth was 4.9 per cent in 2008, as Guinea followed fiscal measures set out by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) when it had agreed to a three-year loan under the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility in 2007 in order to secure debt relief. However when the government was overthrown in December 2008 the programme faltered and in 2009 the IMF suspended its programme and by February 2010 Guinea was US\$16 million in loan arrears. GDP growth fell to -0.3 per cent in 2009 as trade in commodities dropped, caused by the global economic recession. Output of bauxite fell by 22.9 per cent in the first nine months of 2009; output of other minerals also fell although diamond mining rose by 30.5 per cent. As the global economy recovered so did the Guinean economy and GDP growth was 1.9 per cent in 2010, growing to an estimated 3.6 per cent in 2011 as global trade and commodity sales picked up. Despite the potential for large-scale investment projects in agriculture, mining

and hydroelectricity Guinea's political instability, corruption and poor resource management have limited foreign direct investment. FDI fell from US\$386 million in 2007 to US\$50 million in 2009, before growing, in 2010, to US\$101 million, due largely to the state of the global economy.

In 2011, the UN Human Development Index (HDI) ranked Guinea 178 (out of 187) for national development in health, education and income. Since 2005, Guinea has progressed, but has not matched the improvement of other sub-Saharan countries. In 2010, 61.3 per cent of the population experienced at least one indicator of poverty, while 43.3 per cent lived on less than the equivalent of US\$1.25 per day; the headcount poverty rate was 82.5 per cent of the population (2000–10).

Remittances from migrant workers amounted to US\$60 million (1.3 per cent of GDP) in 2010 and were estimated to have reached US\$61 million in 2011.

### External trade

Guinea is a member of the Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas), which was set up to promote economic integration among members. It is a member of the Anglophone, West African Monetary Zone (WAMZ), which is due to introduce a common currency (although in January 2011 it had only just undertaken a feasibility study). WAMZ will eventually be merged with the Francophone-members' (Communauté financière d'Afrique (CFA) (Financial Community of Africa)) currency to produce a single currency (the eco) for the region.

Guinea has around 50 per cent of the world's reserves of bauxite and is the second largest supplier. Although diamond exports are rising, the balance of payments situation is precarious, especially since large volumes of concessionary assistance from the World Bank, IMF and foreign aid donors were suspended in 2009

### Imports

Principal imports are petroleum products, metals, machinery, vehicles and parts, textiles, foodstuffs and grain.

**Main sources:** China (13.2 per cent of total in 2011), The Netherlands (8.1 per cent), US (5.4 per cent).

### Exports

Exports are dominated by bauxite and aluminium ore, gold, diamonds, coffee, fish, fresh fruit, vegetables and timber.

**Main destinations:** Chile (24.4 per cent total of total in 2011), Spain (9.1 per cent), India (7.9 per cent).

### Agriculture

Traditional farming generates around 23 per cent of GDP and around 67 per cent of the population is engaged in subsistence farming.

Only 7 per cent of land is cultivated, although there is considerable potential for development.

Main cash crops are sugar cane, groundnuts, oil palm, cotton, citrus fruits and coffee. Main subsistence crops are rice (60 per cent of cultivated land), cassava, maize and vegetables.

Output has stagnated due to transport problems, low levels of mechanisation, poor marketing and a lack of vital inputs. Although infrastructural projects have rectified some problems, the country is in need of further investment to improve roads linking agricultural areas to domestic and foreign markets.

The fishing, forestry and livestock sectors are small. There is potential for lucrative fishing but the fishing fleet suffers from lack of funds.

### Industry and manufacturing

The industrial sector contributes around 4 per cent to GDP and employs 5 per cent of the workforce.

Apart from aluminium smelting, it is small-scale and designed to meet local requirements. Aluminium smelting from locally mined bauxite is being modernised with French aid.

The other main industries, textiles, food processing and plywood, are handicapped by supply bottlenecks and shortages of skilled labour.

The investment code and economic liberalisation are expected to attract more foreign capital.

### Tourism

As an African destination, Guinea has many traditional, historic and cultural sites to interest visitors. It has an Atlantic Ocean coastline and the Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (included on Unesco's World Heritage List) and a preserved section of the African Timbo slave route, with many landmarks along its way. Travel and tourism could provide a greater contribution to GDP than the 4.9 per cent it averaged 2006–11, but the political and social conditions adversely affect the industry. As a result tourism has experienced a three-year negative growth averaging -4.2 per cent. This impacted on employment with jobs in the industry falling from a high of 108,800 in 2008 to 97,000 in 2011.

Tourists have a choice of one foreign owned brand hotel and many smaller domestically operated hotels. The French culture influences restaurants in Conakry, with greater choice of local cuisine on offer elsewhere. French visitors are by far

the highest (15 per cent of total in 2009) and in general most visitors arrive by air as land access is considered unsafe.

### Mining

Mining is the most dynamic sector of the economy, accounting for around 30 per cent of GDP and almost all export earnings. It is rich in uranium, titanium, copper, manganese, iron ore, gold and diamonds. Around 8 per cent of the workforce is employed in the sector. A mining code introduced in 1995 renewed foreign interest in the mining sector, offering a range of guarantees and tax incentives to foreign investors, who may own up to 85 per cent of any venture. Bauxite accounts for around 20 per cent of GDP and around 90 per cent of exports. 650,000 tonnes of alumina are produced from the country's single refinery at Fria. The largest bauxite producer is the Sangarédi mine, operated by Compagnie des Bauxites de Guinée (CBG), a joint venture between the government (51 per cent) and Halco (49 per cent). CBG has an annual production capacity of 14 million tonnes.

Diamond reserves are estimated at 40 million carats (93 per cent gem quality). The Aredor diamond mine, near Banankore, is 50 per cent owned by the government and 50 per cent by a consortium led by Bridge Oil of Australia and produces around 25,000 carats per year. Diamond mining capacity in Guinea is far lower than recorded exports. It is thought that many gems exported from Guinea have been smuggled from neighbouring countries into Guinea. Key sites of precious stones include Siguiri, Mandiana, Dinguiraye, Kissidougou and Kérouané, and along the rivers of Baoulé, Milo and Diani.

In 2007, the Australian minerals exploration company, Murchison United, announced a significant deposit of uranium in the southeast of Guinea, near Firawa. The Australian mining company Rio Tinto and Chinese state-owned Chinalco signed a partnership deal in March 2010 to develop one of the world's best, and Africa's least-developed, sources of iron ore. The development of the Simandou mine is worth US\$2.3 billion. Hidarco paid US\$1.3 billion for a 47 per cent stake in the project.

### Hydrocarbons

There are no known hydrocarbon reserves and all petroleum needs must be imported, which amounted to 9,000 barrels per day in 2007, primarily for use in vehicles.

Any use of imported natural gas or coal is commercially insignificant.

### Energy

There is considerable potential for hydroelectric power from several large rivers, but apart from the existing Garafiri Dam with a 75MW capacity there are currently no plans to expand. International finance has been deterred due to the estimated 50,000 people that would be displaced if the projects were implemented. Guinea mostly imports oil to run its power stations.

### Banking and insurance

It was announced in March 2005 that the introduction of the shared currency, the Eco, in Guinea, Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and The Gambia, which was due in July 2005, would be postponed. The currency was proposed to facilitate trade and growth with an ultimate plan to merge it with the CFA franc.

### Central bank

Banque Centrale de la République de Guinée

### Main financial centre

Conakry

### Time

GMT

### Geography

Guinea lies on the west coast of Africa, with Sierra Leone and Liberia to the south, Senegal to the north, and Mali and Côte d'Ivoire inland to the east.

The country is curved in shape, with Sierra Leone occupying a large chunk of the central region. It can be divided into four geographic zones: the furthest from the coast is bio-diverse rain forest, which turns into savannah in the centre. There is a northern hill region and a coastal zone with an Atlantic coast of 320km. The highest mountain is Mont Nimba (1,752 metres), which is at the centre of an internationally recognised nature reserve, on the border with Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia. There are 22 rivers that begin life in Guinea, including the Senegal, Gambia and Niger rivers.

### Hemisphere

Northern

### Climate

The climate is tropical and humid. In the south the rainy season falls in June–October; rainfall is particularly heavy in Conakry, average temperatures range from 22–30 degrees Celsius (C). The dry season is from November–April, likely temperature range 24–35 degrees C. The north is generally cooler and drier.

### Entry requirements

#### Passports

Required by all and must have six months validity from the date of departure.

### Visa

Required by all except nationals of some African countries. Applications for visas must be made to a Guinea Consulate before travelling. Business visas should include proof of sufficient funds, a business letter with a full itinerary, and an invitation from a local company or organisation. Contact the nearest embassy for further details.

### Currency advice/regulations

There are no restrictions on the import of foreign currency but the amount must be declared; export may not exceed the amount imported. It is a requirement to exchange an amount of foreign currency into Gf, depending on the length of stay. Local currency up to Gf1,000 may be imported provided a valid declaration for its previous export can be provided.

Traveller's cheques have limited outlets in banks and large hotels. To avoid extra exchange fees US dollars and Euros are recommended.

### Health (for visitors)

#### Mandatory precautions

Yellow fever vaccination certificate.

#### Advisable precautions

Malaria prophylaxes are essential as risk exists throughout the country. Immunisations or booster shots are necessary for diphtheria, tetanus, polio, hepatitis A, typhoid and yellow fever. Vaccinations may be needed for hepatitis B, TB, meningitis and cholera. Rabies is a risk in rural areas.

Use only bottled or boiled water for drinks, washing teeth and making ice. Eat only well cooked meals, preferably served hot; vegetables should be cooked and fruit peeled. Avoid pork, salad and food from street vendors. A full first-aid kit would be useful.

### Hotels

Limited first-class accommodation is available in Conakry and Kankan; good hotels are expensive. Hotel bills may be paid in foreign currency or by credit card. A service charge is usually included in the bill. Tipping is optional.

### Public holidays (national)

#### Fixed dates

1 Jan (New Year's Day), 1 May (Labour Day), ^ 15 Aug (Assumption Day), 27 Aug (Anniversary of Women's Revolt), 28 Sep (Referendum Day), 2 Oct (Republic Day), 1 Nov (All Saints' Day), 25 Dec (Christmas).

#### Variable dates

^ Easter Monday, Eid al Adha, Birth of the Prophet, ^ Ascension Day, Day after the Night's Vigil (Nov), Eid al Fitr (three days).

^ Christian holiday only

**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–Fri: 0800–1230, 1430–1700.

#### Business

Mon–Thu: 0830–1730; Fri: 0800–1300.

#### Government

Mon–Thu: 0800–1500; Fri: 0800–1300; Sat: 0800–1500.

### Telecommunications

#### Mobile/cell phones

GSM 900 services are available.

### Electricity supply

220V AC, 50 cycles

### Social customs/useful tips

Showing respect for people will enhance your regard. Always greet people and never go straight into conversation without pleasantries beforehand. It is considered polite to use people's titles.

### Security

Visitors are advised not travel to border areas where security is weak and there is a risk of kidnapping.

Always carry an identity card or passport, if stopped you are obliged to show ID.

Pickpocketing, muggings and armed break-ins occur in the city; avoid carrying valuables in public and remain vigilant.

There are numerous confidence tricksters typically attempting to dupe foreigners into buying precious gems (which, even if authentic, need export licences), gold and counterfeit goods.

### Getting there

#### Air

**National airline:** Air Guinée (government owned) flies domestic routes only. International flights are regional or European.

**International airport/s:** Conakry (CKY), 13km from city, bank, and car hire. Taxis are to city.

**Airport tax:** None

#### Surface

**Road:** Best route is the coastal road from Sierra Leone (Freetown) to Conakry. Roads from Ganta (Liberia) to N'zérékoré and from Mali (to Kankan and Siguiri) can be difficult.

### Getting about

#### National transport

**Air:** Air Guinée operates regular domestic service between Conakry, Boké, Kankan, Kissidougou, Labé, Macenta, N'zérékoré, Siguiri.

**Road:** A few main roads are surfaced, eg from Conakry north to Kindia and

Kissidougou, and parts of the road east to Freetown in Sierra Leone. Most roads are laterite and become impassable during the rainy season (Jun–Oct).

**Buses:** Coach services include Conakry-Kindia-Gaoual and Dabola-N'zérékoré.

**Rail:** Narrow-gauge railway from Conakry to Kindia and Kankan, which is in poor condition.

#### City transport

**Taxis:** Available in Conakry, limited availability elsewhere; can be hired from hotels by the hour or day. Standard fares apply within towns, but for longer journeys fares should be agreed in advance. Tipping is optional.

#### Car hire

International and national driving licence required. Driving outside city limits with chauffeur and special authorisation only.

## 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 Guinea is + 224, followed by subscriber's number.

All telephone/fax numbers became eight digits from 2005.

### Chambers of Commerce

Guinea Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Handicrafts, PO Box 545, Conakry (email: cciag@setelgui.net.gn).

### Banking

Banque Internationale pour le Commerce et l'Industrie de la Guinée SA; PO Box 1484, Avenue de la République, Conakry (tel: 3041-2908/3643).

Banque Islamique de Guinée; PO Box 1247, 6è Avenue de la République, Conakry (tel: 3041-4581, 3046-2075).

Banque Populaire Maroc-Guinéenne; PO Box 4400, Avenue de la République, Conakry-360 (tel: 3041-1599/2360/2552).

Ecobank-Guinée; PO Box 5687, Avenue de la République, Conakry (tel: 3045-5876).

International Commercial Bank; PO Box 3547, Cité Chemin de Fer, Conakry (tel: 3041-2590).

Société Générale de Banques en Guinée; PO Box 1514, Kaloum Coronthie Immeuble Boffa, Cité Chemin de Fer, Conakry (tel: 3041-1746).

Union Internationale de Banque en Guinée UIBG; PO Box 324, Angle 5è Boulevard, 6è Avenue de la République, Conakry (tel: 3041-2096/4309).

**Central bank**

Banque Centrale de la République de Guinée; PO Box 622, 3 Boulevard du Commerce, Conakry (tel: 3041-2651; fax: 3041-4898).

**Travel information**

Air France, BP 590, Ave de la République, Conakry (tel: 3046-4535)

Air Guinée, Route du Niger, BP 12, 12 Côte Commissariat Central, Conakry (tel: 3045-3662).

**Other useful addresses**

Bureau Veritas, BP 1451, Conakry (tel: 3044-1841, 3044-2202; fax: 3041-2112).

Chambre Economique de Guinée, BP 609, Conakry.

Comité d'Etat pour la Co-opération avec l'Europe Occidentale, Conakry.

Direction Nationale des Marchés Publics et du Portefeuille de l'Etat (privatisation

office), La Division du Portefeuille du Ministère des Finances, avenue de la République, Face à l'Hôpital Ignace DEEN, BP 2006, Conakry (tel: 3041-3957; fax: 3041-4220).

ENTRAT (state forwarding firm), BP 315, Conakry.

Entreprise Nationale Import-Export (Importex), BP 152, Conakry (tel: 3044-2813, 3044-2809).

French Commercial Department, Ambassade de France, BP 373, Conakry (tel: 3041-1605, 3041-1655; fax: 3041-2708).

Guinea Embassy (US), 2112 Leroy Place, NW, Washington DC 20008 (tel: (+1-202) 483-9420; fax: (+1-202) 483-8688; e-mail: emgui@sysnet.net).

Office National des Hydrocarbures (Onah), Conakry.

L'Office de Promotion des Investissements Privés – Guichet Unique (OPIP) (assistance for foreign investors), BP 2024, Conakry (tel: 3045-1830, 3041-4985; fax: 3041-3990; e-mail: dg@opip.org.gn).

Port Autonome, BP 805, Conakry (tel: 3044-2728, 3044-2737; fax: 3041-4564).

Radio-Télévision Guinéenne (RTG), BP 391, Conakry.

Statistical Office, Bureau du Premier Ministre, Conakry (tel: 3044-2148).

**National news agency:** Agence Guinéenne de Presse, BP 1535; Anciens locaux d'Enelgui, 2ème boulevard, 5ème avenue, Conakry (tel: 144-434; 430-549; email: info@agpguinee.net)

**Other news agencies:** APA: www.apanews.net,

Panapress: www.panapress.com

**Internet sites**

Africa Business Network: www.ifc.org/abn

AllAfrica.com: http://allafrica.com

African Development Bank: www.afdb.org

Africa Online: www.africaonline.com

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

Online news www.guineenews.org/