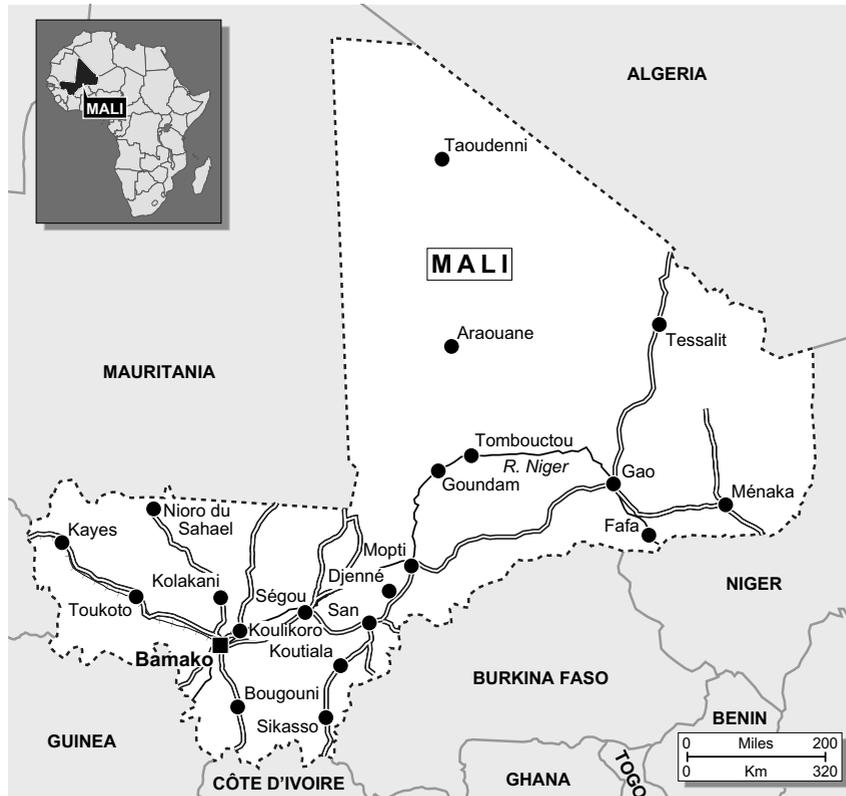


# Mali



Natural resources play a crucial role in the Malian economy, in particular gold and cotton. Mali has become Africa's third largest gold producer, after South Africa and Ghana. Production increased from 6 tonnes in 1993 to 49.7 tonnes in 2012. Earnings from gold production represent about 25 per cent of GDP and 75 per cent of export revenue. Exports increased from CFAf17.4 billion (US\$35.15 million) in 1993 to CFAf1.07 trillion (US\$2.16 billion) in 2012. The *African Economic Outlook 2013* (AEO), published jointly by the African Development Bank and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, estimates that the state earned CFAf233 billion (US\$422 million) through direct and indirect taxes and dividends in 2012, compared to CFAf62.3 billion (US\$127.3 million) in 2002. The government is planning a new tax, indexed on changes in global gold prices. The mining sector

employs 8,000 people, including research companies and subcontractors, but little value is added locally and the development of sales outlets are still lacking. There are no national operators and service providers at the different levels of the mining industry (exploitation, subcontracting, providers of services and material inputs, use and enhancement of local products). Generally speaking, the mining sector does not have enough links to the local economy. Moreover, as a result of a lack of geological data on other mineral deposits, it only produces gold. The absence of a reliable mining land survey and an independent and appropriate financing mechanism penalise the sector. There is also insufficient control, monitoring and evaluation of mining companies. Lastly, energy and communications infrastructure in mining areas are underdeveloped.

The government adopted a new mining code on 27 February 2012 to address these

## KEY FACTS

**Official name:** République du Mali (Republic of Mali)

**Head of State:** Interim President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita (from 11 Aug 2013)

**Head of government:** Prime Minister Django Sissoko (from 12 Dec 2012)

**Ruling party:** Comité National pour le Redressement de la Démocratie et la Restauration de l'Etat (CNRDR) (National Committee for the Return of Democracy and the Restoration of the State) (military junta) (from 22 Mar 2012)

**Area:** 1,241,238 square km

**Population:** 16.34 million (2012)\*

**Capital:** Bamako

**Official language:** French

**Currency:** CFA franc (CFAf) = 100 centimes (Communauté Financière Africaine (African Financial Community) franc).

**Exchange rate:** CFAf495.02 per US\$ (Jul 2013); CFAf655.95 per euro (pegged from Jan 1999)

**GDP per capita:** US\$631 (2012)\*

**GDP real growth:** -1.19% (2012)\*

**GDP:** US\$10.32 billion (2012)\*

**Inflation:** 5.32% (2012)\*

**Balance of trade:** -US\$664.60 million (2011)

\* estimated figure

shortcomings and better integrate the mining sector into the national economy. Some of the measures it provides for are: the possibility for private Malian firms to acquire a 5 per cent stake in mining companies; revising the amount and/or rate of taxes and rights related to mining activities; taking into consideration the development of communities near mines; implementing a model to finance research, training and capacity-building for the industry's workers; and preserving and restoring the environment through social and environmental impact studies (EIES). In addition, as a member of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) since 2 August 2006, the country produces a yearly report on its mining activities.

Mali's other major resource, cotton, accounted for around 1 per cent of GDP and 15 per cent of total export earnings in 2012. It was the country's main export up until 2000. A drop in crop yields and global cotton prices, subsidies to producers in certain developed countries, lower production because of the refusal of farmers to cultivate the cotton and bad governance have all created serious difficulties for the industry since 1997/98. This has led to the liberalisation of the sector and a plan to privatise the *Compagnie Malienne pour le Développement du Textile* (CMDT) (Mali Textile Development Company). However, since the 2008/09 crop year, production has increased on average 23 per cent per year. This gain is due to the state subsidising input materials by CFAf20 billion (US\$40 million) on average per year, providing support and advice to producers and guaranteeing prices.

It also results from a refocusing of the CMDT's activities on cotton and improving the sector's governance, plus the relatively high global cotton prices. As a result, the government no longer seems interested in privatising the CMDT.

The availability of good-quality cotton should be a potential advantage for Mali. However, it has not led to the creation of a local cotton processing industry. The few companies that make use of cotton grains, such as oil mills (Huicomma) and the textile industry (Comatex, Fitina, Batexci), are struggling. Automation in most cotton-producing countries has eroded the comparative advantages of low-wage countries like Mali. This is why the government needs to foster investment in the textile industry, which represents a mere 2 per cent of GDP. An increase in the local processing of cotton, which is part of an industrialisation strategy for Mali, will help protect the sector from global price fluctuations.

### Economy

In addition to the food crisis that began in 2011, the 22 March 2012 *coup d'état* marked the beginning of a serious political crisis throughout Mali, but especially in the north, with armed groups occupying the three northern regions (two-thirds of Mali's territory) between April 2012 and January 2013. Consequently, the economy largely ground to a halt in 2012, and international co-operation was suspended. Real GDP growth was -1.5 per cent in 2012 due to the weak performance of the secondary (-2.2 per cent) and tertiary (-8.8 per cent) sectors. For its part, the primary sector grew by 8.1 per cent.

Despite the recession and the suspension of international aid, the government pursued a policy of fiscal discipline in 2012. It restored its relations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in January 2013 and obtained a Rapid Credit Facility (RCF) of US\$18 million.

The economy is forecast to come out of recession, with growth projected at 5.4 per cent in 2013 and 5.1 per cent in 2014. This growth will be driven by rice, cotton and gold production, as well as by the creation of a third mobile network operator. That said, political instability, economic crisis and war in the north of the country still pose downside risks for 2013 and 2014.

The food, security and political crises have all exacerbated poverty. The poverty rate increased from 41.7 per cent in 2011 to 42.7 per cent in 2012. A serious humanitarian crisis began in January 2012, with 237,000 displaced persons, 410,000 refugees and at least 4.6 million Malians at risk of food insecurity. The government honoured its spending commitments on education, health and social protection, which made up 33.45 per cent of total expenditure. Social indicators have improved in recent years, but progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015 remains mixed. Mali is on track to achieve universal primary education (goal 2), combat HIV/Aids, malaria and other diseases (goal 6) and ensure environmental sustainability (goal 7), including the provision of drinking water. It will almost certainly fail to achieve the other goals, however. The Islamist groups that occupied the northern regions for nine months pillaged healthcare centres, pharmacies and schools, putting a significant dent in progress made.

The political turmoil and insecurity also caused a contraction in tourism (hotels and travel agencies) and arts and crafts. The airline Air Mali laid off more than 200 employees, while 44 hotels went out of business, dismissing 208 employees and placing 739 others on temporary leave. This slowdown resulted in a 13 per cent reduction in private sector investment in 2012, compared to a 7 per cent increase in 2011. Household consumption contributed 1.5 per cent to growth in 2012, against 5.0 per cent initially forecast and 4.0 per cent in 2011.

### The northern coup

Events in Mali had gone from bad to worse during 2012. In January an uprising by ethnic Tuareg in the north forced thousands to flee to Niger. In March mutinous

## KEY INDICATORS

## Mali

	Unit	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Population	m	13.36	*13.67	*15.37	*15.85	*16.34
Gross domestic minus gold	US\$bn	8.80	9.00	9.30	10.60	*10.32
GDP per capita	US\$	657	656	692	669	*631
GDP real growth	%	5.0	4.5	5.8	2.7	*-1.2
Inflation	%	9.1	2.2	1.2	3.1	*5.3
Exports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	2,097.2	1,773.7	2.0	2,052.6	-
Imports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	2,735.9	1,986.3	2.3	2,717.2	-
Balance of trade	US\$m	-638.7	-212.6	-0.3	-664.6	-
Current account	US\$m	-1,066.4	-654.9	-786.0	-1,189.9	*-353.0
Total reserves minus gold	US\$m	1,071.1	1,604.5	1,344.4	1,368.7	*1,341.4
Foreign exchange	US\$m	1,056.1	1,473.9	1,215.9	1,269.7	*1,213.2
Exchange rate	per US\$	447.81	514.03	495.28	466.82	*505.65

\* estimated figure

soldiers in the south seized power, overthrowing President Touré, replacing the government with the Comité National pour le Redressement de la Démocratie et la Restauration de l'Etat (CNRDR) (National Committee for the Return of Democracy and the Restoration of the State). Lieutenant Amadou Konaré of the CNRDR was reported as saying that the coup was in response to the president's failure to quell the uprising in the north. However, the coup itself allowed the two groups involved in the northern rebellion – the Mouvement National pour la Libération de l'Azawad (MNLA) (National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad) and Ansar Dine, an Islamist group, to strengthen their hold in the main northern towns, including Timbuctu and Gao. In April the MNLA announced they had ended Mali's 'occupation' of Tuareg lands. Ansar Dine imposed Sharia (Islamic law) in the towns they captured, forcing out their former Tuareg allies.

Living conditions in Niger in the refugee camps were described by the Red Cross to be 'extremely difficult' with a lack of food and water.

In the south Captain Amadou Haya Sanogo was named as chairman of the CNRDR. The UN Security Council (UNSC) called for the restoration of constitutional rule and Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas) threatened to impose sanctions on Mali, close land borders and freeze assets held in Ecowas countries. In April an agreement was negotiated, mediated by Ecowas, that would allow the coup leaders to step down without fear of prosecution, President Touré to officially 'resign' and elections to be held. Cheick Modibo Diarra was appointed interim prime minister. Eventually, on 21 August a government of unity was formed, led by Prime Minister Diarra and including five members allied to CNRDR leader Sanogo.

The Islamist rebels in the north smashed a number of holy shrines and announced they would destroy every mausoleum in Timbuctu. In August the UN High Commission for Refugees reported that as many as 500,000 Malians had fled the north and were in desperate need of humanitarian aid. The UNSC adopted a resolution on 12 October that would allow military intervention to reclaim territory held by the militants. On 24 October the AU ended Mali's suspension in favour of working with the CNRDR to counter the rebels in the north, and in November endorsed a plan to deploy troops to northern Mali. There was talk of French

intervention until the AU could organise their own troops. On 13 November the AU endorsed a six-month plan to deploy its troops in northern Mali to oust the Islamist and Tuareg forces. Government representatives took part in direct talks with Tuareg and Islamist rebels in December in efforts to find a platform for peace and national unity.

However, political differences and pressure from the still-influential former military junta led to the resignation of by Prime Minister Diarra on 12 December 2012. Diango Cissoko was appointed prime minister the following day.

The assistance of France in defending Mali's sovereignty was requested by the transitional authorities as the northern town of Konna was captured by extremist groups. As a result the French lead 'Operation Serval' began military operations alongside Malian forces on 11 January. The security situation rapidly improved, so much so that the French troops were able to begin withdrawing in April, leaving behind heavy patrol vehicles and tanks; a group of around 1,000 soldiers are expected to remain in a training role until the end of 2013.

The government signed a peace deal with Tuareg rebels on 18 June. The deal called for an immediate ceasefire and government troops to return to the rebel-held northern town of Kidal. Officials reported the accord should also help pave the way for elections on 28 July. On 1 July the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in Mali (Minusma), established by Security Council resolution 2100 of 25 April 2013, took over authority from the African-led International Support Mission in Mali (Afisma). Under the terms of the resolution, the mission was to support the political process and carry out a number of security-related stabilisation tasks, with a focus on major population centres and lines of communication, protecting civilians, human rights monitoring, the creation of conditions for the provision of humanitarian assistance and the return of displaced persons, the extension of State authority and the preparation of free, inclusive and peaceful elections. The 12,600-strong peacekeeping force incorporated most of the 6,000 West African troops who had deployed to help the French operation. The state of emergency in place since January was lifted on 6 July.

Presidential candidate Tiebele Drame withdrew from the election on 17 July. He had previously called for the elections to be delayed but said his party's application

to the Constitutional Court had been met by a 'deafening silence'. His withdrawal left 27 other candidates. The presidential elections held on 28 July were hailed by France as a 'great success'. Since no candidate reached the 50 per cent needed for victory a run-off election between former prime minister Ibrahim Boubacar Keita (39.2 per cent in the first round) (Rassemblement pour le Mali (RPM) (Rally for Mali)) and ex-finance minister Soumaïla Cissé (19.4 per cent) (Union pour la République et la Démocratie (URD) (Union for the Republic and Democracy) was scheduled for 11 August. Despite heavy rain the run-off election went smoothly. Ibrahim Boubacar Keita was declared the winner (77.61 per cent) after Cissé (22.39 per cent) ceded defeat on 12 August, despite alleging serious irregularities in the voting.

On 22 August the militant group headed by Algerian Mokhtar Belmokhtar, the Al Mulathameen (Masked Men Brigade), announced it had merged with the Mali-based Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (Mojwa) to form Al Murabitoun (the sentinels). A statement said that Al Murabitoun would take revenge against France for its actions in Mali. Government forces clashed with Tuareg rebels on 11 September, the first fighting since the June peace agreement. On 26 September the BBC reported that the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA) had accused the government of failing to honour its promises. MNLA want a separate Tuareg homeland. The Tuareg separatists were said to have withdrawn from the peace deal. Fighting broke out in the northern town of Kidal on 30 September. In mid-October the UN said that it still had only half of the 12,000 troops it had been mandated; it appealed for more men and equipment after attacks in the north had again destabilised the country.

**Risk assessment**

Politics	Poor
Economy	Poor
Regional stability	Poor

**COUNTRY PROFILE**

**Historical profile**

900 Modern-day Mali was part of the empire of Ghana.

1250s Sundiata Keita, leader of the Mandinka people, established the Empire of Mali, which stretched from the Atlantic to the present-day borders of Nigeria and controlled most trans-Sahara trading routes by the fourteenth century.

1464 The Songhai Empire, centred around Gao, overwhelmed the Mali Empire and began to conquer the Sahel.

1591 After a Moroccan invasion, the Songhai Empire collapsed.

1890s Mali became a French colony.

1960 Mali gained independence from France as part of the Federation of Mali, which was dissolved a few weeks later when Senegal broke away. The Republic of Mali was established and Modibo Keita became the country's first president.

1968 Keita was overthrown by a military coup, led by Moussa Traoré, who became president.

1977 Protests erupted following Keita's death in prison.

1979 A new constitution provided for elections in which Traoré was elected as president.

1985 A border war erupted between Mali and Burkina Faso, but was ended after intervention by other African states.

1991 Following pro-democracy demonstrations, Traoré was deposed by a military coup. A 25-member military/civilian Transitional People's Salvation Committee came to power, led by Lieutenant Colonel Amadou Toumani Touré.

1992 Traoré resigned and did not stand in the elections he organised. Alpha Oumar Konaré was democratically elected president.

1995 A peace agreement with Tuareg rebels led to the return of thousands of refugees from neighbouring African states.

1997 President Konaré was re-elected.

1999 Former president Traoré was sentenced to death for corruption, but his sentence was commuted to life imprisonment by Konaré, who also announced that he would not contest the next presidential election.

2000 Mande Sidibe, a former International Monetary Fund (IMF) official, was appointed prime minister.

2001 Konaré announced the indefinite postponement of a constitutional referendum which proposed granting him immunity from prosecution.

2002 Amadou Toumani Touré (popularly known as ATT) won the presidential election and named Ahmed Mohamed Ag Hamani as prime minister. The Constitutional Court reversed the outcome of the parliamentary elections. The government resigned without explanation and a new government of national reconciliation took over.

2003 The IMF announced that Mali was to benefit from debt relief amounting to approximately US\$675 million under the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative.

2004 Ousmane Issoufi Maïga replaced Hamani as prime minister.

2006 Tuareg rebels, demanding greater autonomy, attacked government barracks in the north. The government signed a peace agreement, mediated by Algeria, with the rebels.

2007 President Amadou Toumani Touré was re-elected. The Congrès pour la Démocratie et le Progrès (CDP) (Alliance for Democracy and Progress) coalition (of 12 political parties) led by Alliance pour la Démocratie en Mali-Parti Pan-Africain pour la Solidarité et la Justice (ADEMA-PASJ) (Alliance for Democracy in Mali-African Party for Solidarity and Justice) won parliamentary elections. The opposition Espoir 2002 (Hope 2002) was renamed Front pour la Démocratie et la République (FDR) (Front for a Democratic Republic) coalition (of two parties), won 11 seats. Prime Minister Ousmane Issoufi Maïga resigned and Modibo Sidibé was appointed as his replacement.

2009 In an official ceremony to mark a return to the peace process, around 700 Tuareg insurgents surrendered their arms, with an expectation of joining the regular army. The rebels had been fighting for greater political influence and economic development for their traditional Sahel homeland. The government agreed to more regional autonomy and investment. Ibrahim Ag Bahanga, the rebel leader, fled into exile; he could pose a future threat to peace.

2010 The IMF agreed to the disbursement of US\$3.1 million under its Extended Credit Facility, after Mali successfully completed the IMF's second review of its economic performance. According to the International Organisation of Migration (IOM), Mali has lost 13 per cent of its population to emigration since 2000, an estimated 1.5 million people. The mining ministry announced that 80.47 per cent of export earnings in 2009 were from gold. However with relatively low taxation, the export earnings only account for 8 per cent of GDP. A prolonged drought in the north forced nomad herders to move further south and into neighbouring Niger and Burkina Faso. Construction began on another leg of the Sahel Highway, north of Timbuktu.

2011 The president appointed Cissé Mariam Kaïdama Sidibé as prime minister in April. In August the government announced that the threat of attacks by Al Qaeda on tourists had cost Mali around CFAf50 billion (US\$108.8 million) in lost tourism receipts and 8,000 jobs since 2009. Many tourists have been drawn to spectacular desert-scapes and the ancient trading town of Timbuktu but the risk of kidnapping, sponsored by Al Qaeda, has grown.

2012 Thousands of people from northern Mali were forced to flee an uprising by

ethnic Tuareg rebels in January. On 3 February the International Committee of the Red Cross reported that almost 10,000 Malian refugees had crossed into Niger, where living conditions were described as 'extremely difficult' with a lack of food and water.

Mutinous army soldiers (in the south) seized power in a *coup d'état* that overthrew President Touré on 22 March. A spokesman for the newly formed Comité National pour le Redressement de la Démocratie et la Restauration de l'Etat (CNRDR) (National Committee for the Return of Democracy and the Restoration of the State), Lieutenant Amadou Konare, claimed the *coup* was in response to the president's failure to quell the Tuareg separatist uprising in the north. The two Tuareg groups in rebellion, the Mouvement National pour la Libération de l'Azawad (MNLA) (National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad) and Ansar Dine, an Islamist group, which began to impose, in the towns they gained control of, *Sharia* (Islamic law). Captain Amadou Haya Sanogo was named as chairman of CNRDR. The UN Security Council straightaway called for an 'immediate restoration of constitutional rule and the democratically elected government'. On 30 March the regional economic body, Ecowas, announced an ultimatum of 72 hours for the CNRDR to relinquish power or face sanctions; land borders would be closed and Mali's assets held in the 15 Ecowas countries would be frozen. An Ecowas peacekeeping force was put on standby as CNRDR forces overran the international airport runway. Malian people were quickly seen to be withdrawing cash from their banks and stocking up on essential supplies.

On 2 April, rebel Tuareg, from the MNLA, overran the town of Timbuktu, the last stronghold of the national army in the north. A MNLA statement announced that they had 'control of the entire region' (the towns of Kidal and Gao had also been captured before Timbuktu) and had ended Mali's 'occupation' of Tuareg lands. The CNRDR said it intended to reinstate the constitution, but gave no clear indication of a timetable for transfer of power. Ecowas lifted sanctions on 8 April, as President Touré formally resigned from office, following a negotiated deal, mediated by Ecowas, with the CNRDR. Speaker of the national assembly, Dioncounda Traoré, was sworn in as interim president on the same day. According to the negotiated agreement, the coup leaders may step down without fear of prosecution and presidential elections will be held. On 11 April, Captain Sanogo (head of CNRDR) rejected a proposal that Ecowas troops should be used to help

restore order in northern Mali. He cited the Ecowas agreement as sanctioning his continued involvement in the transitional power and would help decide how the country would be run following presidential elections set to be held by 21 May. On 17 April, Cheick Modibo Diarra was appointed as interim prime minister. Mr Diarra, a businessman, is a former US-Nasa astrophysicist and had been named as Microsoft Corporation's 'ambassador to Africa' in 2006. Ex-president Touré was released from detention on 19 April and along with his family fled to Senegal. On 26 April Ecowas decided to send 3,000 troops to Mali, to help secure the transitional government and defeat the Tuareg rebels.

In May, Islamist terrorists destroyed the tomb of a local Muslim saint (Sidi Mahmoud Ben Amar) in Timbuktu. The Islamist rebels that control Timbuktu announced that they would smash every mausoleum in the city, having judged them 'un-Islamic'. These centuries-old shrines to Islamic saints were included on Unesco's World Heritage List for their 'outstanding architectural wonders'. They were placed on its list of endangered sites on 29 June.

On 21 August, a new government of unity was formed, led by Prime Minister Diarra and including five members allied to coup leader Captain Sanogo (CNRDR). On 29 August the UNHCR chief, Valerie Amos, stated that Mali had 500,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) and that it was in desperate need of humanitarian aid to deal with their needs.

On 12 October, the UN Security Council (UNSC) adopted a resolution that would allow military intervention to regain northern territory held by militants. To enable a formal endorsement of military action the UNSC required the submission of detailed operation plans by 26 November. On 24 October, the AU ended Mali's suspension in favour of working with the coup authorities to counter the rebel Islamist forces in the north.

On 13 November the AU endorsed a six-month plan to deploy its troops in northern Mali to oust Islamist and Tuareg forces. Government representatives took part in direct talks with Tuareg and Islamist rebels in December in efforts to find a platform for peace and national unity.

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## Political structure

### Constitution

A referendum held in January 1992 approved a constitution establishing multi-party rule.

A two-round voting system for electing parliamentarians was established.

In 1997, a new electoral code introduced an Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) comprising 34 members: 10 representatives of government services, 10 from civil society and 14 from the political parties (seven from the opposition and seven from the parliamentary majority).

Other changes included the authorisation of independent candidacies, the reduction in the number of voters per polling station to 700 and an increase in the number of deputies in the National Assembly from 116 to 147. The principle of sponsoring presidential candidates was ended, and correspondence or proxy voting and eligibility for other African nationals were annulled.

Administratively, Mali is divided into eight regions and the capital district of Bamako, each under the authority of an appointed governor.

### Form of state

Republic

### The executive

The directly-elected president serves a five-year term, with a limit of two terms. The president is head of state and commander-in-chief of the armed forces. The president appoints the prime minister and chairs the Council of Ministers.

### National legislature

The unicameral National Assembly has 160-members in total, of which 147 are directly elected in single or multi-member constituencies through two rounds ending in a run-off election. Expatriate Malians are represented by 13 representatives. All members serve for five-year terms.

### Legal system

Based on French civil law system and customary law. The legal system is constitutionally independent of the executive.

### Last elections

1/22 July 2007 (parliamentary); 11 August 2013 (presidential).

**Results:** Parliamentary: the Alliance pour la Démocratie en Mali-Parti Pan-Africain pour la Solidarité et la Justice (Adema-PASJ) (Alliance for Democracy in Mali-African Party for Solidarity and Justice) won 55 seats; the Union pour la République et la Démocratie (URD) (Union for the Republic and Democracy) 36; Rassemblement National pour la Démocratie (RND) (National Assembly for Democracy) one (these parties form the Congrès pour la Démocratie et le Progrès (CDP) (Alliance for Democracy and Progress) coalition. The Rassemblement Pour le Mali (RPM) (Party for Mali) won 11 seats; the Parti pour la Renaissance Nationale (Parena) (Party for a National Rebirth) four, (these parties form the coalition Front pour la Démocratie et la République (FDR) (Front for a Democratic Republic) formerly called Espoir 2002 (Hope 2002); the Solidarité Africaine pour la Démocratie et l'Indépendance (Sadi) (African Solidarity for Democracy and Independence) four; independents 12 and undecided 37 seats. Turnout was 33.39 per cent.

Presidential: First round held on 28 July 2013 Ibrahim Boubacar Keita 39.23 per cent, Soumaïla Cissé 19.44 per cent; none of the other 26 candidates won more than 10 per cent. Second round held on 11 August Ibrahim Boubacar Keita 77.61 per cent, Soumaïla Cissé 22.39 per cent.

### Next elections

A date has yet to be set for parliamentary elections.

### Political parties

#### Ruling party

Comité National pour le Redressement de la Démocratie et la Restauration de l'Etat (CNRDR) (National Committee for the Return of Democracy and the Restoration of the State) (military *junta*) (from 22 Mar 2012)

#### Main opposition party

Coalition: Front pour la Démocratie et la République (FDR) formed by 16 independent political parties led by Rassemblement pour le Mali (RPM) (Rally for Mali) and Le Parti pour la Renaissance Nationale (Parena) (Party for National Rebirth).

### Population

16.34 million (2012)\*

Approximately 47 per cent of the total population are under 15 years. Around 600,000 Tuareg Berbers live in Mali.

There is a continuing population drift toward the Senegal and Niger Rivers.

The government's medium-term social objective is to achieve a broadly based improvement in living standards.

**Last census:** April 1998: 9,790,492

**Population density:** Eight inhabitants per square km. Urban population 36 per cent (2010 Unicef).

**Annual growth rate:** 2.9 per cent, 1990–2010 (Unicef).

### Ethnic make-up

Mande (50 per cent), Peul (17 per cent), Voltaic (12 per cent).

### Religions

Muslim (90 per cent), indigenous beliefs (9 per cent), Christian (1 per cent).

### Education

Primary schooling is divided into two stages, with the first and compulsory stage lasting until aged 13, followed by three years of basic education. At age 16 students may follow either an academic path in a general secondary school, for three years, or specialised education through a technical secondary school, for either two or three years. Four year vocational courses are also available.

Mali has one of the highest pupil-teacher ratio in the world, with an average of around 80 pupils per teacher.

**Literacy rate:** 19 per cent adult rate; 24 per cent youth rate (15–24) (Unesco 2005).

**Compulsory years:** Seven to 13

**Enrolment rate:** 29 per cent net primary enrolment (Unicef)

**Pupils per teacher:** 80 in primary schools.

### Health

Improved water sources and sanitation facilities are available to 65 per cent and 30 per cent of the population respectively.

### HIV/Aids

There are an estimated 100,000 people living with HIV/Aids in Mali – 5,000 are under the age of 15. Mali has so far escaped much of the African pandemic. The African Development Fund (ADF) provided US\$12.1 million for a programme to reduce the prevalence rate from 1.9 per cent in 2003 to 1 per cent by 2008. The money will be used to improved testing for the disease, antiretroviral drugs and training medical and research workers to monitor and manage the pandemic.

**HIV prevalence:** 1.9 per cent aged 15–49 in 2003 (World Bank)

**Life expectancy:** 46 years, 2004 (WHO 2006)

**Fertility rate/Maternal mortality rate:** 6.3 births per woman, 2010 (Unicef)

**Child (under 5 years) mortality rate (per 1,000):** 128 per 1,000 live births (WHO 2012); 25 per cent of children

aged under five are malnourished (World Bank).

**Head of population per physician:** 0.08 physicians per 1,000 people, 2004 (WHO 2006)

### Welfare

In the mid-1990s, it was estimated that 72.8 per cent of the population lived on less than US\$1 per day and over 90 per cent lived on less than US\$2 per day. The distribution of wealth in Mali is highly unequal and the highest 10 per cent of the population owns 56.2 per cent of the wealth.

In over 70 districts in Mali, one million people were affected by swarms of locust and suffered acute food shortages. Emergency food aid was provided from reserves while government officials estimated over 440,000 tonnes of the 2004 harvest to have been destroyed.

### Main cities

Bamako (capital and main business centre, estimated population 1.9 million in 2012); Sikasso (213,977), Kayes (148,053), Mopti (105,646), Ségou (104,992), Nioro (100,239), Markala (90,516).

### Languages spoken

Tamazight (the Berber language) is recognised as a national language. Tamazight belongs to the Afro-Asiatic family and is related to ancient Egyptian and Ethiopian. Arabic, Bambara, Fulani, Senoufo and Dogon are commonly spoken. Very little English is spoken.

### Official language/s

French

### Media

Although harsh penalties exist for slandering public officials they are rarely invoked so that Mali's media enjoys widespread freedom to report.

### Press

**Dailies:** In French, *L'Essor* ([www.essor.gov.ml](http://www.essor.gov.ml)) is state-owned, *Info-Matin* ([www.info-matin.com](http://www.info-matin.com)), *Le Républicain* ([www.lerepublicain.net.ml](http://www.lerepublicain.net.ml)) *Le Ségovien* ([www.lesegovien.com](http://www.lesegovien.com)), *Les Echos* ([www.jamana.org](http://www.jamana.org)) and *L'Aurore*.

**Weeklies:** In French, *Courrier*. In Bambara, Fulani, Songhai and Arabic *Cauris* is a training pamphlet for farmers.

### Broadcasting

The Office de Radiodiffusion Télévision Malienne (ORTM) ([www.ortm.ml](http://www.ortm.ml)) is the national public broadcaster.

**Radio:** ORTM ([www.ortm.ml](http://www.ortm.ml)) operates Radio Mali, which has a nationwide network of stations to provide national and local programming. There are many privately operated radio stations throughout the country, including Radio Canal 2000 and Radio Liberté from Bamako, Radio

Kene from Sikasso and Radio Ania from Gao.

**Television:** ORTM ([www.ortm.ml](http://www.ortm.ml)) operates one channel broadcasting locally produced programmes in 10 locally languages of news, culture and entertainment and well as imported TV shows (typically French). The private satellite channel, Africable is also available.

**National news agency:** Agence Malienne de Presse and de Publicité

### Economy

The majority of the population is engaged in subsistence farming. Nevertheless the agricultural sector provides cash crops, primarily cotton and rice and livestock, for export and a range of foods for domestic consumption; the sector constitutes over 30 per cent of GDP. The industrial sector constitutes around 25 per cent of GDP, of which gold mining in particular accounts for around 80 per cent of exports. Manufacturing comprises less than 10 per cent of GDP, with the processing of foodstuffs and other agricultural products such as tobacco, ground nuts and shea butter. Historically Mali's climate has been subject to drought, which has severely damaged the economy as herds and crops have failed. In 2010 a prolonged drought in the north forced nomad herders to move further south and into neighbouring Niger and Burkina Faso. According to the International Organisation of Migration (IOM), Mali has lost 13 per cent of its population to emigration since 2000, an estimated 1.5 million people.

In 2008 legislation was passed to privatise the Malian Textile Development Company, which was replaced by four new companies. In 2007–08 a drought affected the cotton crop and many farmers planned to switch to other crops in 2009. In 2010 world prices of cotton were at a record high as US and Chinese stocks had been depleted and farmers were able to claim higher prices at the farm gate. GDP growth was 5 per cent in 2008, which fell to 4.5 per cent in 2009 when world commodity prices fell. As global food prices had been at a record high in 2008 inflation peaked at 9.1 per cent before falling back to 2.2 per cent in 2009. GDP growth was 5.8 per cent in 2010. The mining ministry announced in 2010 that 80.47 per cent of export earnings in 2009 were due to gold mining. However with Mali's relatively low taxation, the export earnings only accounted for 8 per cent of GDP. Global prices of gold rose from US\$309.97 per ounce in 2002 to US\$871.71 per cent in 2008 and in 2009 an IMF working paper concluded that the mining industry has 'very limited positive spill-overs to the Malian economy'.

Mali is one of the world's poorest countries in the world and is heavily dependent on foreign aid. Remittances from migrant workers amounted to US\$454 million (5.1 per cent of GDP) in 2010 and were estimated to have reached US\$457 million in 2011.

In 2011, the UN Human Development Index (HDI) ranked Mali 175 (out of 187) for national development in health, education and income. Since 1995, Mali has achieved steady progress, albeit from a low base, but has not matched the improvement of other countries in sub-Saharan Africa. In 2010, 64.4 per cent of the population experienced at least one indicator of poverty, while 51.4 per cent lived on less than the equivalent of US\$1.25 per day; the headcount poverty rate was 86.6 per cent of the population (2000–10).

In 2009 the International Fund for Agricultural Development (Ifad) introduced a new US\$25.04 million, microfinance fund, to expand the existing rural microfinance network of credit unions and to expand their reach.

Political turmoil in 2012 began with an uprising by ethnic Tuareg rebels in January and thousands of people from northern Mali were forced to flee, which in turn led to a *coup d'état* on 22 March that overthrew President Toure. On 29 August, the UNHCR chief, Valerie Amos stated that Mali had 500,000 internally displaced people (IDP) and that it was in desperate need of humanitarian aid to deal with their needs.

### External trade

Mali is a member of the Union Économique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine (UEMOA) (West African Economic and Monetary Union) (WAEMU). As a member of the Communauté financière d'Afrique (CFA) (Financial Community of Africa), it uses the CFA franc currency along with the seven other CFA members. It is also a member of the Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas).

Its primary exports, gold and cotton are subject to world prices and along with livestock sales provide 80–90 per cent of export earnings. Remittances constitute an important portion of foreign revenue.

### Imports

Principal imports are petroleum products, vehicles, machinery and equipment, pharmaceuticals, construction materials, foodstuffs and textiles.

**Main sources:** France (12.1 per cent of total in 2011), Senegal (11 per cent), China (8.4 per cent).

### Exports

The main exports are gold, cotton, livestock and foodstuffs.

**Main destinations:** Korea (14.5 per cent of total in 2011), Indonesia (12.2 per cent), Thailand (6.3 per cent).

### Agriculture

Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy, contributing around 35 per cent of GDP, employing 73 per cent of the workforce (largely at subsistence levels) and accounting for about 45 per cent of agricultural exports. Only about 2 per cent of the total land area is cultivated, but approximately 20 per cent of the total land area along the Niger River is suitable for cultivation, with the most productive areas lying between Bamako and Mopti. Principal food crops are millet, sorghum, paddy rice, maize and groundnuts. Supported by foreign aid, the government has co-ordinated a programme to expand production of rice as a staple food. There is a regular food deficit due to recurrent drought, crop smuggling and an inefficient marketing and distribution system. The main export crops are cotton, groundnuts, cereals, fresh fruit and vegetables. Mali is Africa's second-largest cotton producer. Livestock exports have experienced growth in recent years following the abolition of export taxes on livestock. The livestock sector is a mainstay of the economy in the northern half of the country and contributes 20 per cent to GDP. Recent desertification caused by deforestation and global warming has shifted herding activity southwards. Fishing is an important livelihood along the Niger River. The annual fish catch is around 100,000 tonnes, of which 20 per cent is exported, mainly to Côte d'Ivoire. Production, through artisanal fishing, is vulnerable to drought, pollution and man-made obstructions across the river. Inland fisheries have been targeted for development as part of the national poverty reduction strategy. Fish processing and packaging centres and 10,000ha fish ponds plus supporting developments are among the undertakings.

### Industry and manufacturing

The industrial sector is growing, contributing around 26 per cent to GDP in 2004. Manufacturing is concerned mainly with agricultural processing for domestic consumption and export. Other industries include soft drinks, textiles, soaps, plastics, cigarettes, cement, bricks and agricultural tools and equipment. Activity is concentrated in Bamako. Around 90 per cent of production is accounted for by state enterprises, although rationalisation and privatisation plans are likely to continue.

### Tourism

Mali has a mix of thriving, traditional cultures that include the Bambara (western

Mali), the Songhai centred on the city of Timbuktu (Tombouctou), located on the southern edge of the Sahara Desert and the nomadic Tuareg, among others. Tourism is an increasingly important sector of the economy, third only to gold and cotton. Its contribution to GDP averaged 9.8 per cent, jumping to 11.6 per cent in 2010 and to 12.1 per cent in 2012 as visitor numbers increased. Visitor receipts grew from US\$193 million in 2009 to US\$329 million in 2010.

In August 2010 the government announced that the threat of attacks by al Qaeda terrorists on tourists had cost Mali around CFAf50 billion (US\$108.8 million) in lost tourism receipts and 8,000 jobs since 2009. Many tourists are drawn to spectacular desert-scapes and the ancient trading town of Timbuktu, but the risk of kidnapping, sponsored by al Qaeda, has grown so much so that the annual musical event, 'Le Festival au Désert' has to be relocated, as a safety precaution, from a remote region, north of Timbuktu, closer to the town.

A military coup in March 2012 that toppled the president led most Western governments to advise their citizens not to travel to Mali until the situation was resolved.

### 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 typically contributes around 10 per cent to GDP and employs 0.5 per cent of the workforce. Gold is Mali's principal mineral resource and since the late 1990s has replaced cotton and livestock as the country's largest export earner.

Following the introduction of new mining laws in 1991, which helped expand gold production, Mali has become Africa's third largest gold producer after Ghana and South Africa. Total gold reserves are estimated at up to 700 tonnes and geologists claim there is potential for further discoveries. However, commercial exploitation is hampered by the lack of adequate physical infrastructure. Gold represents 80 per cent of the country's total mineral production.

The first privately owned gold mine was opened by BHP-Utah at Syama in 1990, but following operational difficulties it was

sold to Randgold of South Africa in 1996. The mine underwent an investment programme and production peaked at 6.1 tonnes in 1999. However, in January 2001, Randgold decided to mothball Syama after extensive flooding led to financial losses.

Opened in 1997, the Sadiola Hill open-cast mine, owned by AngloGold, IAMGold and the Mali government, has estimated reserves of around 130 tonnes. With average annual production estimated at around 10 tonnes per annum until 2010, it is the second largest gold mine in Africa and one of the biggest and lowest cost gold mines in the world.

The Yatela gold mine – owned jointly by AngloGold (40 per cent), IAMGold (40 per cent) and the Mali government (20 per cent) – lies 35km to the north of Sadiola, and was officially opened in September 2002. It has reserves of over 72 tonnes with estimated average annual production of 6 tonnes over a period of 12 years. In 2002, it produced 6.8 tonnes of gold.

The Morila gold mine, opened in early 2001, is forecast to produce an average of 10 tonnes per year over a period of 14 years and is jointly owned by Rangold (40 per cent), AngloGold (40 per cent) and the Mali government (20 per cent). In 2002, Morila produced 15.2 tonnes of gold. Feasibility studies are being conducted on the re-opening of the Kalana gold mine which could produce an estimated 430kg per annum. There are also large unexploited deposits at Kodieran (43 tonnes), Loulo (30.1 tonnes), Segala (15.4 tonnes) and Tabakto (1 tonne).

Artisanal gold mining has been practised in Mali for around 1,000 years and represents 0.6 per cent of GDP and employs around 150,000 seasonal workers. Much of this kind of mining is performed without permits and is generally dangerous. Phosphate production is around 10,000 tonnes per annum. Small quantities of salt, limestone and uranium are also mined. There are known deposits of bauxite, manganese, iron and tin, and prospecting for lithium, diamonds and copper is under way. Lack of adequate infrastructure has deterred commercial exploitation.

### Hydrocarbons

Although there are no proven oil or gas reserves, in 2009 Algeria's Sonatrach and Canada's Selier Energy signed exploration deals for the Taoudeni basin. Oil and gas reserves were indicated from seismic and drilling tests undertaken in the 1970s, but civil unrest prevented earlier exploration.

Petroleum products (5,000 barrels per day in 2008) are imported from Côte

d'Ivoire and Senegal. Mali has no oil refining capacity.

### Energy

Total installed generating capacity was 280MW in 2007, producing 510 million kilowatt hours. The Manantali Dam located in Mali on the Senegal River, is operated by Senegal, Mali and Mauritania, it has five hydroelectric generators supplying around 200MW in a three-way split: Mali 52 per cent, Senegal 33 per cent and Mauritania 15 per cent. The energy from this facility meets the demand of the capital's population. There are small-scale, isolated diesel generators providing power for community facilities but the majority of the population relies on non-commercial biomass, mostly fuel wood for cooking, lighting and power. Mali has the capacity to use 200,000 tonnes of agricultural waste to produce biogas.

### Financial markets

#### Stock exchange

Afribourse (Bourse Régionale des Valeurs Mobilières) (BRVM)

### Banking and insurance

Mali has an undeveloped banking sector with just nine banks and two financial institutions. Three of the banks are majority owned by the state while the state owns a minority share in three others. There are three privately owned banks. In recent years, the sector has undergone liberalisation.

#### Central bank

Banque Centrale du Mali

#### Main financial centre

Bamako

### Time

GMT

### Geography

Mali is a landlocked country in West Africa, with Algeria to the north, Mauritania and Senegal to the west, Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire to the south, and Burkina Faso and Niger to the east.

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There are three distinct topographic regions. The north is the arid Saharan zone, the semiarid Sahel (an Arab word to describe a border or margin) of savannah and scrubland in the centre, and in the south the fertile and cultivated Sudanese zone. The land rises from the south, typically flatland, through rolling plains to high plateaux in the north. Rugged hills no higher than 1,000 metres line the north-east boundary with Mauritania. The Niger River is 1,693 kilometres long and

runs through most of the central and southern region and is considered by Malians as the country's lifeblood as it provides drinking water, aquaculture, irrigation and transport.

#### **Hemisphere**

Northern

#### **Climate**

There is considerable variation between southern, central and northern areas, rain being rare and sporadic in the far north, Sahara region. Bamako's rainy season runs from June to October with humidity reaching 80 per cent and temperatures ranging from 20 degrees Centigrade (C) to 36 degrees C. The warm, dry season runs from November to February followed by a hot, dry season between February and May with average temperatures of 35 degrees C.

#### **Entry requirements**

##### **Passports**

Required by all. Passport must be valid six months from date of entry.

##### **Visa**

Required by all; there are a few exceptions such as citizens of Ecowas countries. For further details and exceptions visit [www.maliembassy-addis.org](http://www.maliembassy-addis.org) with its link to consular services. Business visas also require a covering company letter declaring the purpose of the trip and proof of return/onward passage.

##### **Currency advice/regulations**

The import and export of local currency is unlimited. Import and export of foreign currency is unlimited however amounts over the equivalent of CFAf25,000 must be declared.

Travellers cheques are accepted in banks.

##### **Customs**

Personal belongings and a small amount of tobacco and alcohol are permitted duty free. Cameras and films must be declared.

Sporting firearms and plants, excluding fruit and vegetables, need a certificate of import.

#### **Health (for visitors)**

##### **Mandatory precautions**

Yellow fever vaccination certificate is required by all.

##### **Advisable precautions**

Typhoid, tetanus, hepatitis A and polio vaccinations are recommended. Malaria prophylaxis should be taken as risk exists throughout the country. There is a rabies risk. Water precautions must be taken.

#### **Hotels**

There are only a few good hotels available and these can be expensive.

#### **Credit cards**

Major international credit and charge cards have limited acceptance in major hotels in the capital.

#### **Public holidays (national)**

##### **Fixed dates**

1 Jan (New Year's Day), 20 Jan (Armed Forces Day), 26 Mar (Day of Democracy), 1 May (Labour Day), 25 May (Africa Day), 22 Sep (Independence Day), 25 Dec (Christmas Day).

##### **Variable dates**

Easter Monday, Eid al Adha, Birth of the Prophet, Eid al Fitr.

##### **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: 0730–1300; Mon–Thur 1400–1630; Fri 1500–1730.

##### **Business**

Mon–Thu: 0730–1230, 1300–1600. Fri: 0730–1230, 1430–1730.

##### **Government**

Mon–Thu, Sat: 0730–1430, Fri: 0730–1230.

#### **Telecommunications**

##### **Telephone/fax**

The internal service is unreliable.

##### **Mobile/cell phones**

GSM 900 services are available in the larger urban areas only.

##### **Electricity supply**

220V AC, 50 cycles.

#### **Getting there**

##### **Air**

**National airline:** Air Mali.

**International airport/s:** Bamako (BKO), 15km from city.

**Airport tax:** CFAf2,500 is payable on domestic flights; CFAf8,000 on international flights within Africa; and CFAf10,000 is payable for flights outside Africa. The airport tax may be collected at time of ticket sale and does not apply to transit passengers on the same flight and for children under two years.

##### **Surface**

**Road:** Good road from Niger (Niamey); condition of routes from Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso varies; those from Senegal and Algeria are not generally recommended.

**Rail:** There is a regular twice weekly rail service from Senegal (Dakar) to Bamako (with sleeping and restaurant cars and facility for conveying vehicles). Journey takes up to 29 hours.

**Main port/s:** River ports of Bamako, Mopti, Tombouctou and Gao on the Niger.

#### **Getting about**

##### **National transport**

**Air:** There are no scheduled services between Bamako and other towns. Charter of light aircraft available from Société des Transports Aériens (STA). Tombouctou Air Service provides domestic flights.

**Road:** Main roads run from Sikasso and Bougouni in the south to Bamako, and from Bamako to Mopti and on to Gao via a tarred road. Conditions of roads are variable and secondary roads can be difficult.

**Buses:** Cheap but generally uncomfortable. Services run from Bamako to all main towns.

**Rail:** Main routes: Bamako-Koulikoro (59 km); Bamako-Kayes (494km). There are two classes: sleeping and restaurant facilities. Some air-conditioned cars are available.

**Water:** Three river steamers operate up and down the River Niger between August and late December, linking Koulikoro, Mopti, Tombouctou and Gao. Four classes are available, but first-class cabins must be booked in advance through SMERT, the tourist organisation.

##### **City transport**

**Taxis:** Cheap and widely available but not metered. Official standard fare system in Bamako. Tipping is not usual.

##### **Car hire**

International driving licence recommended. Hired cars are usually Renaults or Peugeotts.

#### **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 Mali is +223, followed by subscriber's number.

##### **Useful telephone numbers**

Police: 17

Fire: 18

Ambulance: 225-002

##### **Chambers of Commerce**

Mali Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Place de la Liberté, BP 46, Bamako (tel: 222-9645; fax: 222-2120; e-mail: [ccim@cefip.com](mailto:ccim@cefip.com)).

##### **Banking**

Bank of Africa Mali, BP 2249, 418 Avenue de la Marne, Bamako (tel: 222-4672, 222-4088; fax: 222-4653).

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Banque Commerciale du Sahel; BP 2372, 127 Rue, Bozola, Bamako (tel: 210-195/97, 225-536; fax: 222-5543, 222-0135).

Banque de Développement du Mali, BP 94, Ave Modibo Keita, Quartier du Fleuve, Bamako (tel: 222-2050, 222-4088; fax: 222-5085, 222-4250).

Banque de l'Habitat du Mali, BP 2614, Rue de Métal Soudan, Quartier du Fleuve, Bamako (tel: 222-9190, 222-9342; fax: 222-9350).

Banque Internationale du Mali; BP 15, Blvd de l'Indépendance, Bamako (tel: 222-5111, 222-5066; fax: 222-4566).

Banque Internationale pour le Commerce et l'Industrie du Mali; BP B72, Bd du Peuple, Immeuble Nimagala, Bamako (tel: 223-3370; fax: 223-3373).

Banque Malienne de Crédit et de Dépôts, BP 45, Avenue Modibo Keita, Bamako (tel: 222-5336; fax: 222-7950).

Banque Nationale de Développement Agricole - Mali; BP 2424, Immeuble Dette Publique, Bamako (tel: 222-6464, 222-6611 fax: 222-2961).

Ecobank-Mali; BP 1272, Quartier du Fleuve, Place de la Nation, Bamako (tel: 223-3300; fax: 223-3305).

### **Central bank**

Banque Centrale des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest, Direction Nationale, PO Box 206, Avenue Moussa Travele, Bamako (tel: 222-3756; fax: 222-4786).

### **Stock exchange**

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

### **Travel information**

Air Mali, Immeuble Scif, Square Lumumba, BP 27, Bamako (tel: 225-741/42; fax: 222-349).

Commissariat au Tourisme, BP 191, Bamako (tel: 225-673).

Delta Voyages SA, Immeuble Gamby (ex BNDA), BP 5005, Bamako (fax: 231-272).

Timbuctours, BP 222, Bamako (tel: 225-315).

### **Ministry of tourism**

Ministry of Crafts Industry and Tourism, BP 2211, Bamako (tel: 223-6344, 223-6450; fax: 223-8201).

### **Ministries**

Ministry of Agriculture, Breeding and Fishing, BP 61, Bamako (tel: 222-2979, 222-2785, 222-3006).

Ministry of Economy and Finances, BP 776, Bamako (tel: 222-9918, 222-8353; fax: 229-4440).

Ministry of Education, BP 71, Bamako, (tel: 222-2450; 222-2125; fax: 223-0545).

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bamako (fax: 230-327, 225-226).

Ministry of Industry and Trade, BP 1759, Bamako (tel: 221-6399, 222-8353; fax: 221-3114).

Ministry of Labour and Public Works, BP 80, Bamako, (tel: 222-4819; 222-1117; fax: 222-6548).

Ministry of Overseas Aid and International Co-operation, Bamako, (tel: 222-5092; 223-0056).

### **Other useful addresses**

Direction Nationale du Plan et de la Statistique, Koulouba, Bamako (tel: 222-2753).

Government Press Office, Bamako, (tel: 222-0733).

Radiodiffusion-Télévision Malienne, BP 171, Bamako (tel: 222-2474).

Mali Embassy (USA), 2130 R. Street, NW, Washington DC 20009 (tel: (+1-202) 332-2249; fax: (+1-202) 332-6603; e-mail: info@maliembassy-usa.org).

**National news agency:** Agence Malienne de Presse and de Publicité BP 141 Bamako (tel: 222-2346; fax: 222-4774; internet: www.essor.gov.ml).

### **Internet sites**

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

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

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

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