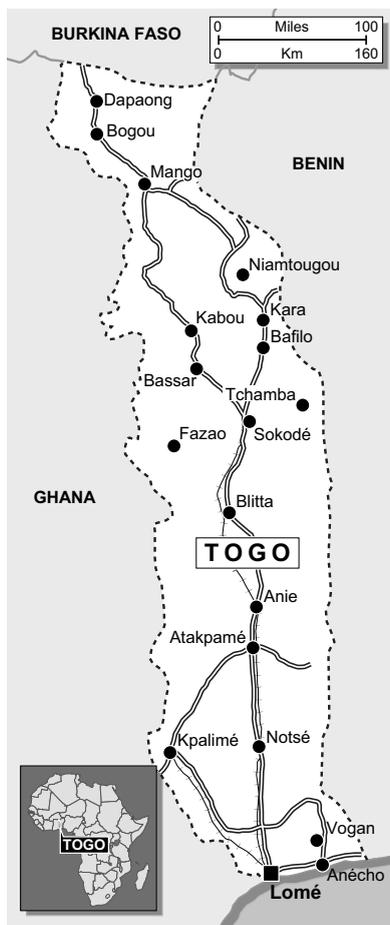


Togo



Togo is one of the largest phosphate producers in Africa. It also has significant iron ore reserves and large deposits of marble and calcareous rock, reported the *African Economic Outlook 2013* (AEO), published jointly by the African Development Bank and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Mining in Togo began in 1961 with the industrial exploitation of phosphate, which was the country's main natural resource at the time. In 1989, production reached 3.3 million tonnes, fully justifying the central economic role played by the Office Togolais des Phosphates (OTP) (Togolese Phosphate Office). The OTP did not, however, use the resulting profits or significant bank aid received to renew the equipment necessary

for operation. In the end, suspected criminal activity and the absence of efficient production methods pushed the company into near bankruptcy, with production falling to 750,000 tonnes in 2007.

In 2001, as part of the structural adjustment reforms, the International Fertilizer Group (IFG-Togo), equally owned by the Togolese government and the group BRIFCO Limited, had taken over management of the OTP. However, this public private partnership was not successful: following a conflict between the government and the Franco-Tunisian Holding BRIFCO, the IFG and the OTP were dissolved in 2007. At the same time, the government created a new state-run company, the Société Nouvelle des Phosphates du Togo (SNPT) (New Phosphate Company for Togo). It also simultaneously carried out a strategic audit and drew up a business plan, linked to a new recovery strategy for the sector. Reforms have begun to bear fruit, with production up to 865,616 tonnes in 2011 and 1.1 million tonnes in 2012.

Togo also mines limestone (with its clinker factory producing 1,200,550 tonnes in 2011), marble (although production has not yet really begun) and iron (about 100,000 tonnes in 2012). The clinker and cement sector had been privatised in 1996. Along with benefits from the free zone created in 1989, this has boosted production, and annual growth is over 5 per cent.

In addition to its mineral resources, Togo produces cotton (79,000 tonnes in 2011), maize and rice. Like in the phosphate sector, the cotton sector suffered from poor governance and outdated infrastructure and production equipment, leading to a fall in production from 187,000 tonnes in 1999 to 28,000 tonnes in 2009. The dissolution of the state-run Société Togolaise du Coton (SOTOCO) (Cotton Company of Togo) and the creation of a joint venture company, the Nouvelle Société Cotonnière du Togo (NSCT) (New Cotton Company of Togo) (40 per cent of which is owned by the Federation of Cotton Producers), along with the implementation of a transparent and concerted system for setting cottonseed prices

KEY FACTS

Official name: République Togolaise (Togolese Republic)

Head of State: President Faure Gnassingbé (RPT) (from 2005; re-elected 4 Mar 2010)

Head of government: Prime Minister Séléagodji Kwesi Ahoomey-Zunu Arthème (from 19 Jul 2012)

Ruling party: Rassemblement du Peuple Togolais (RPT) (Rally of the Togolese People) (since 1994; re-elected 2007)

Area: 56,000 square km

Population: 6.30 million (2012)* (5,753,324; census figure Nov 2010)

Capital: Lomé

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\$585 (2012)*

GDP real growth: 5.03% (2012)*

GDP: US\$3.69 billion (2012)*

Inflation: 2.58% (2012)*

Balance of trade: -US\$219.20 million (2010)

Annual FDI: US\$53.77 million (2011)

* estimated figure

and for strengthening producer groups, has led to a jump in production, which reached 118,055 tonnes in 2012.

Coffee and cacao production have declined significantly over the last 20 years, affected by a fall in international prices, lack of adequate inputs, and the absence of a working framework for producers. Maize and rice production, on the other hand, increased from 1980 to 2011 thanks to a strong subsidy policy for inputs, going from 139,000 tonnes to 651,000 tonnes for maize and from 15,000 tonnes to 112,000 tonnes for rice.

The country's productive landscape has changed significantly over the past 20 years, both in terms of goods produced and in terms of export destinations. Phosphates, the basis of Togo's economy since the 1970s and responsible for more than half of all export revenue in 1989, were overtaken by cotton for the first time in 1995. Cotton remained the main export until 2001, but from 2002 onward was displaced by clinker and cement (27 per cent), while phosphates and cotton fell respectively to 15 per cent and 14 per cent. Clinker production rose to 1.18 million tonnes in 1999 following the privatisation and modernisation of the Societe des Ciments d'Afrique de l'Ouest (CIMA) (West Africa Cement Company).

In recent years the government has taken encouraging steps to ensure greater sustainability in natural resource management. For example, a law passed on 5 May 2011 requires all mineral resource operators to contribute to local development. Togo has also committed to transparency, and became a candidate country to the

Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) on 20 October 2010. The deadline for compliance is set for May 2013, which means the authorities must implement their detailed action plan swiftly.

The legal framework governing the environment has also improved considerably since 2006, in particular thanks to the adoption of texts that stipulate that all mining operations, whether industrial or semi-industrial, must be systematically preceded by an environmental and social impact assessment and approved by the issuance of an environmental compliance certificate. The existing regulatory framework (the mining code) remains ill-adapted, however, preventing real profits from being made from extractive activities (fees per square kilometre, for example, are CFAf150 (US\$0.30) for prospecting and CFAf2,250 (US\$4.55) for exploration).

With the Stratégie de Croissance Accélérée et de Promotion de l'Emploi (SCAPE) (Accelerated Growth and Promotion of Employment Strategy), the government committed to actively promoting the mining sector, in particular by developing its potential through the use of private capital and by undertaking in-depth, institutional and structural reforms in the extractive industries. The revision of the mining code and of the existing legislation is already underway, with a view to attracting major investments. A mining policy is also being drawn up. Last but not least, the government intends to produce updated geological relief maps and make geophysical data available, and to introduce new fiscal rules for the mining sector.

The economy

The AEO notes that following 15 years of economic stagnation (1990–2005) due to socio-political issues, Togo has achieved continual growth since 2007. Further real gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to increase by 5.0 per cent in 2012, compared to 4.0 per cent in 2010 and 4.9 per cent in 2011. This good performance is linked to the country's abundance of mineral resources and good agricultural climate. Counter-cyclical policies implemented by the government also help support the agricultural sector and create a relatively stable macroeconomic environment characterised by moderate inflation (2.3 per cent), despite the worsening of the budget balance in 2012 (-3.1 per cent).

Estimates for 2012 show that Togo's economy benefited from real growth across all sectors, although the growth rate for the primary sector was lower in 2012 (4.1 per cent) than in 2011 (5.1 per cent). Investment in construction and public works and in the extractive industries, along with reforms undertaken in the mining sector, contributed to significant improvement in the performance of the secondary sector in 2012, which reached an estimated growth rate of 13.0 per cent (4.5 per cent in 2011). Growth in the tertiary sector also picked up, increasing from 1.0 per cent in 2011 to 4.6 per cent in 2012. This was largely due to restructuring in the banking system, the recovery of trade activities and reduced costs of communication.

The primary sector continues to dominate the Togolese economy, and is expected to contribute 38.1 per cent of GDP in 2012, ahead of the tertiary sector (23.4 per cent) and secondary sector (20.7 per cent). Agriculture is still predominant within the primary sector, at 27.7 per cent of GDP for 2012, and has strong potential for expansion: only 45 per cent of the 3.4 million hectares of arable land are currently farmed, and the country's very diverse climate opens the door to a wide range of potential crops. The sector's growth is nevertheless slowed by weak agricultural productivity, owing to small farm sizes, low levels of mechanised production, poor use of irrigation, landlocked rural regions, and obstacles to land ownership.

Efforts to restructure the cotton sector, in particular through the creation of the NSCT in 2009, contributed to a significant increase in production (161.3 per cent) between 2008 and 2011. A rise of more than 40 per cent in 2012 confirmed this trend.

KEY INDICATORS		Togo				
	Unit	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Population	m	6.62	*6.79	*6.03	*7.14	*6.30
Gross domestic product (GDP)	US\$bn	2.91	3.17	3.19	3.62	*3.69
GDP per capita	US\$	548	536	530	588	*585
GDP real growth	%	1.1	3.2	4.0	4.9	*5.0
Inflation	%	8.7	1.9	1.8	3.0	*2.6
Exports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	852.6	903.0	976.2	–	–
Imports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	1,307.2	1,315.2	1,424.4	–	–
Balance of trade	US\$m	-454.6	-412.1	-448.2	–	–
Current account	US\$m	-222.0	-176.7	-199.7	-258.0	*-290.0
Total reserves minust gold	US\$m	580.0	703.2	714.9	816.3	*441.6
Foreign exchange	US\$m	579.4	609.8	622.9	721.3	*349.8
Exchange rate	per US\$	447.81	514.03	495.28	466.82	505.65
* estimated figure						

The coffee-cacao sector, on the other hand, has declined continually over the past 20 years, due to a fall in international prices, ageing plantations, lack of upkeep, and most obviously climatic factors.

Togo is structurally dependent on external capital contributions, with internal demand continually higher than GDP since the 1990s. From 2008 to 2011, the share of consumption grew to nearly 97 per cent of GDP on average (87 per cent of which was for private consumption). In 2012 a figure of 95.5 per cent of GDP is expected, 83.6 per cent for private consumption and 11.9 per cent for public consumption. A decline is expected to begin in 2013, down to 92.6 per cent. This is due to declining private consumption (forecast at 81.2 per cent of GDP), while public consumption will remain stable at 11.4 per cent. The share of investment in GDP grew from 17.8 per cent in 2008 to 19.8 per cent in 2012, pulled along by public investment (which rose from 4.7 per cent to 10.1 per cent over the same period), while private investment fell (from 13.1 per cent to 9.8 per cent). Investments are expected to stabilise in 2013 and 2014 at around 20 per cent of GDP.

Politics

The run up to the general election, finally held on 25 July 2013, was dominated by the differences between the opposition, who wanted the elections further postponed so that electoral reforms agreed at a meeting in July could be introduced, and the government, which wanted the reforms repealed since they said they had been 'improperly introduced'. Eventually a compromise was reached and the elections went ahead. The result, predictably, was a win for President Faure Gnassingbé's Union pour la République (UNIR) (Union for the Republic) with 62 seats (out of 91) to the 19 for the Save Togo Collective and six to the Rainbow Alliance.

As a result of the July agreement reached to allow the elections to take place, further reforms are to take place before the presidential election due in 2015. These focus on five main issues – the make up of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), the distribution of seats by electoral district, the nature of the voting system, limits to the number of presidential terms and the equitable access of political parties and civil society to state media.

Risk assessment

Politics	Fair
Economy	Fair
Regional stability	Poor

COUNTRY PROFILE

Historical profile

1894 The country, then known as Togoland, became a German colony.
 1914 Britain and France invaded and captured Togoland.
 1922 Togoland was divided between Britain and France under a League of Nations mandate.
 1930–50s The division of Togoland split the indigenous Ewe people, which led to the creation of a nationalist movement which demanded the unification of the two territories.
 1956 British-ruled Togoland was incorporated into Ghana.
 1960 The French section of Togoland gained independence as a republic under the presidency of Sylvanus Olympio.
 1962 A proposed referendum on unification with Ghana was blocked by President Olympio.
 1963 Olympio was executed in a coup by Gnassingbé Eyadéma. Nicolas Grunitzky was appointed president.
 1967 Grunitzky was in turn ousted by Major General Gnassingbé Eyadéma.
 1979 Eyadéma stood and won as the sole candidate in the presidential election.
 1985 France intervened militarily to support the Eyadéma regime, following an attempted coup.
 1985–1990 Political pressure for democratic rule increased.
 1991 A new government headed by Joseph Koffigoh introduced a national conference to pave the way for multi-party elections. Much of the president's powers were stripped from him. The unrest that followed – orchestrated by the army, which backed Eyadéma – included spontaneous uprisings, a series of attacks on reformers, the prime minister's residence and the bombing of electoral material.
 1992 The fragile democratic process of reforms faltered as a series of governments of national unity were imposed, through which much of Eyadéma's powers were re-gained. A new constitution was introduced. Parliamentary elections were postponed and a general strike lasting six months ensued.
 1993 Representatives of Germany and France failed to bridge the rift between the government and Eyadéma. The army opened fire on crowds that had gathered at the meeting, killing many and forcing the foreign representatives to depart the country hurriedly. After a series of delays, the country's first multi-party presidential elections were held. Eyadéma, standing for the Rassemblement du Peuple Togolais (RPT) (Rally of the Togolese People), was the only candidate as all other major parties boycotted the election. The

EU suspended aid in protest at the abandoned democratic elections.

1994 The RPT won the legislative elections, but needed the support of the Union Togolaise pour la Démocratie (UTD) (Togolese Union for Democracy) to form a majority. The Union des Forces de Changement (UFC) (Union of Forces for Change) boycotted the election.

1996 After winning three delayed by-elections, the RPT no longer required UTD's support.

1998 Opposition parliamentary members were arrested and held in detention. Human rights abuse escalated in the run-up to the presidential elections, including extra-judicial executions. Eyadéma won the presidential election; the official results were strongly contested by opposition parties and criticised by the UN.

1999 An independent electoral commission (CENI), was formed, with equal representation of opposition and government. Parliamentary elections were boycotted by all opposition parties after the government unilaterally amended the electoral code and altered the representation on the CENI.

2001 The UN and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) concluded there were hundreds of summary executions and torture in the run-up to the 1998 presidential election.

2002 The ruling RPT won the parliamentary elections; the main opposition parties boycotted the elections. The constitution was amended allowing unlimited terms in office for a president and required a one-year residency for any candidate – effectively barring the strongest opposition candidate, Gilchrist Olympio (UFC), (exiled son of Sylvanus Olympio, the first president of Togo, executed by Eyadéma).
 2003 The opposition parties were unable to agree on a candidate to run against the incumbent Eyadéma, who won the presidential elections; there were allegations of widespread vote rigging.

2004 The French government resumed partial aid to Togo, suspended since 1998.

2005 President Gnassingbé Eyadéma died. Unconstitutionally, the armed forces conferred power on his son, Faure Gnassingbé, but after international pressure he stepped down and later won the presidential elections, against Emmanuel Bob Akitani of the opposition UFC; the opposition disputed the results and there were violent protests in the streets of the capital, Lomé. A clampdown by security forces provoked thousands of opposition supporters to flee to Benin or Ghana. The Constitutional Court confirmed the election of Faure Gnassingbé as president. Edem Kodjo was sworn in as prime minister.

2006 Reconciliation talks – that had been halted on the death of Gnassingbé Eyadéma – were resumed in Burkina Faso between the government and opposition leaders. The EU agreed to re-establish aid and trade if political and economic progress was undertaken. An agreement was reached with opposition parties, excluding Gilchrist Olympio and the UFC, and President Faure Gnassingbé appointed Yawovi Agboyibo, who had helped broker the agreement, to the post of prime minister. Agboyibo's principal undertaking was preparing the country for parliamentary elections in 2007.

2007 Floods that devastated Togo during the summer left 20,000 people homeless at a cost of US\$1.1 million. Historic parliamentary elections, which included opposition political parties that had boycotted all elections since 1993, were held. The RTP won 50 seats (out of 81) and the UFC 27. Komlan Mally was appointed prime minister. The EU resumed aid following the successful multi-party elections.

2008 Komlan Mally resigned and Gilbert Houngbo replaced him as prime minister. 2009 The death penalty was abolished. The European Union gave its first grant, of €15 million (US\$22.3 million), as budgetary support. There was an attempted coup.

2010 In presidential elections incumbent Faure Gnassingbé won 60.9 per cent of the vote, his closest rival Jean-Pierre Fabre won 33.9 per cent. Opposition parties condemned the result claiming it was fraudulent. A bimonthly Benin newspaper, the *Tribune d'Afrique* was indefinitely banned in Togo by a Togolese court for an article that linked the brother-in-law of President Gnassingbé to drug trafficking. The court also fined the newspaper editor US\$113,000 and the chief executive US\$3,800. The first census since 1981 was held on 19 November.

2011 In May, France cancelled the entire Togolese debt to France, of €101 million (US\$104.1 million), as part of France's commitment to the Paris Club (of creditors) agreement of December 2010. An additional US\$102 million of Togolese debt will be cancelled by other Paris Club creditors. The debt cancellation was due to economic reforms undertaken since 2006. The 2010 census results, announced in July, recorded a total population of 5,753,324, composed of 2,799,086 males and 2,954,238 females. President Gnassingbé's half-brother, Kpatcha Gnassingbe, the former defence minister, was convicted and sentenced to 20 years in prison for an attempted coup in 2009.

2012 For three days, from 13 June, protestors rioted in Lomé calling for a

reversal of electoral reforms agreed by parliament, which were said to favour the ruling RTP. The protestors were demanding a return to the 1992 constitution which limited the mandate of the Head of State to two terms in office. Parliamentary elections, expected to be held in October, were later postponed until 2013. On 11 July, Gilbert Houngbo resigned as prime minister and on 19 July Kwesi Ahoomey-Zunu was appointed in his stead. 2013

Political structure

Constitution

In 2002 a new, democratic constitution, formally initiating Togo's fourth republic was instituted.

On the death of the president, the chairman of the National Assembly becomes interim president until elections are held. The country is divided into *préfectures*, administered by *préfets*, and supervised by the interior ministry.

Independence date

27 April 1960

Form of state

Republic

The executive

Executive power is vested in the president, who is elected for a period of five years. The prime minister is the head of government and is selected by the president from the parliamentary majority. A Council of Ministers is appointed by the president and the prime minister.

National legislature

The unicameral L'Assemblée Nationale (National Assembly) has 81 members elected by proportional representation from party lists to serve five-year terms.

Legal system

Togo has a French-based court system.

Last elections

14 October 2007 (parliamentary); 25 July 2013, having been postponed from 2012 due to civil unrest (parliamentary)

Results: Presidential: Faure Gnassingbé won 60.9 per cent of the vote, Jean-Pierre Fabre 33.9 per cent; turn-out was 64.7 per cent.

Parliamentary: the RTP won 32.71 per cent of the vote (50 seats out of 81), the UFC 30.75 (27), and the Comité d'Action pour la Renouveau (CAR) (Action Committee for Renewal) 6.81 per cent (4). Turnout was 94.8 per cent.

Next elections

25 July 2013, having been postponed from 2012 due to civil unrest (parliamentary); 2015 (presidential)

Political parties

Ruling party

Rassemblement du Peuple Togolais (RPT) (Rally of the Togolese People) (since 1994; re-elected 2007)

Main opposition party

French Alliance Nationale pour le Changement (ANC) (National Alliance for Change). The ANC was formed from the collapse of the Union des Forces de Changement (UFC) (Union of Forces for Change) after the 2010 elections.

Population

6.30 million (2012)* (5,753,324; census figure Nov 2010)

Approximately 45 per cent of the total population are under 14 years.

Last census: 19 November 2010: 5,753,324

The previous census in 1981 recorded a population of 2,719,567.

Population density: 77 inhabitants per square km. Urban population 43 per cent (2010 Unicef).

Annual growth rate: 2.5 per cent, 1990–2010 (Unicef).

Ethnic make-up

African (99 per cent), European (1 per cent).

Religions

Traditional beliefs (50 per cent), Christianity (35 per cent) (mostly Roman Catholic), Islam (15 per cent).

Education

Public expenditure on education is 4–5 per cent of GDP, of which per capita expenditure is 16–17 per cent per student.

Literacy rate: 60 per cent adult rate; 77 per cent youth rate (15–24) (Unesco 2005).

Compulsory years: Six to 15

Enrolment rate: 124 per cent gross primary enrolment, 36 per cent secondary enrolment; of relevant age groups (including repeaters) (World Bank).

Pupils per teacher: 46 in primary schools

Health

HIV/Aids

The impact of HIV/Aids has yet to peak with deaths, orphans and HIV positive pregnant women all showing an increase. By the end of 2003 there were an estimated 10,000 deaths from Aids, although this number could be as high as 16,000; the difference may be due to underreporting or misdiagnosis.

Of the estimated 110,000 people living with HIV/Aids, 9,300, are children (aged 0–14) and 54,000 are women; and 9 per cent of pregnant women tested were positive for HIV in 2003, which bears out the UNAids message that women and children are typically more vulnerable to HIV/Aids in Africa.

Between 2001–03 the number of orphans (aged 0–17) rose from 8,700 to 9,300.

HIV prevalence: 4.1 per cent aged 15–49 in 2003 (World Bank)

Life expectancy: 54 years, 2004 (WHO 2006)

Fertility rate/Maternal mortality rate:

4.1 births per woman, 2010 (Unicef)

Birth rate/Death rate: 35.2 births and

11.5 deaths per 1,000 people (2003)

Child (under 5 years) mortality rate

(per 1,000): 96 per 1,000 live births (WHO 2012); 25 per cent of children aged under five are malnourished (World Bank).

Head of population per physician: 0.04 physicians per 1,000 people, 2004 (WHO 2006)

Main cities

Lomé (capital, estimated population 1.8 million in 2012), Sokodé (115,692), Kara (110,623), Atakpamé (85,408), Kpalimé (81,924), Dapaong (55,286), Tsévié (53,831), Notsé (38,973).

Languages spoken

Ewe and Kabyè are widely spoken.

Official language/s

French

Media**Press**

There is only one daily newspaper, in French, *Togo Presse* (www.editogo.tg) is national and state-owned. There are several weekly publications including *Nouvelle Combat*, *Carrefour*, *Crocodile*, *Le Regard*, *Le Combat du Peuple*, *Motion d'Information*, *Le Togolais*, *Le Canard*, *Le Changement* and *Le Republicain*.

Broadcasting

Radio: As the most popular medium, particularly in rural areas, the state-operated Radio Togolaise, broadcasting in French and local languages, runs a national radio network, Radio Lomé (www.radiolome.tg) on FM. Other, external services, are provided by the French service RFI 1 Afrique (www.rfi.fr), VOA and BBC. There are many private commercial radio stations including Zephyr FM (www.zephyr.tg) and Africa No1 (www.africa1.com) from Lomé and Radio Maria Togo (www.radiomaria.tg) operated by the Catholic Church.

Television: All television stations are based in Lomé. The state-owned Télévision Togolaise (TVT) (www.tvt.tg) broadcasts mainly in French, with other local languages. There are several external services broadcasting locally including the French television channel TV5 (www.tv5.org), Euronews (www.euronews.net) and on cable, Media Plus and Canal Plus Horizon.

National news agency: Agence Togolaise de Presse (ATOP)

Other news agencies: République Togolaise (in French and English) (www.republicoftogo.com)

Le Togolais (in French)

(www.letogolais.com)

Economy

Although agriculture is a major component of the economy, comprising over 45 per cent of GDP, it is substantially subsistence farming, typically on farms of 1–3 hectares. Despite this Togo is self-sufficient in wheat, yams, sorghum, millet and groundnuts. Cotton, coffee and cocoa are the principal cash crops. The reliance on primary production means that Togo is vulnerable to climatic problems and external economic shock in world commodity prices. Trade, particularly of agricultural goods and traditional clothes, which are sold both domestically and to neighbouring countries, provides another important component of GDP. The deep-water harbour and port of Lomé provides significant foreign exchange and underpins the country's role as a trading centre, with goods transiting Togo to landlocked neighbours. The mining industry is centred on Togo's natural resources, which include limestone, marble and phosphates. Although Togo is the world's fourth largest supplier of phosphates this sector has declined through a lack of investment. Manufacturing includes small replacement goods such as shoes, tyres and cloths, plus processed foods and cement. GDP growth was 3.2 per cent in 2009. As world trade picked up in 2010 it gave a much needed boost to all trading partners and in Togo GDP was estimated to have risen to 3.4 per cent in 2010 and marginally higher by an estimated 3.7 per cent in 2011. Growth was expected to rise in 2012 as money supply, especially credit to the private sector, expands. Togo's modest recovery followed the trend set by the global economic crisis, which cut trade in many markets and weakened investment in general.

Togo is a poor country and in 2011, the UN Human Development Index (HDI) ranked it 162 (out of 187) for national development in health, education and income. Since 2000, Togo's progress has grown to match the improvement of other countries in sub-Saharan Africa. In 2010, 52.4 per cent of the population experienced at least one indicator of poverty, while 38.7 per cent lived on less than the equivalent of US\$1.25 per day; the headcount poverty rate was 38.7 per cent of the population (2000–10). Remittances are an important source of earnings for households and foreign exchange for the country. Remittances from migrant workers amounted to US\$335 million (12.2 per cent of GDP) in 2010 and were estimated to have reached US\$347 million in 2011.

There were no international aid programmes in Togo from 2003, due to the internal political situation and Togo's record on human rights violations and

lack of any democratic institutions. Then in 2008 the EU granted €15 million (US\$22.3 million), which helped Togo to prepare for its first democratic presidential election, held in 2010. From 16 December 2010, Togo became eligible for debt relief under the IMF's Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative, following the country's successful adherence to IMF set criteria, including financial controls, debt management and procurement.

External trade

Togo is a member of the Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas), which was set up to promote economic integration among members. It is also 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.

Cash crops include coffee, cocoa and cotton although phosphates provide the single largest share of foreign exchange. China has become a major export market for Togolese phosphates. There are reserves of limestone and marble yet to be fully exploited. Togo is a regional hub for trading and transit, with re-exports of consumer goods to neighbouring, landlocked countries.

Its primary exports of 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 machinery and equipment, foodstuffs and petroleum products.

Main sources: China (typically 37 per cent of total), France (9 per cent), The Netherlands (7 per cent).

Exports

Principal exports are cotton, phosphates, coffee and cocoa.

Main destinations: Germany (typically 18 per cent of total), Ghana (13 per cent), Burkina Faso (11 per cent).

Re-exports

Many goods are re-exported and others transhipped to landlocked, neighbouring countries from the port of Lomé.

Agriculture

The agricultural sector contributes around 40 per cent to GDP and employs around 75 per cent of the workforce.

Traditional methods of cultivation still prevail despite attempts at rapid modernisation.

Self-sufficiency in basic foodstuffs is generally maintained except during drought years. The majority of farmers are

smallholders who raise stock and grow maize, millet, yams, cassava, sorghum and rice.

Cotton, coffee and cocoa are the principal export earners.

The majority of timber production is used in domestic fuel.

Industry and manufacturing

The industrial sector, in 2004, contributed 22.8 per cent to GDP, of which 9.4 per cent was manufacturing, and employed 10 per cent of the workforce.

Activity is centred on the processing of agricultural commodities and the production of phosphoric acid, fertilisers and cement along with beverages, footwear, textiles and plastics.

Tourism

Togo has several distinct environments to offer the tourist, from Atlantic beach resorts to high savannah game parks and tropical forests. Facilities may be basic but should attract eco-tourists wishing to see some unspoiled African landscapes.

The Koutammakou in the north-eastern region is included on Unesco's World Heritage List, and is a remarkable but difficult destination for visitors to reach. The distinct, cultural dwellings of the Batammariba and landscape are deeply imbedded to the rituals and beliefs of the local people.

Travel and tourism contributed an average 5 per cent to GDP over 2007–11 and provided employment to 4.4 per cent of the workforce (39,000 jobs) in the same period.

While Togo has the potential to become a top destination for cultural tourism, major capital investment is necessary and in the meantime what leisure tourism there is attracted to the beaches around Lomé.

Mining

The mining sector contributes around 12 per cent to GDP and employs 5 per cent of the workforce. Mining production is concentrated on phosphates, marble and limestone, although the country has potential for commercial extraction of diamonds, gold and base metals. There are also known reserves of iron ore, bauxite, dolomite and chromite.

Phosphate mining is the second principal export earner after cotton. Reserves are estimated at over 60 million tonnes, mainly located around Lake Togo. There are environmental concerns about the high level of cadmium in Togolese phosphate rock. The possible development of safer but lower-grade carbo-phosphates is being explored. There are 200 identified base metal deposits, including the lead zinc prospect at Pagala which is licensed to Anglo American.

Hydrocarbons

There are no known reserves of hydrocarbons. All domestic energy needs are met by imports, which were 20,000 barrels per day of oil in 2008.

The US\$260 million West African Gas Pipeline (WAGP) will supply natural gas from Nigeria's Escravos field to Togo, after it has completed its connection with Ghana (December 2008). The 1,000km pipeline will be managed by Chevron Texaco.

Any use of natural gas or coal is commercially insignificant.

Energy

Total installed generating capacity was 85MW in 2006, producing 20 billion kilowatt hours. According to the UN Environmental Programme, only 54 per cent of the population has access to electricity. Biomass accounts for 80 per cent of primary energy, hydrocarbons 16 per cent and hydropower and thermal energy 4 per cent. Around 80 per cent of electricity is imported from Ghana. The Adjaralla dam on the Mono River, downstream from the existing Nangbeto Dam, is about to begin construction, and is planned to produce 94MW.

Power stations are traditionally thermal fuelled by oil but will be converted to natural gas when the West African Gas Pipeline (WAGP) brings Nigerian natural gas to Togo.

Financial markets

Stock exchange

Afribourse (Bourse Régionale des Valeurs Mobilières) (BRVM)

Banking and insurance

Central bank

Banque Centrale des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (Central Bank of West African States).

Main financial centre

Lomé.

Time

GMT

Geography

Togo lies in West Africa, forming a narrow strip stretching north from a coastline around 50km wide on the Gulf of Guinea. It is bordered by Ghana to the west, by Benin to the east, and by Burkina Faso, to the north.

Togo is 550km long and varies in width from 40 to 130km. Much of the country is savannah, thicker in the south than the north, with deciduous forests in the central part. The terrain varies from the wide, rolling sandstone Oti Plateau in the north to the low, sandy coastal plain facing the ocean in the south. The narrow coastal strip is fringed by extensive inland lagoons and marshes; Lake Togo is in this area.

Further inland are the Ouatchi Plateau and the Mono tableland. The Togo mountains straddle the country from the south-west to north-west; the average elevation is 700m. At the southern extremity of the range is Mount Agou, which at 986m is the highest point in Togo. The main rivers are the Mono, which with its tributaries drains the southern part of the country, and the Oti, which drains the northern plains.

Hemisphere

Northern

Climate

Tropical, mean annual temperature 28 degrees Celsius. Drier in the north. Two rainy seasons between April–June and September–October.

Entry requirements

Passports

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

Visa

Required by all, except nationals of Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Niger.

Currency advice/regulations

The import of local currency is restricted to CFAf1 million and export to CFAf25,000. Import of foreign currencies is restricted to CFAf1 million, subject to declaration on arrival, and export to the amount declared.

Health (for visitors)

Mandatory precautions

Yellow fever vaccination certificate required by all.

Advisable precautions

Malaria precautions and prophylaxes are essential. Hepatitis A and B, tetanus, typhoid and polio. There is an HIV/Aids risk and a rabies risk.

All water should be regarded as a potential health risk; only bottled or boiled water should be used for drinking, brushing teeth or making ice. Milk is unpasteurised and should be boiled and dairy products should be avoided. Only hot, cooked food and peeled fruit should be eaten. Medical insurance that includes evacuation is advised.

Hotels

High-standard hotels in Lomé, which should be booked well in advance. Ten per cent tip is usual.

Credit cards

Credit cards accepted.

Public holidays (national)

Fixed dates

1 Jan (New Year's Day), 13 Jan (Liberation Day), 27 Apr (Independence Day), 1 May (Labour Day), 21 Jun (Martyrs' Day), 15 Aug (Assumption Day), 1 Nov (All Saints' Day), 25 Dec (Christmas Day).

Variable dates

Easter Monday, Ascension Day, Whit 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: 0730–1130, 1430–1600.

Business

Mon–Fri: 0700–1200, 1430–1730.

Government

Mon–Fri: 0700–1200, 1430–1730.

Shops

Mon–Fri: 0800–1200, 1430–1730; Sat: 0730–1230.

Telecommunications**Mobile/cell phones**

A GSM 900 service is available in populated areas.

Electricity supply

220V AC, 50 cycles.

Social customs/useful tips

Business is conducted in French.

Security

Togo is relatively trouble-free, although visitors should be wary of the occasional car hijacking.

Getting there**Air**

International airport/s: Gnassingbé Eyadéma International (LFW), 6km from Lomé; duty-free shop, restaurant, bank, post office, car hire. Taxis operate, from 0600 until the last flight, to the city centre.

Airport tax: None.

Surface

Road: A well-surfaced coastal road, which passes through Lomé, connects Togo with Ghana and Benin and thence to Nigeria. There is a road from Burkina Faso down to Lomé.

Main port/s: Lomé. Kpeme handles phosphate shipments.

Getting about**National transport**

Air: Air Togo flies between Lomé, Sokodé, Mango, Lama-Kara, Niamtougou and Dapaong.

Road: Surfaced roads run from Lomé to the borders of neighbouring countries, along the coast west to Ghana and east to Benin, and northwards the length of Togo to Burkina Faso. Other roads may not be passable in the rainy season.

Rail: The main railway lines run from Lomé northwards to Blitta (midway

between Atakpamé and Sokodé) and to Kpalimé, and eastwards to Aného.

Water: Ferries serve the ports along the coast.

City transport

Taxis: Readily available in Lomé, while shared taxis ply to other main towns; tipping is not usual.

Car hire

Available, but generally expensive. International driving licence required.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

The addresses listed below are a selection only. While World of Information makes every endeavour to check these addresses, we cannot guarantee that changes have not been made, especially to telephone numbers and area codes. We would welcome any corrections.

Telephone area codes

The international direct dialling (IDD) code for Togo is +228, followed by subscriber's number.

Chambers of Commerce

Togo Chamber of Commerce, Agriculture and Industry, Angle Avenues de la Présidence et Georges Pompidou, PO Box 360, Lomé (tel: 221-2065; fax: 221-4730; e-mail: ccit@rdd.tg).

Banking

Banque Internationale pour l'Afrique au Togo, BP 346, 13 rue du Commerce, Lomé (tel: 221-3286; fax: 221-1019; e-mail: bia-togo@café.tg).

Banque Togolaise de Développement, BP 65, Place de l'Indépendance, Angle Avenues des Nîmes et Grunitzky, Lomé (tel 221-3641; fax: 221-4456; e-mail: togo_devbank.btd.tog).

Banque Togolaise pour le Commerce et l'Industrie, BP 363, 169 Boulevard du 13 Janvier, Lomé (tel: 221-4641; fax: 21-3265; e-mail: sda@btci.tg).

Ecobank-Togo, BP 3302, 20 Rue du Commerce, Lomé (tel: 222-6574; fax: 221-4237; e-mail: ecobanktg@ecobank.com).

Société Inter Africaine de Banque, BP 4874, 14 Rue du Commerce, Lomé (tel: 221-1341; fax: 221-5829; e-mail: siab@bibway.com).

Société Nationale d'Investissement et Fonds Annexes BP 2682, 11 Avenue du 24 Janvier, Lomé (tel: 221-6221; fax: 221-6225; e-mail: sni@ids.tg).

Union Togolaise de Banques, BP 359, Boulevard du 13 Janvier, Lomé (tel: 221-6411; fax: 221-2206; utbsdg@café.tg).

Central bank

Banque Centrale des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest, Direction Nationale, BP 120, Rue

des Nîmes, Lomé (tel: 221-2512; fax: 221-7602).

Stock exchange

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

Travel information**Ministry of tourism**

Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Leisure, BP 3114, Lomé (tel: 221-5400; fax: 221-8927).

National tourist organisation offices

Office national togolais du tourisme, BP 1289, Route d'Aného, Lomé, (tel: 221-4313; fax: 221-8927; e-mail: info@togo-tourisme.com).

Other useful addresses

Direction de la Statistique, BP 118, Lomé (tel: 270-662).

Direction des Professions Touristiques, BP 1289, Lomé (tel: 215-662, 214-313).

Kpeme Port Authority, OTP BP 362, Lomé (tel: 213-901; fax: 217-105).

Office des Produits Agricoles du Togo, BP 1334, Lomé (agency dealing with marketing, export, development) (tel: 214-471).

OPTT-Post Office and Telecommunications of Togo, Lomé (tel: 213-737; fax: 210-373).

Togo Embassy (USA), 2208 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20008 (tel: (+1-202) 234-4212; fax: (+1-202) 232-3190).

National news agency: Agence Togolaise de Presse (ATOP)

Other news agencies: République Togolaise (in French and English) (www.republicoftogo.com)

Le Togolais (in French) (www.letogolais.com)

Internet sites

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

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

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

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

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

Republic of Togolais (in French): <http://www.republicoftogo.com>

Online Togo news: <http://www.togodaily.com>

Togo Official website: <http://www.afrika.com/togo/html>