



BURKINA FASO



INTRODUCTION

Burkina Faso (formerly Upper Volta) achieved independence from France in 1960. Repeated military coups during the 1970s and 1980s were followed by multiparty elections in the early 1990s.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President Roch Marc Christian KABORE

Head of Government

Prime Minister Lassina ZERBO

Government Type

presidential republic

Capital

Ouagadougou

Legislature

unicameral National Assembly (127 seats)

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 274,200 sq km

Land: 273,800 sq km

Water: 400 sq km

Climate

three climate zones including a hot tropical savanna with a short rainy season in the southern half, a tropical hot semi-arid steppe climate typical of the Sahel region in the northern half, and small area of hot desert in the very north of the country bordering the Sahara Desert

Natural Resources

gold, manganese, zinc, limestone, marble, phosphates, pumice, salt

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

highly agrarian, low-income economy; limited natural resources; widespread poverty; terrorism disrupting potential economic activity; improving trade balance via increases in gold exports; economy inflating after prior deflation; growing public debt but still manageable

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$45.16 billion (2020 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$2,200 (2020 est.)

Industries - cotton lint, beverages, agricultural processing, soap, cigarettes, textiles, gold

Agricultural products - sorghum, maize, millet, cotton, cow peas, sugarcane, groundnuts, rice, sesame seed, vegetables

Exports \$3.902 billion (2018 est.)

gold, cotton, zinc, cashews, sesame seeds, (2019)

partners: Switzerland 59%, India 21% (2019)

Imports \$5.294 billion (2019 est.)

refined petroleum, delivery trucks, packaged medicines, electricity, aircraft (2019)

partners: Cote d'Ivoire 15%, China 9%, Ghana 8%, France 8%, India 6%, US 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

21.4 million (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth

2.58% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity

Mossi 52%, Fulani 8.4%, Gurma 7%, Bobo 4.9%, Gurunsi 4.6%, Senufo 4.5%, Bissa 3.7%, Lobi 2.4%, Dagara 2.4%, Tuareg/Bella 1.9%, Dioula 0.8%, unspecified 0.3%, other 7.2% (2010 est.)

Language

French (official), native African languages belonging to Sudanic family spoken by 90% of the population

Religion

Muslim 61.5%, Roman Catholic 23.3%, traditional/animist 7.8%, Protestant 6.5%, other/no answer 0.2%, none 0.7% (2010 est.)

