

# DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



## INTRODUCTION

The Kingdom of Kongo ruled the area around the mouth of the Congo River from the 14th to 19th centuries. European exploration of the Congo Basin in the 1870s brought the Congo territory under Belgian control. The Republic of the Congo gained its independence from Belgium in 1960. The country's name was changed to Zaire in 1971 and to Democratic Republic of the Congo in 1997.

## GOVERNMENT

### Chief of State

President Felix TSHISEKEDI

### Head of Government

Prime Minister Jean-Michel Sama Lukonde  
KYENGE

### Government Type

semi-presidential republic

### Capital

Kinshasa

### Legislature

bicameral Parliament or Parlement consists of the Senate (108 seats) and the National Assembly (500 seats)

## GEOGRAPHY

### Area

Total: 2,344,858 sq km  
Land: 2,267,048 sq km  
Water: 77,810 sq km

### Climate

tropical; hot and humid in equatorial river basin; cooler and drier in southern highlands; cooler and wetter in eastern highlands

### Natural Resources

cobalt, copper, niobium, tantalum, petroleum, industrial and gem diamonds, gold, silver, zinc, manganese, tin, uranium, coal, hydropower, timber

as of October 2021

## ECONOMY

### Economic Overview

very poor, large, natural resource-rich sub-Saharan country; possesses the world's second largest rainforest; increasing Chinese extractive sector trade; massive decrease in government investments; increasing current account deficit and public debts

**GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$96.03 billion (2020 est.)

**GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$1,100 (2020 est.)

**Industries** - mining (copper, cobalt, gold, diamonds, coltan, zinc, tin, tungsten), mineral processing, consumer products (textiles, plastics, footwear, cigarettes), metal products, processed foods,

**Agricultural products** - cassava, plantains, sugarcane, maize, oil palm fruit, rice, roots/tubers, bananas, sweet potatoes

**Exports** \$13.93 billion (2020 est.)

copper, cobalt, crude petroleum, diamonds (2019)

**partners:** China 53%, UAE 11%, Saudi Arabia 6%, South Korea 5% (2019)

**Imports** \$14.56 billion (2020 est.)

packaged medicines, refined petroleum, sulfuric acid, stone processing machines, delivery trucks (2019)

**partners:** China 29%, South Africa 15%, Zambia 12%, Rwanda 5%, Belgium 5%, India 5% (2019)

## PEOPLE & SOCIETY

### Population

105 million (July 2021 est.)

### Population Growth

3.16% (2021 est.)

### Ethnicity

more than 200 African ethnic groups of which the majority are Bantu; the four largest tribes - Mongo, Luba, Kongo (all Bantu), and the Mangbetu-Azande (Hamitic) - make up about 45% of the population

### Language

French (official), Lingala (a lingua franca trade language), Kingwana (a dialect of Kiswahili or Swahili), Kikongo, Tshiluba

### Religion

Roman Catholic 29.9%, Protestant 26.7%, other Christian 36.5%, Kimbanguist 2.8%, Muslim 1.3%, other 1.2%, none 1.3%, unspecified .2% (2014 est.)

