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

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 nes, 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.)

as of October 2021