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
transitional President Lt. Col. Paul-Henri Sandaogo DAMIBA
Head of Government
Prime Minister Albert OUEDRAOGO
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.)

as of March 2022