INTRODUCTION
Upon independence in 1960, the former French region of Middle Congo became the Republic of the Congo. A quarter century of experimentation with Marxism was abandoned in 1990 and a democratically elected government took office in 1992. Now back under Marxist leadership, the Republic of Congo is one of Africa’s largest petroleum producers.

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
President Denis SASSOU-Nguesso
Head of Government
Prime Minister Clement MOUAMBA
Government Type
presidential republic
Capital
Brazzaville
Legislature
bicameral Parliament consists of Senate (72 seats) and National Assembly (151 seats)

GEOGRAPHY
Area
Total: 342,000 sq km
Land: 341,500 sq km
Water: 500 sq km
Climate
tropical; rainy season (March to June); dry season (June to October); persistent high temperatures and humidity; particularly enervating climate astride the Equator
Natural Resources
petroleum, timber, potash, lead, zinc, uranium, copper, phosphates, gold, magnesium, natural gas, hydropower

as of October 2021

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
primarily an oil- and natural resources-based economy; recovery from mid-2010s oil devaluation has been slow and curtailed by COVID-19; extreme poverty increasing, particularly in southern rural regions; attempting to implement recommended CEMAC reforms; increasing likelihood of debt default
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $19.03 billion (2020 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $3,400 (2020 est.)
Industries - petroleum extraction, cement, lumber, brewing, sugar, palm oil, soap, flour, cigarettes
Agricultural products - cassava, sugarcane, oil palm fruit, cassava leaves, bananas, plantains, roots/tubers, game meat, vegetables, mangoes/guavas
Exports $4.193 billion (2017 est.)
crude petroleum, copper, lumber, ships, refined petroleum (2019)
partners: China 49%, UAE 15%, India 6%, Italy 5% (2019)
Imports $2.501 billion (2017 est.)
ships, chicken products, refined petroleum, processed fish, packaged medicines (2019)
partners: China 15%, France 12%, Belgium 6%, Angola 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
5.4 million (July 2021 est.)
Population Growth
2.36% (2021 est.)
Ethnicity
Kongo 40.5%, Teke 16.9%
Mbochi 13.1%, foreigner
8.2%, Sangha 5.6%, Mbere/Mbeti/Kele 4.4%, Punu 4.3%, Pygmy 1.6%, Oubanguiens 1.6%, Duma 1.5%, Makaa 1.3%, other and unspecified 1% (2014-15 est.)
Language
French (official), French Lingala and Monokutuba (lingua franca trade languages), many local languages and dialects
Religion
Roman Catholic 33.1%, Awakening Churches/Christian Revival 22.3%, Protestant 19.9%, Salutiste 2.2%, Muslim 1.6%, Kimbanguiste 1.5%, other 8.1%, none 11.3% (2010 est.)