SENEGAL

INTRODUCTION
The French began to expand onto the Senegalese mainland in the second half of the 19th century and made it a French colony. The French colonies of Senegal and French Sudan were merged in 1959 and granted independence in 1960 as the Mali Federation. The union broke up after only a few months. Senegal joined with The Gambia to form the nominal confederation of Senegambia in 1982. The envisaged integration of the two countries was never implemented, and the union was dissolved in 1989.

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
President Macky SALL
Head of Government
President Macky SALL
Government Type
presidential republic
Capital
Dakar
Legislature
unicameral National Assembly or Assemblée Nationale (165 seats)

GEOGRAPHY
Area
Total: 196,722 sq km
Land: 192,530 sq km
Water: 4,192 sq km
Climate
tropical; hot, humid; rainy season (May to November) has strong southeast winds; dry season (December to April) dominated by hot, dry, harmattan wind
Natural Resources
fish, phosphates, iron ore

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
lower middle-income, services-driven West African economy; key mining, construction, agriculture, and fishing industries; tourism and exports hit hard by COVID-19; large informal economy; developing offshore oil and gas fields; systemic corruption
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $55.26 billion (2020 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $3,300 (2020 est.)
Industries - agricultural and fish processing, phosphate mining, fertilizer production, petroleum refining, zircon and gold mining, construction materials, ship construction and repair
Agricultural products - groundnuts, watermelons, rice, sugarcane, cassava, millet, maize, onions, sorghum, vegetables
Exports $2.362 billion (2017 est.)
gold, refined petroleum, phosphoric acid, fish, ground nuts (2019)
partners: Mali 22%, Switzerland 14%, India 9%, China 7% (2019)
Imports $5.217 billion (2017 est.)
refined and crude petroleum, rice, cars, malt extract, clothing and apparel (2019)
partners: China 17%, France 11%, Belgium 7%, Russia 7%, Netherlands 7% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
16.1 million (July 2021 est.)
Population Growth
2.25% (2021 est.)
Ethnicity
Wolof 39.7%, Pular 27.5%, Serer 16%, Mandinka 4.9%, Jola 4.2%, Soninke 2.4%, other 5.4% (includes Europeans and persons of Lebanese descent) (2019 est.)
Language
French (official), Wolof, Pular, Jola, Mandinka, Serer, Soninke
Religion
Muslim 97.2% (most adhere to one of the four main Sufi brotherhoods), Christian 2.7% (mostly Roman Catholic) (2019 est.)

as of March 2022