

COFACE COUNTRY & SECTOR RISKS HANDBOOK 2024

MAJOR TRENDS
OF THE WORLD ECONOMY

ANALYSIS AND FORECASTS FOR 160 COUNTRIES AND 13 SECTORS

coface
FOR TRADE

This handbook is intended for:

- Corporate executives with decisions to make in terms of export, project launches, or investment in high risk countries;
- Managers of risk or international operations in banking, multilateral financial institutions, and insurance or reinsurance companies (acting in a private capacity or on behalf of government);
- Government managers concerned with country risk;
- Consultants and lawyers specialized in international business;
- Researchers, academics, and students interested in country risk.

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FORECASTS FOR
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CEO of Coface



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GLOSSARY

2024, back to normal?

— **Xavier Durand** —
CEO of Coface

Ultimately, 2023 was not the *annus horribilis* we had feared. Fortunately, the risks, most notably in terms of energy supply, did not materialise - in Europe at least. The global economy is expected to have grown by around 2.5%. While still below its potential, this performance is nonetheless decent given the headwinds that once again blew in over the year. We should remember that 2023 began with a banking crisis in the United States and ended with a new conflict, this time in the Middle East. In the meantime, China disappointed, the United States convinced, and Europe survived in a somewhat turbulent monetary and financial environment. In contrast to investors' expectations, the main central banks continued to raise their key rates (+100 basis points for the Federal Reserve, +175 for the Bank of England, +200 for the European Central Bank), triggering a severe contraction in lending and a sharp rise in long-term interest rates. This was not enough to upset the equity markets, which were fundamentally supported by the resilience of business activity and corporate margins. The faster-than-expected fall in inflation due to lower commodity prices and, at the very end of the year, the prospect of major central banks significantly lowering their key interest rates also contributed to this momentum.

The main reason for the better-than-expected outcome in 2023 is the initially underestimated resilience of private agents' balance sheets. This 'balance sheet resilience' has been at the root of a virtuous circle combining, until now, low corporate losses, resilient employment, and household dissaving. This was particularly the case in the United States, where consumption remained an engine of growth (accounting for 1.5 points of GDP in 2023, with GDP growth estimated at around +2.5%). However, the latest figures suggest that this fine mechanism is



starting to jam. Excess savings and cash flow have dwindled significantly, while corporate insolvencies are firmly on the rise, both in terms of frequency and the size of the claims concerned.

How will 2024 unfold? Right off the bat: the only certainty we can have is that of being surprised. The events in recent years have shown that history is accelerating, and it would be strange if 2024 were an exception. All the more so as the year will be particularly busy from an electoral standpoint, with legislative and/or presidential elections scheduled in 70 countries that account for over half the world's population and GDP: between Taiwan a few weeks ago and the United States in November, voters will be called to the polls in India, Pakistan, South Africa and Iran... not to mention the European elections to be held next spring, against a backdrop of heightened social tensions and the rise of populism of all kinds. This should cause a few upheavals at national level,

« The events in recent years have shown that history is accelerating, and it would be strange if 2024 were an exception. » — Xavier Durand

in a geopolitical context that is still in turmoil: the war in Ukraine is entering its third year, and the conflict between Israel and Hamas now threatens to set the whole region ablaze.

From a strictly macroeconomic point of view, the hope of a prolonged but still soft landing for the global economy remains valid. While a few months ago we feared the onset of severe market turbulence, the easing of financial conditions means that we can look forward to the year ahead more calmly. Our central scenario therefore rules out the hypothesis of a financial crash and a hard landing. Nevertheless, the global economy is set to slow substantially, losing almost half a percentage point of growth compared with last year (+2.2%). Most of this slowdown will come from the major developed economies that outperformed in 2023 - led by the United States, whose growth is still expected to exceed +1% - but also from China (+4.3%), whose growth model is struggling to rebalance, and which still must purge the excesses of the past (property development, manufacturing overcapacity, etc.). Europe, for its part, should accelerate slightly under the effect of the expected (and hoped-for) rebound of the German economy, although growth on the Old Continent will remain below its potential (+0.9%). Lastly, the weakening of the dollar and interest rates should give some breathing room to emerging economies faced with constraints on access to external (re) financing.

Yet nothing is guaranteed, and our central scenario is more like a ridge than a boulevard. In terms of inflation, for the time being, the downturn remains essentially linked to base effects on energy prices and the fall in goods prices, against a backdrop of a rebalancing of consumption towards services and a normalisation of supply chains. The challenge in 2024 will be to determine whether the monetary tightening that has been underway for over 18 months is sufficient to achieve more than this mechanical disinflation, and to go the 'last mile' to bring inflation back to 2%. The buoyancy of services prices, still up by 4-5% year-on-year, suggests that the battle is well under way but not yet won.

In any case, barring an accident, central banks will not be cutting their key rates as quickly and as aggressively as they raised them. Similarly, long-term interest rates are unlikely to return to where they stood over the last fifteen years anytime soon. In other words, the latent conflict of objectives in most developed countries between broadly restrictive monetary policies on the one hand, and expansionary fiscal policies on the other, will remain a major source of instability.

The twenty-eighth edition of this handbook covers all these questions and attempts to provide answers by adopting, as usual, a dual geographical and sectoral approach. I wish everyone an enjoyable read of this document, which Coface publishes every year.

How to use the handbook

SECTORS

1 AGRI-FOOD

2

3

4

5

SECTORS

1 Sector name

2 Coface Regional Sector Risk Assessments

This assessment indicates the risk presented by companies in the sector in regions around the world, as considered by Coface in its quarterly sector assessments.

3 Analysis of Strengths/Weaknesses

A summary of the sector's global strengths and weaknesses.

4 Risk Analysis Synthesis

You will find in this section a synthetic analysis of economic and financial development in the markets, as well as main risks in the sector in terms of global trends.

5 Sector Charts

These charts highlight one or more key aspects of developments in the sector.

For more information
(digital version only)

AGRI-FOOD

Click on the sector name to access a more detailed version of the sector profile on Coface website.

SECTOR RISK ASSESSMENTS

Region	Risk Level
ASIA-PACIFIC	MEDIUM
CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE	MEDIUM
LATIN AMERICA	HIGH
MIDDLE EAST & TURKIYE	HIGH
NORTH AMERICA	MEDIUM
WESTERN EUROPE	HIGH

RISK ANALYSIS SYNTHESIS

2023 was a year of stabilization for the agri-food sector. Increased global cereal production and lower fertilizer prices have led to a significant drop in the prices of most foodstuffs, relegating the idea of food shortages dearth to the back burner in most countries around the world. However, soaring sugar and cocoa prices, as well as increased protectionist measures on Indian rice, are a reminder that the sector remains vulnerable.

2024 will see a rebound in cereal production and increased supply tensions for sugar and cocoa. Indeed, in 2024, the meteorological factor will be decisive, with the El Niño climate-meteorological phenomenon - and with it, its share of droughts, heatwaves, and other extreme meteorological disturbances. This is why we consider the agri-food sector to be risky, or even very risky, in many countries. Indeed, with major meteorological consequences throughout the Indo-Pacific region, we are forecasting production losses - 2% year-on-year in global cereal production in 2024 - in many countries (Australia, Brazil, India, etc.). These disruptions are likely to affect the prices of several agricultural commodities (sugar, rice, palm oil) and weaken global agri-food supply chains.

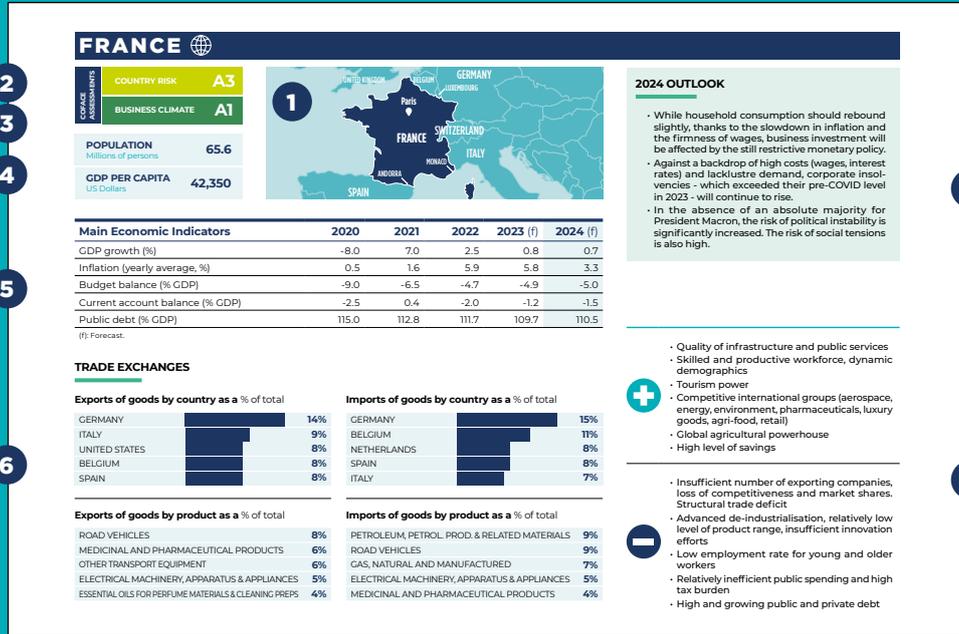
In terms of risk, it seems to us that sugar will be a particularly sensitive commodity this year, with a major imbalance between production levels and demand, both for food and energy (bioethanol production). End of 2023, sugar prices rose by 35% YoY, to USD 550/t (International Sugar Organisation). In 2024, although the price surge will slow down, but prices will still be much higher than in previous years.

ENSO FORECAST - FROM NOV. 2023 (CPC, PROBABILITY OF OCCURRENCE IN %)

Month	La Niña (%)	Neutral (%)	El Niño (%)
ND3	100	0	0
DJF	100	0	0
JFM	100	0	0
FMa	100	0	0
MAM	100	0	0
AMJ	100	0	0
MJJ	100	0	0
JJA	100	0	0
JAS	100	0	0

GLOBAL CEREALS PRODUCTION (ANNUAL VARIATION, IN %)

Year	Annual Variation (%)
15	0
16	3
17	1
18	-1
19	2
20	2
21	1
22	-1
23	1
24	1



COUNTRY PROFILES

1 Country and location

A map allows you to locate the country.

2 Country risk assessment

"Country Risk" indicates the average risk presented by firms in a country as part of their short-term commercial transactions.

3 Business climate assessment

This assessment, which complements the country assessment, measures the quality of the country's business environment: overall reliability of company accounts, legal system, institutional and regulatory environment.

4 Population and GDP

This box shows the population of the country in 2022, the GDP per capita in 2022.

5 Economic indicators

At a glance, see the major macroeconomic aggregates essential to understanding the economic environment in a country as well as forecasted changes.

6 Exports and imports

Distribution of exports (or imports) by country of destination (or origin) and by product. The sources used are IMF and UNCTAD statistics.

7 2024 outlook

In this section, you will find the most important prospective elements for the current year.

8 Analysis of strengths/weaknesses

A summary of the country's strengths and weaknesses.

For more information
(digital version only)

FRANCE

Click on the name of the country to access a more detailed version of the country profile on the Coface website.

TOOLS FOR IDENTIFYING, ASSESSING AND MONITORING THE RISKS BUSINESSES ARE FACING

As a credit insurer, Coface's added value comes from its ability to proactively provide its clients with detailed risk analyses, allowing them to make the right decisions at the right time and prevent credit risks. Its analyses include country and business climate assessments for 160 countries, as well as sector risk, and assessment of companies' default rate. Regular economic publications supplement these assessments developed by Coface*.

Country risk assessment*

The Coface Country Risk Assessment is an indicator of the overall level of trade credit risk in a country at a given point in time. More specifically, it assesses how the ability of firms to generate cash flow is shaped by the country's structural characteristics (level of development, fiscal sustainability, quality of governance, social/political risks, sensitivity to climate risk) and the macroeconomic conditions of the moment. The country risk assessment covers 160 countries on an 8-step scale: A1, A2, A3, A4, B, C, D, E, in order of increasing risk.

Business climate assessment*

This makes it possible to see whether company accounts are available and reliable, whether the legal system ensures fair and effective protection of creditors, whether the country's institutions provide a favourable framework for B2B transactions and whether the domestic market is easy to access. The assessments are based on data from international organisations, but also, and primarily, on the experience of Coface's entities across the world. This assessment, integrated in the country assessment, covers 160 countries on an 8-step scale: A1, A2, A3, A4, B, C, D, E, in order of decreasing business climate quality.

Sector risk assessment*

Every quarter, Coface reviews the assessments of 13 sectors in 28 countries (representing approximately 88% of global GDP) in 6 major regions of the world. In order to assess these risks, Coface relies on its own methodology, which is based on three pillars and eight criteria, and has been strengthened with more quantitative criteria. The first pillar focuses on data relative to Coface's expertise on corporate payment behaviour worldwide, in the various sectors under consideration. The second pillar concerns forecasts of processed financial data. The last pillar brings together different criteria (evolution of commodity price forecasts, risks linked to structural changes that may occur in a sector, and country risk assessments, which

have an impact on the risk assessment of a given sector in a particular country).

The criteria included in the first two pillars are summarised below.

Coface's expertise regarding payment experience:

- Unpaid ratio level for companies of the same sector in a given country.
- Forecasts on changes in default amounts in a given sector at the global level.
- Sector risk assessment from Coface's underwriting services.

Pillar regarding the use of corporate financial data:

- Daily Sales Outstanding (DSO).
- Analysis of quantiles for forecasts in financial data (net debt, profitability).

Our sector risk assessment model assigns a relative weight to each criterion, in order to arrive at a final risk assessment for the sector in a selected country or region.

We now integrate the impact of "network effects" into our sector methodology. Using Coface's internal data, we create a network (also called a graph) that represents the interactions of sectors/countries between them and thus

allows us to assess the impact of a shock in a given sector/country on the others.

The sector risk assessment is on a 4-step scale: low, medium high, very high, in order of increasing risk (see p. 4).

Assessment of company default rate

The DRA (Debtor Risk Assessment) measures the default rate of companies all over the world. It is calculated on the basis of indicators such as financial soundness, profitability, solvency, as well as the company's environment and management. The assessment scale ranges from 0 (company in default) to 10 (best possible rating). The DRAs are made available to Coface clients on a dedicated website: Cofanet.

Economic publications*

Coface regularly publishes economic publications that deal with country risk, sector risk, and the risk of company insolvency.

* Assessments and studies available on <http://www.coface.com/Economic-Studies-and-Country-Risks>

DEFINITION OF COUNTRY RISK ASSESSMENTS

- A1** Very good macroeconomic and financial outlook. Stable political context. Very low sovereign and climate risk.
- A2** Good macroeconomic and financial outlook. Generally stable political context. Overall good sovereign and climate risk.
- A3** Less favourable macroeconomic and financial outlook. Political context remains stable. Satisfactory climate and sovereign risk.
- A4** Economic and financial outlook could be marked by some weaknesses. Political context could suffer from tension. Non-trivial climate and sovereign risk.
- B** Uncertain economic and financial outlook. Political context could suffer strong tensions. Exposure to climate and/or sovereign risk is a noticeable issue.
- C** Very uncertain economic and financial outlook. Political context could be unstable. Exposure to climate and/or sovereign risk is a significant issue.
- D** Highly uncertain economic and financial outlook. Very unstable political context. Sovereign and/or climate risk represent a material threat.
- E** Extremely uncertain economic and financial outlook. Extremely unstable political context. These countries often face war, endemic civil unrest and/or corruption, and international sanctions.

DEFINITION OF BUSINESS CLIMATE ASSESSMENTS

- A1** Company reports are (generally) available and reliable. Effective debt collection. High quality institutions. Domestic market is almost perfectly open. Very satisfactory business climate.
- A2** Company reports, when available, are reliable. Debt collection works reasonably well. Institutions generally perform well. Domestic market is widely open. Business climate relatively stable but could be improved.
- A3** Company reports are not always available, but when they are, are relatively reliable. Debt collection and institutions can present some shortcomings. Domestic market is relatively open. Safe business climate, but shortcomings can arise.
- A4** Company reports are not always available or reliable. Debt collection is not always effective and institutions have some inadequacies. Access to domestic market presents some constraints. Business climate is acceptable but can pose problems.
- B** Reliability and availability of company reports vary significantly. Debt collection is often difficult. Institutions display weaknesses. Domestic market is not very accessible. Business climate is unstable and underperforms.
- C** Company reports are often unavailable and not very reliable. Debt collection is somewhat random. Institutions display numerous weaknesses. Difficult access to domestic market. Difficult business climate.
- D** Company reports are often unavailable and unreliable. Debt collection is random. Institutions display significant weaknesses. Very difficult access to domestic market. Very difficult business climate.
- E** Company reports are rarely available, and are rarely reliable when they are. The legal system makes debt recovery extremely uncertain. Critical institutional weaknesses. Nearly inaccessible domestic market. Extremely difficult business climate.

For further information

The sector assessments are proposed on a scale of four levels: low, medium, high or very high, in ascending order of risk.

— You can find them on page 14

Coface assesses the average credit risk of companies in a given country. To achieve this, Coface uses macroeconomic, financial and political data.

Its originality is to take into account Coface's payment experience recorded for the country's businesses, and its perception of the country's business climate.

**DOWNGRADES
IN 2023**

**UPGRADES
IN 2023**

COUNTRY RISK
ASSESSMENT MAP

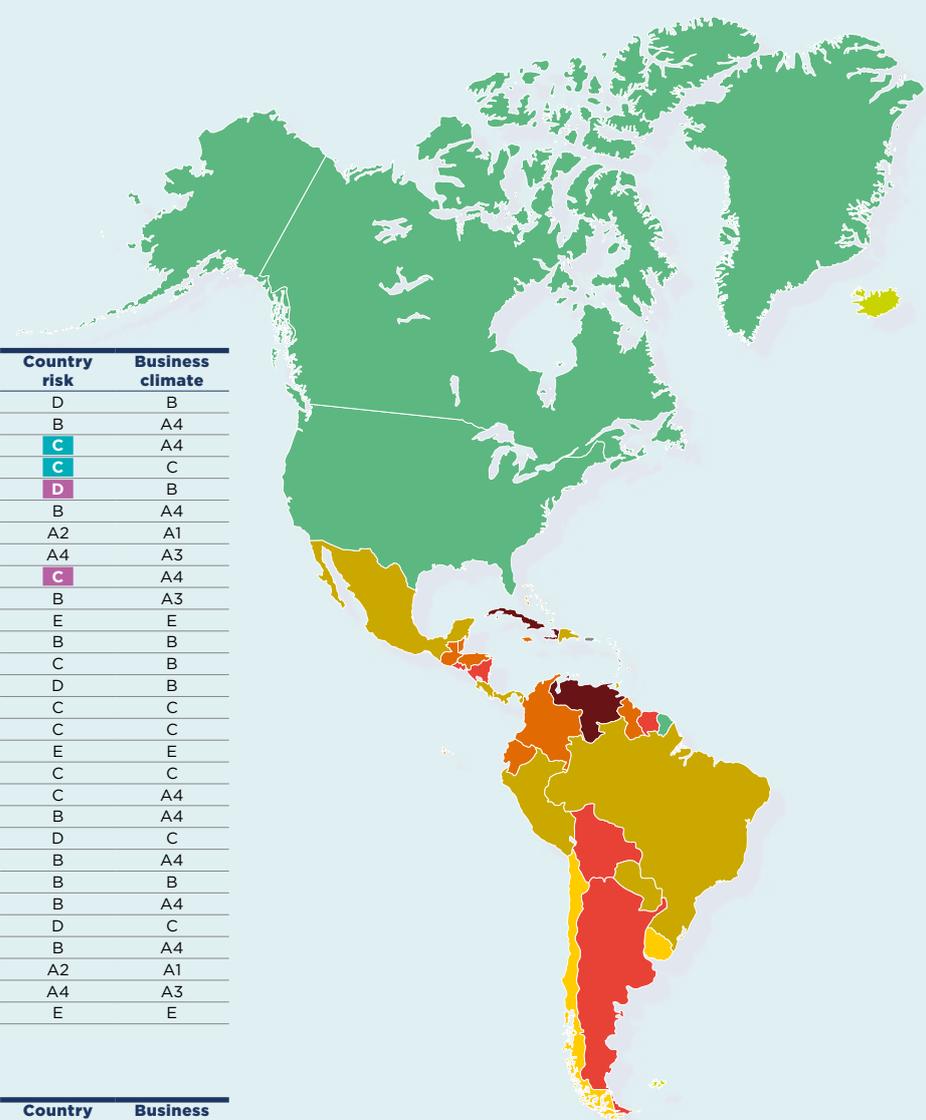
AMERICAS

	Country risk	Business climate
Argentina	D	B
Bahamas	B	A4
Barbados	C	A4
Belize	C	C
Bolivia	D	B
Brazil	B	A4
Canada	A2	A1
Chile	A4	A3
Colombia	C	A4
Costa Rica	B	A3
Cuba	E	E
Dominican Republic	B	B
Ecuador	C	B
El Salvador	D	B
Guatemala	C	C
Guyana	C	C
Haiti	E	E
Honduras	C	C
Jamaica	C	A4
Mexico	B	A4
Nicaragua	D	C
Panama	B	A4
Paraguay	B	B
Peru	B	A4
Suriname	D	C
Trinidad and Tobago	B	A4
United States	A2	A1
Uruguay	A4	A3
Venezuela	E	E

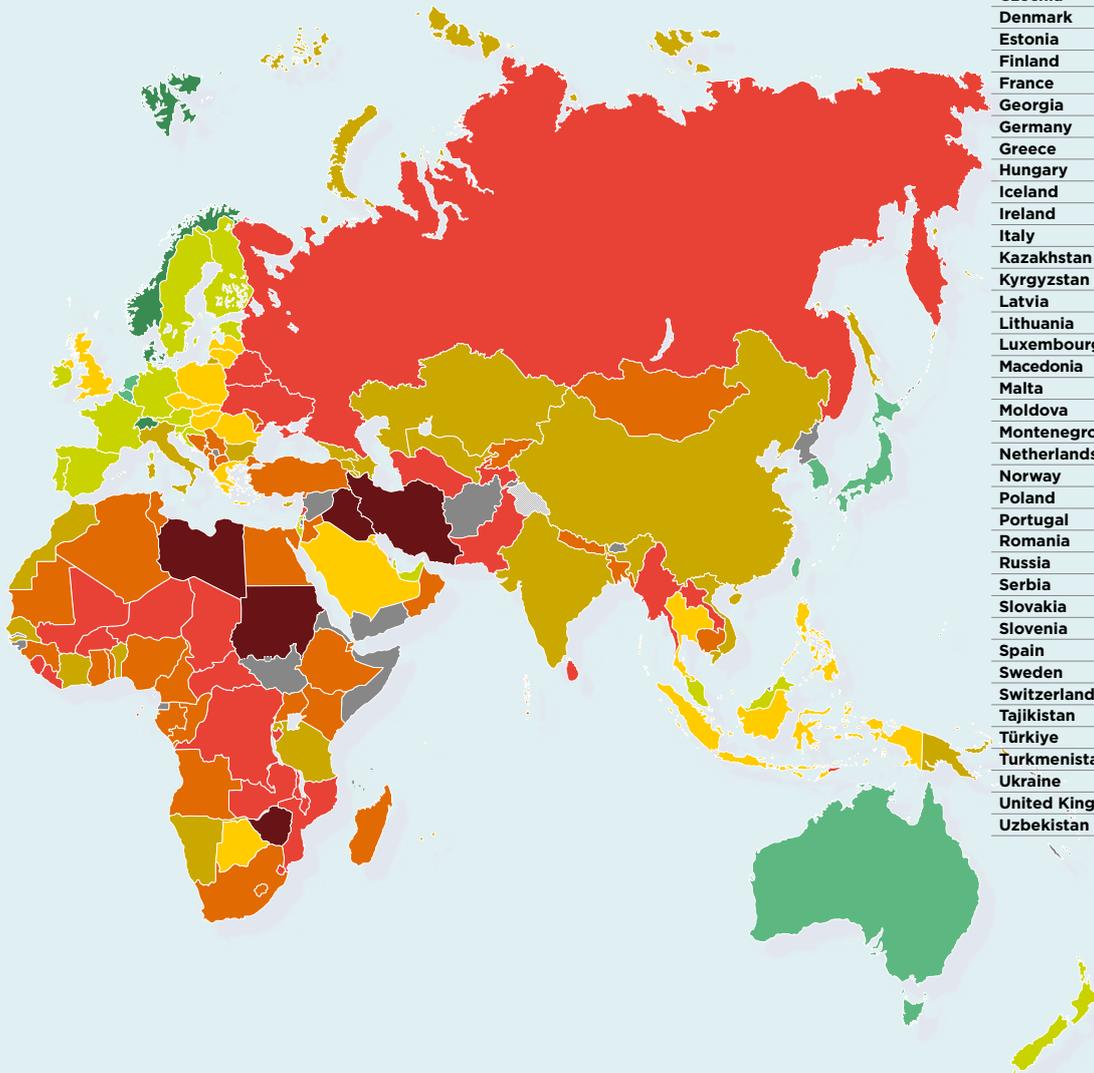
AFRICA

	Country risk	Business climate
Algeria	C	C
Angola	C	D
Benin	B	C
Botswana	A4	A4
Burkina Faso	D	C
Burundi	D	E
Cameroon	C	D
Cabo Verde	B	B
Central African Republic	D	E
Chad	D	E
Congo (Democratic Republic of the)	D	E
Congo (Republic of the)	C	D
Côte d'Ivoire	B	B
Djibouti	C	C
Egypt	C	B
Eswatini	D	C
Ethiopia	C	D
Gabon	C	D
Ghana	C	B
Guinea	C	D
Kenya	C	A4
Lesotho	C	B
Liberia	D	D
Libya	E	E

	Country risk	Business climate
Madagascar	C	C
Malawi	D	D
Mali	D	D
Mauritius	A4	A3
Mauritania	C	C
Morocco	B	A4
Mozambique	D	D
Namibia	B	A4
Niger	D	C
Nigeria	C	D
Rwanda	B	A4
Senegal	B	B
Sierra Leone	D	D
South Africa	C	A4
Sudan	E	E
Tanzania	B	C
Togo	C	B
Tunisia	C	B
Uganda	C	C
Zambia	D	C
Zimbabwe	E	E



**BUSINESS
DEFAULT RISK**



EUROPE AND CIS

	Country risk	Business climate
Albania	C	C
Armenia	B	B
Austria	A3	A1
Azerbaijan	B	C
Belarus	D	B
Belgium	A2	A1
Bosnia and Herzegovina	C	B
Bulgaria	B	A3
Croatia	A3	A2
Cyprus	B	A3
Czechia	A4	A2
Denmark	A1	A1
Estonia	A3	A1
Finland	A3	A1
France	A3	A1
Georgia	B	A3
Germany	A3	A1
Greece	A4	A2
Hungary	A4	A3
Iceland	A3	A1
Ireland	A3	A1
Italy	B	A2
Kazakhstan	B	B
Kyrgyzstan	C	D
Latvia	A4	A1
Lithuania	A4	A1
Luxembourg	A2	A1
Macedonia	C	A4
Malta	A3	A4
Moldova	C	B
Montenegro	C	A4
Netherlands	A2	A1
Norway	A1	A1
Poland	A4	A2
Portugal	A3	A2
Romania	A4	A3
Russia	D	B
Serbia	C	A4
Slovakia	A4	A2
Slovenia	A3	A1
Spain	A3	A1
Sweden	A3	A1
Switzerland	A1	A1
Tajikistan	D	D
Türkiye	C	A4
Turkmenistan	D	E
Ukraine	D	C
United Kingdom	A4	A1
Uzbekistan	B	B

For further information

To download the map (in pdf format): <https://www.coface.com/Economic-Studies-and-Country-Risks>

ASIA-PACIFIC

MIDDLE EAST

	Country risk	Business climate
Bahrain	D	A4
Iran	E	D
Iraq	E	E
Israel	A3	A2
Jordan	C	B
Kuwait	A4	A3
Lebanon	D	D
Oman	C	A4
Qatar	A4	A3
Saudi Arabia	A4	B
United Arab Emirates	A3	A2

	Country risk	Business climate
Australia	A2	A1
Bangladesh	C	C
Cambodia	C	B
China	B	B
Fiji	C	A4
Hong Kong SAR	A3	A1
India	B	A4
Indonesia	A4	A4
Japan	A2	A1
Laos	D	D
Malaysia	A3	A3
Maldives	C	C
Mongolia	C	C

	Country risk	Business climate
Myanmar	D	D
Nepal	C	B
New Zealand	A3	A1
Pakistan	D	C
Papua New Guinea	B	C
Philippines	A4	B
Singapore	A2	A1
South Korea	A2	A1
Sri Lanka	D	B
Taiwan	A2	A1
Thailand	A4	A3
Timor-Leste	D	C
Vietnam	B	B

COUNTRY RISK ASSESSMENT

HISTORY OF THE MAIN ECONOMIES

	2024 Jan.	2023 Oct.	2023 Jun.	2023 Mar.	2023 Jan.	2022 Jan.	2021 Jan.	2020 Jan.	2019 Jan.	2018 Jan.	2017 Jan.
A1											
Denmark	A1	A2	A2	A2	A2	A1	A2	A2	A2	A2	A2
Norway	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A2	A1	A1	A1	A1
Switzerland	A1	A2	A2	A2	A2	A1	A2	A1	A1	A1	A1
A2											
Australia	A2	A2	A2	A2	A2	A2	A3	A2	A2	A2	A2
Canada	A2	A2	A2	A2	A2	A2	A3	A2	A2	A3	A3
Japan	A2										
Netherlands	A2	A1	A1	A1	A2						
Singapore	A2	A2	A2	A2	A2	A2	A3	A2	A2	A2	A3
South Korea	A2	A2	A2	A2	A2	A2	A3	A2	A2	A2	A3
Taiwan	A2	A3									
United States	A2	A2	A2	A2	A2	A2	A3	A2	A2	A2	A2
A3											
Austria	A3	A3	A3	A3	A3	A2	A2	A2	A1	A1	A1
Croatia	A3	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	B	A4	A4	B	B
Germany	A3	A3	A3	A3	A3	A2	A3	A2	A1	A1	A1
France	A3	A3	A3	A3	A3	A2	A3	A2	A2	A2	A2
Hong Kong SAR	A3	A3	A3	A3	A3	A3	A4	A3	A2	A2	A3
Ireland	A3	A3	A3	A4	A4	A3	A4	A3	A3	A3	A3
Israel	A3	A2	A2	A2	A2	A2	A3	A2	A2	A2	A3
Malaysia	A3	A3	A3	A4	A4	A4	A4	A3	A3	A4	A4
New Zealand	A3	A3	A2								
Portugal	A3	A3	A3	A3	A3	A2	A3	A2	A2	A3	A4
Qatar	A3	A3	A3	A4	A3						
Spain	A3	A3	A3	A3	A3	A2	A3	A2	A2	A2	A3
Sweden	A3	A3	A2	A1	A1						
United Arab Emirates	A3	A3	A3	A3	A3	A3	A4	A3	A3	A4	A4
A4											
Botswana	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	B	A4	A4	A4	A4
Chile	A4	A3	A3	A3							
Greece	A4	A4	A4	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	C
Hungary	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A3	A4	A3	A3	A3	A4
Indonesia	A4										
Kuwait	A4	A3	A3	A3	A3						
Philippines	A4	A4	A4	B	B	B	B	A4	A4	A4	A4
Poland	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A3	A4	A3	A3	A3	A3
Romania	A4	B	B	B	B	B	B	A4	A4	A4	A4
Saudi Arabia	A4	A4	A4	B	B	B	C	B	C	C	B
Slovakia	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A3	A4	A3	A2	A3	A3
Thailand	A4										
United Kingdom	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A3	A4	A3	A3	A3	A3
Uruguay	A4										
B											
Armenia	B	C	C	C	C	C	D	C	C	D	E
Brazil	B	B	B	B	B	C	C	B	B	B	C
Bulgaria	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	A4	A4	A4	A4
China	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B

	2024 Jan.	2023 Oct.	2023 Jun.	2023 Mar.	2023 Jan.	2022 Jan.	2021 Jan.	2020 Jan.	2019 Jan.	2018 Jan.	2017 Jan.
B											
Cote d'Ivoire	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
India	B	B	B	B	B	C	C	B	B	A4	A4
Italy	B	B	B	B	B	A4	B	A4	A4	A3	A3
Kazakhstan	B	B	B	C	C	B	B	B	B	B	C
Mexico	B	B	B	B	B	B	C	B	B	B	B
Morocco	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	A4	A4	A4	A4
Peru	B	B	B	B	B	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4
Senegal	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	A4	B	B	B
Tanzania	B	B	B	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Uzbekistan	B	B	B	C	C	B	B	B	C	C	D
Vietnam	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
C											
Algeria	C	C	C	C	C	C	D	C	C	C	C
Angola	C	C	C	C	C	D	D	C	C	D	D
Cameroon	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Colombia	C	C	B	B	B	B	B	B	A4	A4	A4
Ecuador	C	C	C	C	C	C	D	C	C	C	C
Egypt	C	C	C	C	C	B	C	B	B	B	C
Gabon	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Ghana	C	C	C	C	C	B	B	B	B	B	B
Madagascar	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	D	D	D
Nigeria	C	C	C	D	D	D	D	C	C	D	D
Oman	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	B	B	C	B
Serbia	C	C	C	C	C	B	B	B	B	B	B
South Africa	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	B	B	C	C
Tunisia	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	B	B
Türkiye	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	B	C	B	B
D											
Argentina	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	C	C	B	B
Bolivia	D	D	D	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Mozambique	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	E	D
Pakistan	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	C	C
Russia	D	D	D	D	D	B	C	B	B	B	C
Sri Lanka	D	D	D	D	D	D	C	C	C	B	B
Ukraine	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	C	C	C	D
E											
Haiti	E	E	E	E	E	D	D	D	D	D	D
Iran	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
Iraq	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
Libya	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
Venezuela	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
Zimbabwe	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E

The "E" rating was introduced into the Coface assessment scale in June 2016.

- Upgrade
- Downgrade

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INTRODUCTION TO SECTOR RISK ASSESSMENTS NOTES

2024 Coface Sector Risk Assessment

Every quarter, Coface reviews the assessments of 13 sectors in 28 countries (representing approximately 83% of global GDP) in 6 major regions of the world. In order to assess these risks, Coface relies on its own methodology, which is based on three pillars and eight criteria, and has been strengthened with more quantitative criteria. The first pillar focuses on data relative to Coface's expertise on corporate payment behaviour worldwide, in the various sectors under consideration. The second pillar concerns forecasts of processed financial data. The last pillar brings together different criteria (evolution of commodity price forecasts, risks linked to structural changes that may occur in a sector and country risk assessments, which have an impact on the risk assessment of a given sector in a particular country). The criteria included in the first two pillars are summarised below.

Coface's expertise regarding payment experience:

- Unpaid ratio level for companies of the same sector in a given country.
- Forecasts on changes in default amounts in a given sector at the global level.
- Sector risk assessment from Coface's underwriting services.

Pillar regarding the use of corporate financial data:

- Daily Sales Outstanding (DSO).
- Analysis of quantiles of forecasts on financial data (net debt, profitability).

Our sector risk assessment model assigns a relative weight to each criterion, in order to arrive at a final risk assessment for the sector in a selected country or region.

We now integrate the impact of "network effects" into our sector methodology. Using Coface's internal data, we create a network (also called a graph) that represents the interactions of sectors/countries between them and thus allows us to assess the impact of a shock in a given sector/country on the others.



REGIONAL SECTOR RISK ASSESSMENT

This assessment scales on four steps, in order of increasing risk: **Low, Medium, High or Very High**.

SECTOR	ASIA - PACIFIC	CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE	LATIN AMERICA	MIDDLE EAST & TÜRKIYE	NORTH AMERICA	WESTERN EUROPE
AGRI-FOOD	Medium	Low	Low	Medium	Low	Medium
AUTOMOTIVE	Medium	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
CHEMICAL	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Medium
CONSTRUCTION	Very High	Very High	Medium	Very High	Medium	Very High
ENERGY	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	Low
ICT*	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	Low	Low
METALS	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
PAPER	Low	Medium	Low	Low	Medium	Very High
PHARMACEUTICALS	Very Low	Very Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
RETAIL	Low	Low	Very High	Medium	Medium	Medium
TEXTILE-CLOTHING	Medium	Very High	Very High	Medium	Very High	Very High
TRANSPORT	Medium	Very High	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
WOOD	Medium	Very High	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium

*ICT: Information and Communication Technology.

AGRI-FOOD 

Sector risk assessments

ASIA-PACIFIC	HIGH
CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE	MEDIUM
LATIN AMERICA	MEDIUM
MIDDLE EAST & TÜRKIYE	HIGH
NORTH AMERICA	MEDIUM
WESTERN EUROPE	HIGH



- The sector is relatively resilient to economic shocks, as food requirements are not easily compressed
- Comfortable stock levels for 2024, particularly for basic cereals (wheat, soya, etc.)



- Sector highly vulnerable to climatic and biological hazards, exacerbated by the increasing frequency of extreme events (droughts, etc.)
- Sector impacted by protectionist tensions
- Falling production levels for many agricultural commodities in 2024

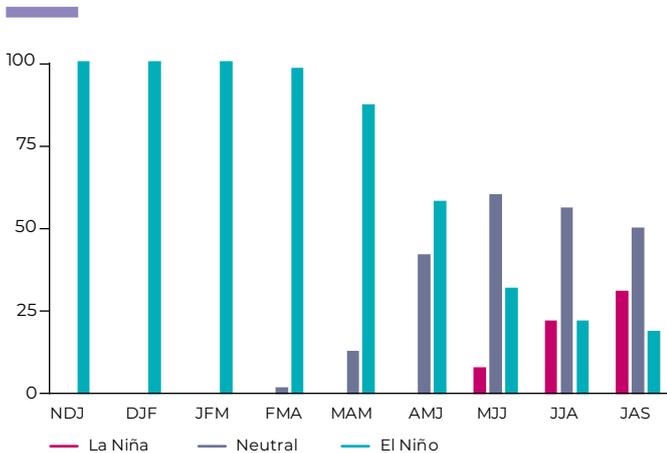
RISK ANALYSIS SYNTHESIS

2023 was a year of stabilization for the agri-food sector. Increased global cereal production and lower fertilizer prices have led to a significant drop in the prices of most foodstuffs, relegating the idea of food shortages dearth to the back burner in most countries around the world. However, soaring sugar and cocoa prices, as well as increased protectionist measures on Indian rice, are a reminder that the sector remains vulnerable.

2024 will see a rebound in cereal production and increased supply tensions for sugar and cocoa. Indeed, in 2024, the meteorological factor will be decisive, with the El Niño climate-meteorological phenomenon - and with it, its share of droughts, heatwaves, and other extreme meteorological disturbances. This is why we consider the agri-food sector to be risky, or even very risky, in many countries. Indeed, with major meteorological consequences throughout the Indo-Pacific region, we are forecasting production losses - -2% year-on-year in global cereal production in 2024 - in many countries (Australia, Brazil, India, etc.). These disruptions are likely to affect the prices of several agricultural commodities (sugar, rice, palm oil) and weaken global agri-food supply chains.

In terms of risk, it seems to us that sugar will be a particularly sensitive commodity this year, with a major imbalance between production levels and demand, both for food and energy (bioethanol production). End of 2023, sugar prices rose by 35% YoY, to USD 550/t (International Sugar Organisation). In 2024, although the price surge will slow down, but prices will still be much higher than in previous years.

ENSO FORECAST - FROM NOV. 2023 (CPC, PROBABILITY OF OCCURRENCE IN %)



Sources : WMO, IRI Columbia Uni, Coface

GLOBAL CEREALS PRODUCTION (ANNUAL VARIATION, IN %)



Sources : FAO, Coface

AUTOMOTIVE 

Sector risk assessments

ASIA-PACIFIC	HIGH
CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE	MÉDIUM
LATIN AMERICA	HIGH
MIDDLE EAST & TÜRKIYE	HIGH
NORTH AMERICA	HIGH
WESTERN EUROPE	HIGH



- Key-sector for the neutral-carbon mobility transition
- Important investissements in R&D
- Global supply chain is well-integrated



- Procyclical sector vulnerable to global economic outlook (interest rates, households' confidence, etc.)
- Highly impacted by trade tensions regarding supply chain (semi-conductors, chips, etc.)
- Increasingly constrained by environmental rules regarding greenhouse gas emissions
- Growing world competition due to entrance of new stakeholders, more specifically in EVs

RISK ANALYSIS

In 2023, the automotive industry rebounded overall, after a sluggish 2022, in terms of both production and sales of new vehicles.

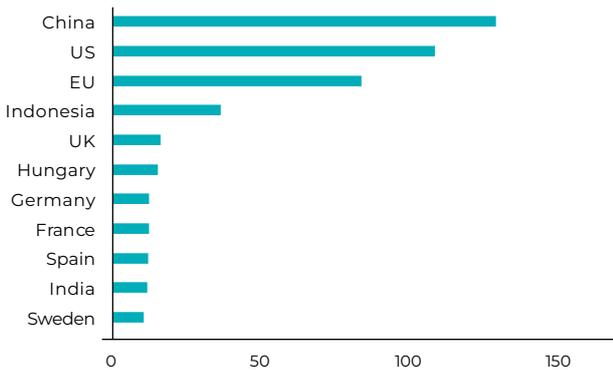
However, growth in the sector is expected to slow in 2024. On a global scale, car production is expected to reach 2 to 2.5%, driven in particular by the US and China, with a volume of vehicles produced of around 85 to 90 million units.

At the same time, 2024 will confirm the strong growth seen in the electric vehicle segment (+35% in 2023 and +30% in 2024 (f)). The decarbonization of fleets, essentially through electrification, has polarized much of the world's economic competition around Li-ion batteries and electric vehicles. Once again, this year, China will dominate sales of electric vehicles (60% of global sales, 6 million units), with an electric fleet that will represent near to 35% of the Chinese car fleet.

In response, the US and Europe will continue to deploy their respective industrial strategies, largely focused on electrical vehicles batteries (gigafactories). Thus, almost 75% of US investment under the Inflation Reduction Act will be devoted to gigafactory development (i.e. USD 64 billion).

However, the outlook for growth in these countries is likely to be only moderately favorable to the sector. Indeed, the macroeconomic context continues to weigh on new order, particularly in Europe, and should result in slight growth in manufacturing activity (in volume terms) in the automotive sector in 2024.

TOP TEN COUNTRIES FOR TOTAL VALUE OF LITHIUM-ION BATTERY PLANTS AND PROJECTS IN THE PIPELINE



Sources : GlobalData, Coface

NEW ORDERS (PMI)



Sources : IHS, Coface

CHEMICAL 

Sector risk assessments

ASIA-PACIFIC	HIGH
CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE	HIGH
LATIN AMERICA	HIGH
MIDDLE EAST & TÜRKIYE	VERY HIGH
NORTH AMERICA	MEDIUM
WESTERN EUROPE	HIGH



- Some specialty chemicals companies benefit from innovative products intended to fight environmental risks
- Specialty chemical companies are less vulnerable to changes in the economic cycle than petrochemical companies
- Strong appetite from emerging countries for building domestic petrochemical industries



- Petrochemical products are very dependent on the economic situation
- Stricter regulatory environment is forcing producers to review their business models
- High raw material prices
- A risk of overcapacity appears in certain petrochemical segments

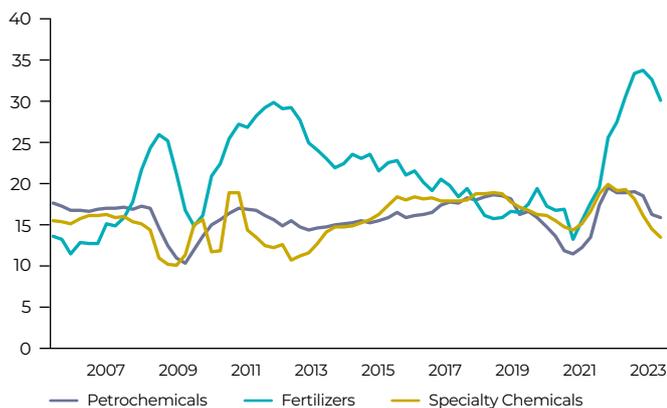
RISK ANALYSIS SYNTHESIS

Three segments are the subject of our attention when it comes to the chemical sector: petrochemicals, specialty chemicals and fertilizers. Petrochemical products are more sensitive to changes in global economic conditions while specialty chemicals seem much more resilient. Finally, fertilizers are more responsive to the vagaries affecting the agri-food sector.

In 2024, Coface predicts that petrochemicals will continue to suffer from geopolitical repercussions and the deterioration of the global economic situation, particularly industrial activity. A scissor effect affects industrial margins: on the one hand with a drop in overall demand; on the other with an increase in the price of inputs and energy. In addition, relocations as close as possible to energy sources as well as in-depth integration of the sector are looming and risk increasing the imbalances between supply and demand. Medium-term uncertainty is increasing as production capacities will increase in the coming years, particularly in Asia, the Middle East and North America.

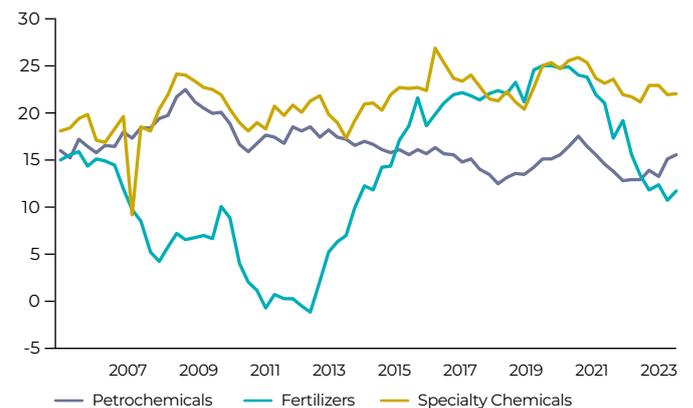
Lastly, the path to carbon neutrality (Net Zero) will push companies in the sector to reduce their environmental footprint to get access to financing, as well as to avoid the risks of litigation which are increasing due to growing pressure from activists.

PROFITABILITY FOR SEGMENTS IN THE CHEMICAL SECTOR (EBITDA/SALES, %)



Sources: Refinitiv, Coface

NET DEBT RATIO FOR SEGMENTS IN THE CHEMICAL SECTOR (NET DEBT/ASSET, %)



Sources: Refinitiv, Coface

CONSTRUCTION

Sector risk assessments

ASIA-PACIFIC	VERY HIGH
CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE	VERY HIGH
LATIN AMERICA	HIGH
MIDDLE EAST & TÜRKIYE	VERY HIGH
NORTH AMERICA	HIGH
WESTERN EUROPE	VERY HIGH



- Persistent urbanization in the emerging world and undersupply of housing in large cities in advanced economies
- Energy transition offers business opportunities, investment and innovation for companies in the sector
- Strong push for infrastructure development and renovation



- Level of corporates' indebtedness remains high, particularly in China
- High household debt at the global level
- Vulnerable to supply chain disruptions and labour shortages
- Pro-cyclical sector, sensitive to a high interest rates environment

RISK ANALYSIS SYNTHESIS

Construction is a cyclical sector, very sensitive to financial conditions and the interest rate level. This is the reason why the sector is in a challenging situation currently. For the time being, a backlog of work caused by the pandemic and subsequent supply chain issues are keeping activity somewhat stable but the outlook is more uncertain with restrained demand caused by high financial costs.

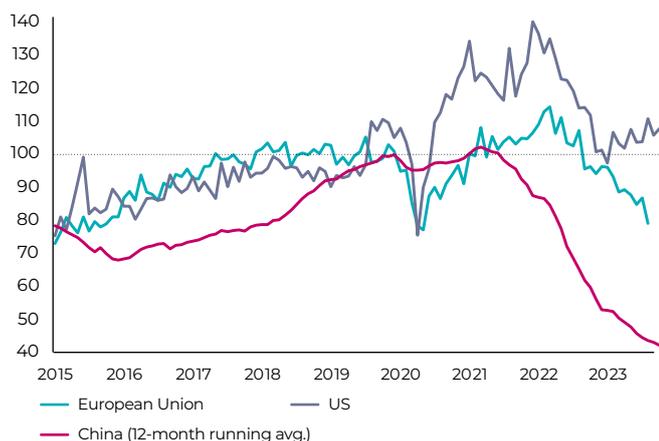
Timid demand is a constraint on the sector at the moment. Demand for residential construction is suffering due to high interest rates and housing affordability issues, commercial demand is strained by changing needs and financial constraints, while demand stemming from infrastructure is more stable and even strong in some parts of the world.

Financial conditions are difficult with banks' credit standards tight along with interest rates having risen rapidly in much of the world. As the construction sector is highly dependent on debt, operating in a high interest rate environment has a direct effect on both supply and demand.

In addition to rising financial costs, construction costs have been rising quickly in most advanced economies through consecutive waves: initially supply chain issues pushing up costs, followed by elevated commodity prices, high energy prices, and lastly rising wage costs. This has resulted in construction costs being substantially higher (around 30% in US and Europe) in 2023 than in 2019.

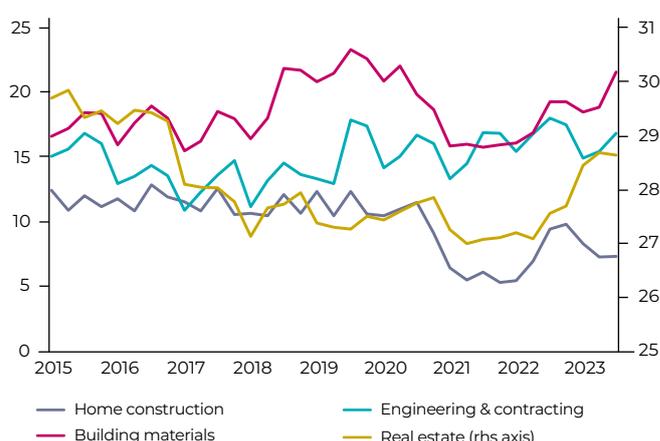
With an increased focus on environmental, social and governance (ESG) standards, one of the key issues faced by construction companies, particularly in advanced economies, is managing the decarbonisation of their activities and social challenges. There is a necessity to reduce emissions as the sector is particularly energy intensive.

BUILDING PERMITS IN US AND EUROPEAN UNION, AND HOUSING STARTS IN CHINA (INDEX, 2019 = 100)



Sources : National sources, Refinitiv Datastream, Coface

NET DEBT RATIO FOR CONSTRUCTION SECTOR'S SEGMENTS (NET DEBT/ASSET, %)



Sources : Refinitiv Worlscope, Coface

ENERGY 

Sector risk assessments

ASIA-PACIFIC	HIGH
CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE	HIGH
LATIN AMERICA	HIGH
MIDDLE EAST & TÜRKIYE	HIGH
NORTH AMERICA	MEDIUM
WESTERN EUROPE	HIGH



- Oil companies' ongoing efforts to lower their breakeven point and cash-in on high oil prices
- Diversification of revenue streams of large oil and gas companies
- Important developments of renewables, especially solar, to fight climate change's effects



- High levels of debt, especially for companies exploiting non-conventional oils
- High volatility of crude oil prices
- Strong pressure from environmental activists to reduce investment in fossil fuels

RISK ANALYSIS SYNTHESIS

Oil and gas producing companies will face demand growing at a slower pace during 2024, while supply, impacted by OPEC production cuts, is expected to post growth following a similar path. Coface forecasts Brent crude oil prices to average 82 USD per barrel in 2024, slightly down from 83 USD per barrel in 2023, but it is not immune to upside risk due to geopolitical events currently unfolding. Exploration and production companies should continue to show strong financial discipline, in order to keep costs manageable and generate adequate levels of cash. However, they should also continue to invest, notably for those evolving in offshore fields.

Moreover, renewables, notably wind equipment makers, are suffering from permitting and some ongoing supply chain issues. This is particularly the case in the offshore segment. They also face more competition from Chinese turbines makers, which benefit from an access to a large domestic market and financial help from the central State, enabling them to cut their bidding prices. Finally, the high interest rate environment is prompting developers to ask for hikes in electricity prices, or to leave projects whose conditions are deemed uneconomical.

The fight against the effects of climate change will undoubtedly continue to impact the energy sector. A key issue for the sector in the years to come will be the articulation between public authorities' willingness to accelerate the transformation of the economy towards 'net zero' on the one hand. On the other hand, they need to ensure energy security, which for the time being requires the use of fossil fuels.

PROFITABILITY FOR SEGMENTS IN THE ENERGY SECTOR (EBITDA/SALES, %)



NET DEBT RATIO FOR SEGMENTS IN THE ENERGY SECTOR (NET DEBT/ASSET, %)



Sector risk assessments

ASIA-PACIFIC	MEDIUM
CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE	MEDIUM
LATIN AMERICA	HIGH
MIDDLE EAST & TÜRKIYE	HIGH
NORTH AMERICA	MEDIUM
WESTERN EUROPE	MEDIUM



- 
 - Increasing internet access and mobile telephony and rollout of 5G
 - Increasing digitalization of businesses and organizations, driving innovation
 - Connected devices' deployment offers growth opportunities
 - Important opportunities to meet cybersecurity needs
 - Strong innovation, with a notable acceleration in the field of artificial intelligence

- 
 - Demand saturation for some hardware electronics in mature markets
 - Tougher regulatory environment in the future for Big Tech companies
 - Strategic tensions between China and the United States
 - High costs of research & development

RISK ANALYSIS SYNTHESIS

The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated digital transformation, encouraging investment in communication systems, cloud computing, cybersecurity, data analytics, and artificial intelligence (AI).

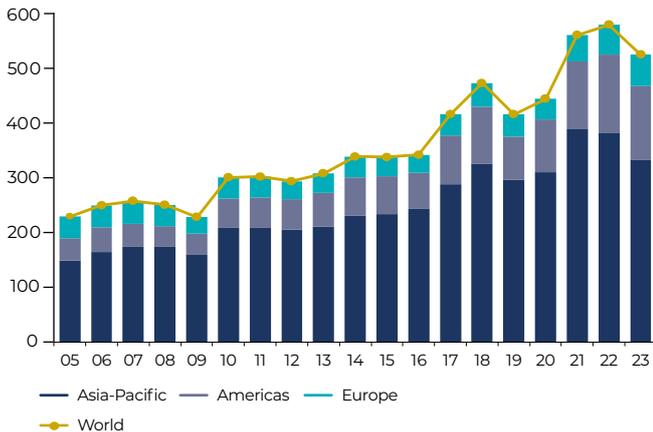
The November 2022 launch of ChatGPT, which showcased advances in generative AI, heightened interest in these technologies, anticipated to drive technology investments in 2024. Start-ups and large tech companies aim to leverage this boom, but the pressure to make these investments profitable is set to intensify.

Following a 9.4% dip in semiconductor sales in 2023, as estimated by WSTS, a rebound is projected for 2024. Investments in AI, automation, and digitization are poised to boost semiconductor demand, and the replacement cycle for pandemic-acquired electronic equipment may modestly contribute to sales recovery.

The demand for high-performance connectivity is expected to sustain 5G deployment and telecom growth. The USA, China, and South Korea have experienced rapid adoption. Europe's 5G subscription penetration is lower but steadily rising.

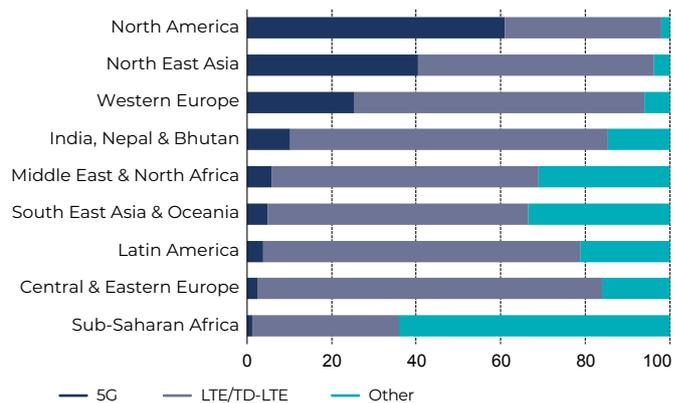
The primary challenges for the ICT sector are geopolitical and regulatory. American and Chinese big tech companies face heightened scrutiny, particularly regarding data protection, taxation, and anti-competitive behavior. New technologies, starting with semiconductors, are at the center of the Sino-American strategic rivalry. The development of AI, fraught with political, social, and economic risks, compels regulators to act; exemplified by the EU's December 2023 agreement on the AI Act, establishing a legal framework to regulate its usage.

WORLD: SEMICONDUCTOR SALES, IN BILLIONS USD



Sources: WSTS, Refinitiv Datastream, Coface

MOBILE SUBSCRIPTIONS BY REGION AND TECHNOLOGY, 2023, PERCENT



Sources: Ericsson Mobility Report (November 2023), Coface

METALS 

Sector risk assessments

ASIA-PACIFIC	HIGH
CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE	HIGH
LATIN AMERICA	HIGH
MIDDLE EAST & TÜRKIYE	HIGH
NORTH AMERICA	HIGH
WESTERN EUROPE	HIGH



- Key sector in the energy transition and low carbon industrial strategies
- Strategic and high added-value sector (technological, geopolitical, etc.)
- High unexploited mining potential



- Procyclical sector vulnerable to macroeconomic trends
- Sector vulnerable to energy and electricity price inflation
- Long industrial and investment cycles detached from cyclical shocks
- Sector highly targeted by on-going strengthening of ESG (environmental, social and governance) norms

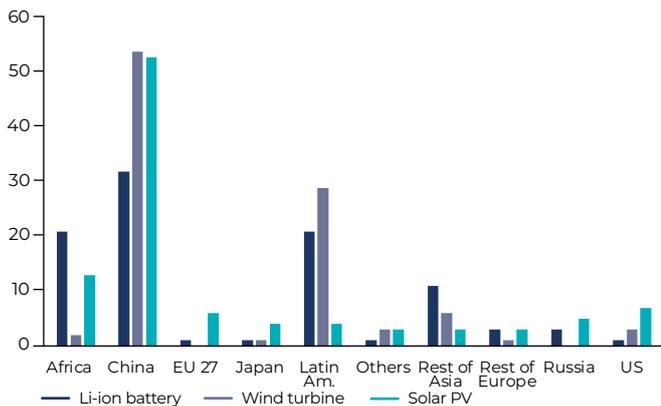
RISK ANALYSIS SYNTHESIS

In 2024, the prices of the main industrial metals should stabilize at relatively high levels, but well below the peaks reached in 2022. Indeed, 2023 was a year of falling metal prices. Copper will confirm this general trend, stabilizing at around USD 8500/t in the first half of 2024. We expect prices for the main industrial metals (copper, aluminum, and iron ore) to rise by around 2-5% in the second half of the year, except for zinc (-5%), where supply is outstripping demand.

Development in demand from the main client sectors (construction, automotive, energy) will be decisive for the sector, as will changes in the monetary policies of the world's leading central banks. The upward revision of China's growth prospects could also provide a 'silver lining' for the sector.

Overall, we expect a more positive situation for metals involved in the energy transition, particularly in the electrification of vehicle fleets and energy storage. On the one hand, it is benefiting from the dynamism of the electric vehicle segment; on the other, the Li-ion battery segment, and more broadly the energy storage segment, is receiving considerable subsidies from the American authorities and European institutions, partly to make up for their lag with Beijing. Indeed, while China leads the way in gigafactory projects currently underway (USD 129 bn), almost 75% of US investment under the *Inflation Reduction Act* will be devoted to gigafactory development (i.e. USD 64 bn).

CRITICAL RAW MATERIALS FOR STRATEGIC TECHNOLOGIES AND SECTORS IN THE EU (% OF GLOBAL PRODUCTION)



Sources: European Union, Coface

PRICES INDEX - METALS (2015=100)



Sources: LME, Coface

PAPER 

Sector risk assessments

ASIA-PACIFIC	MEDIUM
CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE	HIGH
LATIN AMERICA	MEDIUM
MIDDLE EAST & TÜRKIYE	MEDIUM
NORTH AMERICA	HIGH
WESTERN EUROPE	VERY HIGH



- Sustainable and recyclable (packaging)
- Increasing use of packaging paper due to the rise of e-commerce and increase of environmental rules



- Gradual replacement of graphic paper by digital media in view of the increasing use of digital technologies
- Packaging paper is highly vulnerable to global trade evolution
- Environmental issues (deforestation) and energy intensive

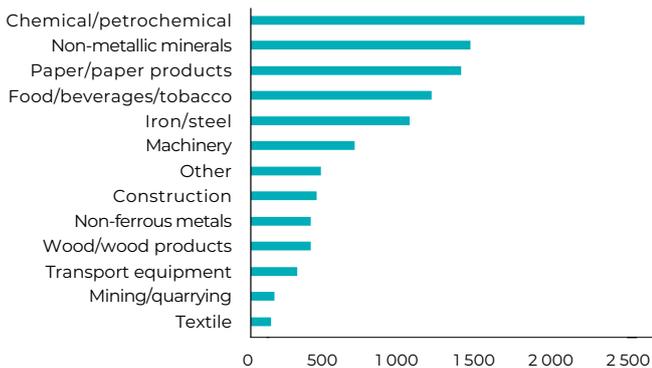
RISK ANALYSIS SYNTHESIS

2024 should confirm the difficulties encountered by the sector in 2023. Production costs remain higher than before the Russian intervention in Ukraine, and the drop in demand means that costs can no longer be passed on (as it was in 2022). The energy-intensive paper sector has been largely affected by the energy prices and production costs, whether for graphic paper or packaging.

These two components of the paper sector have increasingly distinct trends, with increasing digitalization on the one hand and the strengthening of e-commerce (packaging) on the other.

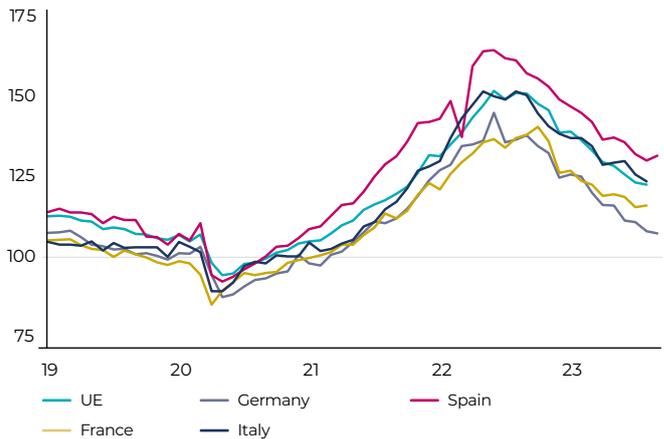
While it benefits structurally from the development of e-commerce and global trade, packaging paper will be paying for its still fragile growth in 2024, to which will be added increasingly stringent environmental considerations in Europe. At the end of 2023, the European Parliament adopted its position on the regulation on packaging and packaging waste, thereby initiating a negotiation process with the governments of the European Union (EU). Brussels is calling for progress in three key areas: a substantial reduction in «unnecessary» packaging, an increase in recycling capacity and the development of reuse. In concrete terms, European paper manufacturers will have to adapt their production facilities and their extended producer responsibility (EPR) strategies. This will require significant short- and medium-term investment on the part of companies, against a backdrop of tighter credit and falling activity. As a result, the impact on companies' viability and cash flow is likely to be considerable in the medium term, as regulatory pressure increases while their solvency deteriorates.

TOTAL FINAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION BY INDUSTRIAL SECTOR, EU, 2021 (PJ)



Sources: Eurostat, Coface

TURNOVER IN PAPER INDUSTRY (2015=100, INDEX)



Sources: national statistics institutes, Coface

PHARMACEUTICALS 

Sector risk assessments

ASIA-PACIFIC	LOW
CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE	LOW
LATIN AMERICA	MEDIUM
MIDDLE EAST & TÜRKIYE	MEDIUM
NORTH AMERICA	MEDIUM
WESTERN EUROPE	LOW



- High profitability of pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical companies
- Strong ability to innovate
- Development of public health insurance schemes in emerging countries
- Strong government support via funding
- High overall barriers to entry favouring incumbents



- Increasing competition among generics producers
- Greater access to market for biosimilars
- Pressure from payers to lower drug prices
- Regulators paying closer attention to the health impact efficiency of new therapies

RISK ANALYSIS SYNTHESIS

Even though the sector faces several challenges, pharmaceuticals (pharma) remain one of the most resilient sectors. Indeed, this sector benefits from demographic and lifestyle changes which lead to greater consumption of medicines and to the development of public health insurance schemes throughout the world.

Nevertheless, various challenges highlighted by Coface before the COVID-19 crisis persist, although the improvement in profitability induced by vaccination campaigns fades. These include pressure from payers to lower reimbursement prices for medicines, criticisms from governments over the perceived lack of transparency in pricing, difficulties in the distributor segment, and litigation related to the effects side effects of medications or minimizing dependence on certain substances. This last point is particularly acute in the United States, where the consequences of the opioid epidemic on public health are worrying. Added to this are the actions taken by the US towards Chinese companies, in particular through the indictments of several company officials.

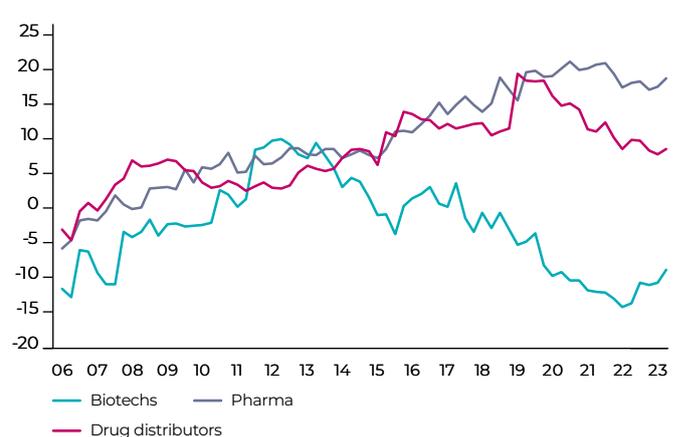
Finally, facing the loss of patents for profitable drugs, the sector must rebuild its portfolio of therapies. This generally happens through a significant and continuous effort in research and development. Another source comes from acquisitions of targets, particularly biotechs. However, the period when rates are higher and access to credit more difficult than before, can slow down not only these acquisitions, but also the development of these biotechs, whose economic model is capital-intensive.

PROFITABILITY FOR SEGMENTS IN THE PHARMACEUTICAL SECTOR (EBITDA/SALES, %)



Sources: Refinitiv, Coface

NET DEBT RATIO FOR SEGMENTS IN THE PHARMACEUTICAL SECTOR (NET DEBT/ASSET, %)



Sources: Refinitiv, Coface

RETAIL 

Sector risk assessments

ASIA-PACIFIC	MEDIUM
CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE	MEDIUM
LATIN AMERICA	VERY HIGH
MIDDLE EAST & TÜRKIYE	HIGH
NORTH AMERICA	HIGH
WESTERN EUROPE	HIGH



- Long-term growth of the Chinese middle class
- Strong urbanisation in Asia and Africa, which will boost demand



- Strong competition between players in the sector
- Pro-cyclical sector, and therefore highly affected by the economic slowdown
- Fragility of physical retail outlets in the face of the development of e-commerce

RISK ANALYSIS SYNTHESIS

In 2023, the retail sector experienced difficulties that are likely to persist into 2024. Weak economic growth coupled with high inflation (albeit on the decline) and high interest rates are weighing on both consumers (by reducing their purchasing power) and retailers (by increasing their costs and reducing their ability to borrow). However, the situation differs from one region to another: in Europe, where economic growth fell sharply in 2023, retail sales fell by 2% year-on-year from January to October 2023; in 2024, the retail sector is likely to remain under pressure: economic growth in the European Union is expected to remain weak. In the United States, sales volumes rose by 2% year-on-year in September 2023, but are expected to fall in 2024 as a result of the country's economic slowdown. In China, retail sales rose by 7% year-on-year between January and November 2023 but are expected to slow in 2024, with GDP growth expected to slow to 4.3%.

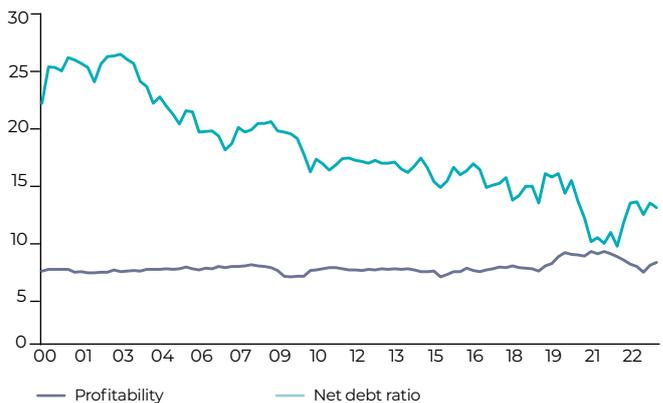
E-commerce has been booming in recent years, benefiting greatly from the confines of the global health crisis. As a result, traditional retail players have been forced to adapt to this new mode of consumption. To face up to these challenges, they need to rethink their strategies, notably by stepping up the use of new digital tools and more efficient logistics systems.

RETAIL SALES (VOLUME, YOY GROWTH)



Sources: Eurostat, US Bureau of Economic Analysis

PROFITABILITY AND NET DEBT RATIO OF RETAIL SECTOR COMPANIES



Sources: Réfinitiv Datastream, Coface

TEXTILE-CLOTHING 

Sector risk assessments

ASIA-PACIFIC	HIGH
CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE	VERY HIGH
LATIN AMERICA	VERY HIGH
MIDDLE EAST & TÜRKIYE	HIGH
NORTH AMERICA	VERY HIGH
WESTERN EUROPE	VERY HIGH



- Growth of the middle class in emerging countries
- Development of fast fashion



- Polluting sector, with volumes threatened by the circular economy and targeted by the strengthening of ESG standards
- Pro-cyclical sector, impacted by declining global growth
- Energy-intensive production

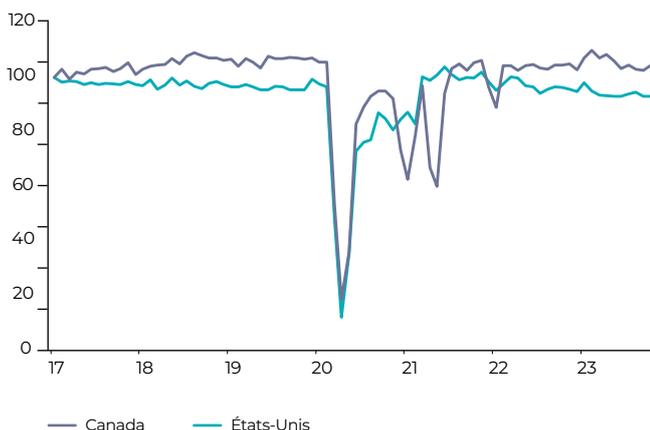
RISK ANALYSIS SYNTHESIS

The textile-clothing sector has been hit hard by the economic slowdown, having already suffered the consequences of COVID-19. Coface forecasts a slowdown in global economic activity in 2024 (2.8% after 3% in 2023), which should weigh on clothing sales. This is due to households shifting their purchasing power to essential items such as food and energy. In addition, this energy-intensive sector is suffering from high energy costs.

This shock is not affecting all players in the sector symmetrically. Traditional Western retailers are falling back sharply in the face of the crisis and competition from fast fashion and second-hand clothing platforms. Asia, with its broad manufacturing base and expanding consumer base, is concentrating growth in the luxury and online retail segments.

Growing environmental concerns could weigh on the sector in the long term: cotton production requires the use of large quantities of water, and synthetic fibres are made from oil. In addition, the fast fashion business model is based on a high renewal rate for clothing, and therefore on high consumption of water and oil. However, consumer habits are still largely guided by price, both for new and second-hand clothes, regardless of environmental concerns.

CLOTHING SALES (IN CONSTANT TERMS) IN SELECTED COUNTRIES (100 = JANUARY 2012)



Sources : Macrobond, Coface

COTTON PRICES (USD/POUND)



Sources : Refinitiv, Coface

TRANSPORT 

Sector risk assessments

ASIA-PACIFIC	HIGH
CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE	VERY HIGH
LATIN AMERICA	HIGH
MIDDLE EAST & TÜRKIYE	HIGH
NORTH AMERICA	HIGH
WESTERN EUROPE	VERY HIGH



- 
 - Technical progress contribution to cost reduction
 - Highly concentrated maritime sector
 - Long-term demand for main aircraft manufacturers driven by the need for mobility and the emergence of the middle classes in Asia
- 
 - Climatic events that can cause disruption to the maritime sector
 - Sector closely linked to the economic cycle
 - Political risk in the Red Sea that could lead to disruptions in the maritime sector

RISK ANALYSIS SYNTHESIS

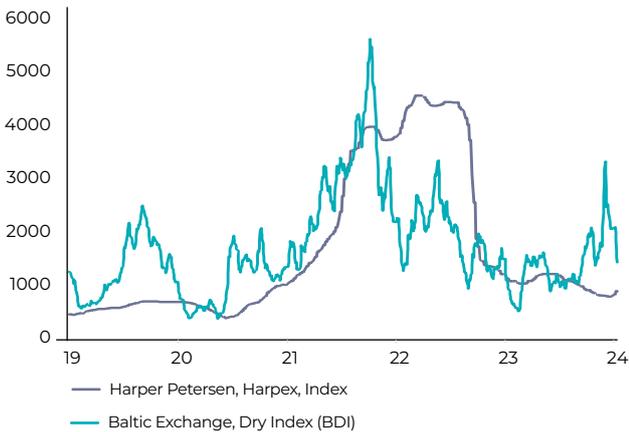
After performing very well in 2021 and 2022 (because of high freight rates and the rebound in demand for goods after the lockdowns), shipping companies are expected to see their revenues decline in 2023. High energy costs and the slowdown in economic activity, will reduce demand for goods and therefore demand for freight. This will affect all types of transport (road, rail, air and sea). In addition, high energy costs will have an effect on the margins of companies in the sector: by increasing production costs and, in the longer term, the prices of new vehicles, as manufacturers are forced to pass on part of the increase in production costs to prices.

In line with Coface’s forecasts, passenger air traffic has recovered in most regions following the lifting of mobility restrictions, but has not reached pre-pandemic levels. The number of commercial flights in 2022 increased but remained 10% below 2019 levels. Aircraft manufacturers Airbus and Boeing have benefited from a sharp rebound in orders during the recovery. However, the global economic slowdown and high energy costs are expected to reduce the number of orders in 2023.

In the longer term, the sector is expected to continue to benefit from the need for mobility, the emergence of the Indian and Chinese middle classes and the reduction in costs due to technical advances, particularly in the air and maritime segments.

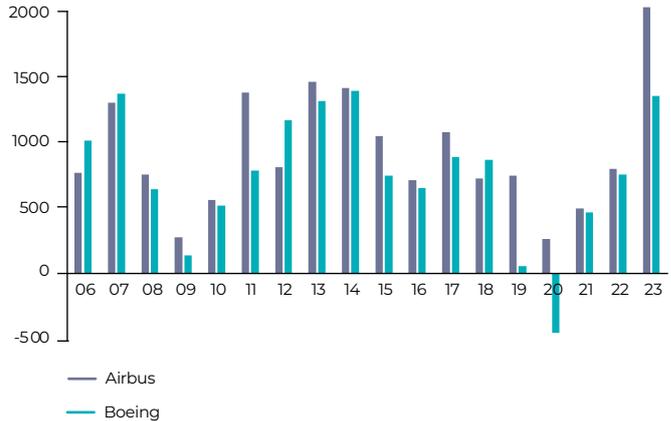
Environmental concerns and measures to combat greenhouse gas emissions or pollutants could penalise the sector responsible for 23% of CO₂ emissions. However, these concerns could be a boon for vehicle manufacturers as transport companies are forced to renew their fleets.

SEA FREIGHT RATES



Sources : Harper Peterson & Co, Baltic Exchange, Coface

NET PLANE ORDERS



Sources : Boeing, Airbus, Coface

WOOD 

Sector risk assessments

ASIA-PACIFIC	HIGH
CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE	VERY HIGH
LATIN AMERICA	HIGH
MIDDLE EAST & TÜRKIYE	HIGH
NORTH AMERICA	HIGH
WESTERN EUROPE	HIGH



- This material is being promoted as part of the boom in «sustainable» construction, aimed at limiting environmental risks.



- Dependent on the construction and paper sectors, that are in difficulties.
- Pro-cyclical sector, therefore heavily impacted by economic slowdown
- Highly impacted by high energy costs
- Substantial costs associated with efforts by industry players to adapt to stricter wood harvesting regulations in order to preserve forests

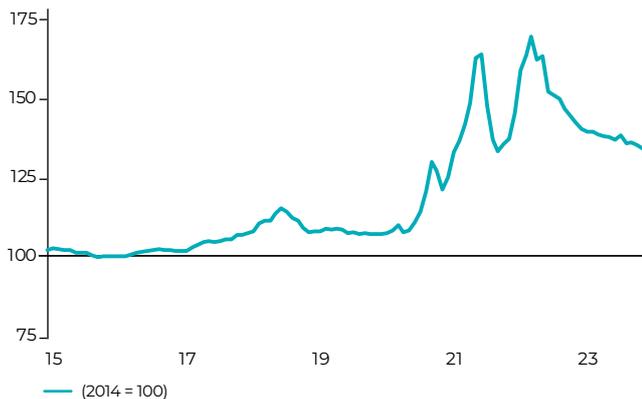
RISK ANALYSIS SYNTHESIS

In 2024, the wood sector is expected to experience a slowdown, mainly due to the challenges faced by the construction sector. The contraction in global economic growth, particularly in the United States (with a growth forecast of 1.2% in 2024 compared with 2.4% in 2023 according to Coface), combined with high interest rates to combat inflation, will naturally lead to a reduction in demand for wood, as construction is its main customer sector.

Although wood has become more competitive than other energy sources, the possibility of substitution in the short term is limited by the need for specific equipment. The war in Ukraine and sanctions against Russia, a major world producer of wood, are affecting wood supplies, forcing companies in the sector to look for other sources, which is driving up prices.

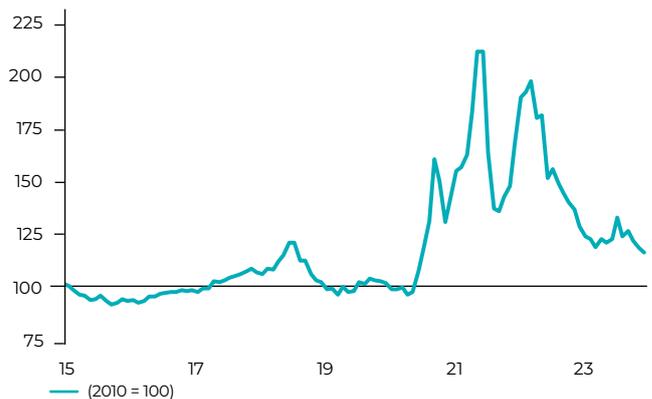
In the long term, the sector could benefit from the tightening of ESG standards, as wood is partly renewable and its combustion emits little CO₂ (when wood is burned, it only releases the CO₂ captured during its growth, so this release is cancelled out if the trees cut down are replaced). However, the wood sector is vulnerable to global warming and increasingly frequent and violent natural disasters.

WOOD PRODUCTS US PPI (1982 = 100)



Source : Federal reserve bank of Saint Louis

PRODUCER PRICE INDEX BY COMMODITY - LUMBER (2010=100)



Sources : St Louis FED, Coface

An aerial photograph of a modern city, likely Dubai, featuring a prominent skyscraper (Burj Khalifa) and a complex highway interchange. The image is used as a background for the report cover.

INTRODUCTION TO COUNTRY PROFILES

Economic record and prospects for 2024 in 160 countries

This reference guide for the analysis of country risks in the world allows you to consult 160 country assessments. It contains information that is particularly useful in the today's complex and changing economic environment. These assessments are a global analysis of corporate behaviour and business practices on a country-by-country basis.

ALBANIA

COUNTRY RISK C

BUSINESS CLIMATE C

POPULATION
Millions of persons **2.9**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **6,658**



2024 OUTLOOK

- In 2024, growth will be underpinned by household consumption, which will benefit from the easing of inflationary pressures.
- Construction and tourism will continue to support economic activity, although there is a risk that European countries will slowdown.
- The current account deficit will remain high, with the surplus on services (tourism) and secondary income (remittances) insufficient to offset the massive trade deficit, largely due to imports of energy and capital goods.
- The Prime Minister, who enjoys a majority in the Assembly, will continue his fight against corruption and organised crime in order to join the EU, for which negotiations were opened in mid-2022.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-3.3	8.9	4.8	3.5	3.0
Inflation (yearly average, %)	1.6	2.0	6.7	5.0	4.0
Budget balance (% GDP)	-6.7	-4.6	-3.7	-2.5	-3.0
Current account balance (% GDP)	-8.7	-7.7	-6.0	-6.0	-5.5
Public debt (% GDP)	75.8	75.2	65.5	63.0	62.0

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	67%
KOSOVO	8%
NORTH MACEDONIA	4%
SERBIA	3%
UNITED STATES	3%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	45%
TÜRKIYE	12%
CHINA	8%
SAUDI ARABIA	4%
SERBIA	3%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

FOOTWEAR	15%
ARTICLES OF APPAREL & CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	9%
IRON AND STEEL	7%
PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	6%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	4%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

FOOTWEAR	2%
TEXTILE YARN AND RELATED PRODUCTS	1%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	1%
FEEDSTUFF FOR ANIMALS (EXCLUDING UNMILLED CEREALS)	1%
ROAD VEHICLES	1%



- Price competitiveness of labour and potential productivity gains
- Effective monetary policy to curb inflation
- Mining, energy and tourism potential
- Proximity to the Italian market (Strait of Otranto)
- Opening of EU accession negotiations in July 2022



- Underdeveloped road, tourism and energy infrastructure (subject to rainfall)
- Large informal economy and corruption, detrimental to state revenues and attractiveness of the region
- Private consumption central to growth, despite poverty and unemployment
- Low value-added, weak and undiversified exports: tourism, clothing, foodstuffs, especially to Italy
- Low investment
- Brain drain and dependence on expatriate remittances (9% of GDP by 2022)

ALGERIA

COUNTRY RISK C

BUSINESS CLIMATE C

POPULATION
Millions of persons **45.3**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **4,307**



2024 OUTLOOK

- Economic growth will stagnate, while oil production remains constrained by under-investment. The gas sector will continue to expand, thanks to strong demand from Europeans, who are stepping up their LNG investment projects.
- In the absence of a clear upturn in energy prices and a sharp rise in production, the current account surplus will shrink under the influence of stronger domestic demand.
- The social risk will remain contained thanks to the maintenance of subsidies in the run-up to the presidential elections at the end of 2024, aggravating the public deficit.
- Algeria continues to balance its relations with the West and Russia, which remains its preferred arms supplier.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	64%
TÜRKIYE	5%
UNITED KINGDOM	4%
UNITED STATES	4%
SOUTH KOREA	4%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	28%
CHINA	17%
BRAZIL	6%
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	5%
TÜRKIYE	5%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	58%
PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	37%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	1%
FERTILIZERS, NOT CRUDE	1%
INORGANIC CHEMICALS	1%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

IRON AND STEEL	9%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	8%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	6%
ROAD VEHICLES	5%
PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	5%



- Large oil and gas reserves; significant potential for shale gas development
- Potential in agriculture, renewable energies and tourism
- Favourable geographical position, close to the European market
- Low external debt



- High dependence on hydrocarbon revenues (90% of exports and 60% of budget revenues)
- High youth unemployment rate, low opportunities for graduates
- Excessive weight of an inefficient public sector
- Public deficit financed by drawing on reserves and monetisation by the central bank
- Poor infrastructure
- Bureaucratic red tape, corruption, financial sector weaknesses and uncertain business environment
- Disruptive parallel Algerian dinar market

ANGOLA 

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	C
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	D

POPULATION
Millions of persons **35.7**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **3,438**



2024 OUTLOOK

- Activity will accelerate modestly in 2024, reflecting a marginal increase in hydrocarbon production. Growth will come mainly from construction (Lobito rail corridor with DRC and Zambia) and the agricultural sector.
- Private consumption will remain weak, due to a resurgence in inflation linked to the gradual abolition of fuel subsidies, and the maintenance of a restrictive monetary policy (key rate at 17%).
- A reduction in social spending combined with the maintenance of public revenues, supported by high oil prices, could bring the budget balance back into surplus.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-5.6	1.2	3.0	0.5	1.5
Inflation (yearly average, %)	22.3	25.8	21.4	13.0	17.0
Budget balance (% GDP)	-1.9	3.8	0.7	-1.0	0.5
Current account balance (% GDP)	1.5	11.2	9.6	3.0	3.5
Public debt (% GDP)	138.9	86.8	66.7	85.0	77.0

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	45%
EURO AREA	24%
INDIA	10%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	3%
UNITED KINGDOM	3%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	31%
CHINA	15%
SOUTH KOREA	10%
INDIA	6%
UNITED STATES	5%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	85%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	8%
CRUDE FERTILIZERS AND CRUDE MINERALS	5%
FISH, CRUSTACEANS, MOLLUSCS AND PREPS THEREOF	0%
POWER GENERATING MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT	0%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	9%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	8%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	8%
ROAD VEHICLES	6%
SPECIALISED MACHINERY	5%



- Significant oil production, producer of liquefied natural gas and diamonds, with development prospects
- Considerable economic potential: iron, gold, leather, agriculture, fishing, hydroelectric resources
- International and bilateral financial support



- Highly dependent on hydrocarbons (90% of exports, 60% of budget revenues and 33% of GDP) and on China (debt and exports)
- Depletion of existing oil fields
- Poor business environment: corruption, bureaucracy, slow pace of reform
- Poor infrastructure
- High unemployment (52% among young people), strong social inequalities, poverty and regional disparities
- Still heavy public debt
- Conflict with separatists in the Cabinda exclave

ARGENTINA 

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	D
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	B

POPULATION
Millions of persons **46.3**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **13,620**



2024 OUTLOOK

- The libertarian Javier Milei took office as the new president in December 2023. He plans to tackle the economic crisis with drastic reforms (deep public spending cuts, shutting the central bank, dollarization). However, legislative opposition is likely to force him to moderate his approach.
- The economy will remain in recession through 2024, as consumption will be weighed down by massive fiscal tightening and still-substantial inflation. In addition, heightened political uncertainty will continue to hamper investment.
- Milei's plan to slash public spending quickly amid already high poverty is likely to lead to social tensions.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

BRAZIL	14%
EURO AREA	11%
CHINA	9%
UNITED STATES	8%
CHILE	6%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	21%
BRAZIL	20%
UNITED STATES	13%
EURO AREA	12%
BOLIVIA	3%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	18%
FEEDSTUFF FOR ANIMALS (EXCL. UNMILLED CEREALS)	15%
FIXED VEG. OILS & FATS, CRUDE, REFINED/FRACTIONATED	9%
ROAD VEHICLES	7%
PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	5%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

ROAD VEHICLES	10%
PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	9%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	6%
OFFICE MACHINES & AUTO DATA PROCESS. MACHINES	5%
ORGANIC CHEMICALS	5%



- Large economy and domestic market
- Major agricultural player (notably soya, wheat and corn)
- Large shale oil & gas, gold and lithium reserves
- Education level higher than the regional average



- Weak fiscal accounts and dependence on IMF financing
- Capital controls and import restrictions due to the very low level of foreign exchange reserves
- Dependence on agricultural commodity prices and weather conditions
- Sticky and skyrocketing inflation despite price regulation
- High domestic political and social tensions
- Poverty affects more than 40% of the population
- High labour informality (around 40% of total workers)

ARMENIA

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	B
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	B

POPULATION Millions of persons	3.0
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars	6,587



2024 OUTLOOK

- Benefiting less from the arrival of Russian companies and citizens with their capital, which caused a surprising rise in GDP in 2022 and again in 2023, through services and construction, the country's growth should moderate in 2024. This growth could be impacted by further clashes with Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh.
- The current account balance will remain negative, with demand for imported goods outstripping exports, and a slowdown in expatriate remittances (mainly from Russia).
- Despite increased military spending, the public deficit will remain modest and the public debt/GDP ratio below the 60% target.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-7.2	5.8	12.6	8.0	5.0
Inflation (yearly average, %)	1.2	7.2	8.6	2.5	3.5
Budget balance (% GDP)	-5.4	-4.6	-2.1	-2.7	-3.2
Current account balance (% GDP)	-4.0	-3.5	0.8	-2.2	-3.0
Public debt (% GDP)	67.4	63.4	49.2	47.9	48.4

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

RUSSIA	45%
EURO AREA	10%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	10%
CHINA	7%
SWITZERLAND	5%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

RUSSIA	30%
CHINA	16%
EURO AREA	14%
IRAN	7%
UNITED STATES	4%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	27%
NON METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES	7%
TOBACCO AND TOBACCO MANUFACTURES	7%
BEVERAGES	7%
IRON AND STEEL	6%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

ROAD VEHICLES	9%
PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	7%
NON METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES	7%
TELECOM. & SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	7%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	6%



- Significant mineral resources (gold, copper, molybdenum, zinc)
- Comfortable foreign exchange reserves and relative flexibility of the dram exchange rate
- Member of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and partnership agreement with the European Union (EU)
- Willingness to reform in terms of corruption, justice and competition



- Strong dependence on Russia (security, trade, expatriate remittances and FDI)
- Banking system still heavily dollarized, public debt denominated in foreign currencies
- High and persistent levels of poverty (27% of the population) and unemployment (13%)
- Armed conflict with Azerbaijan over the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave, which may lead to occasional clashes

AUSTRALIA

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	A2
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	A1

POPULATION Millions of persons	26.3
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars	64,814



2024 OUTLOOK

- Cost-of-living pressures, higher interest rates and weaker growth of Australia's major trading partners will continue to weigh on domestic demand.
- Household consumption to weaken as disposal income is squeezed, but Stage 3 tax cuts could support income and consumption from mid-2024.
- Subdued economic growth should see a rise in unemployment.
- Private investment growth may soften. Construction sector should remain under pressure on weak demand for new housing and cash-flow issues.
- Consumer inflation will remain high and broadly based, with higher energy prices adding to price pressures.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-1.9	5.2	3.7	1.7	1.3
Inflation (yearly average, %)	0.9	2.8	6.6	5.8	4.5
Budget balance* (% GDP)	-8.7	-6.5	-2.3	-1.4	-2.2
Current account balance (% GDP)	2.2	3.0	1.1	1.4	1.0
Public debt (% GDP)	57.2	55.9	50.7	51.9	55.6

(f): Forecast. * Fiscal year 2024: 1st July 2024 - 30th June 2025.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	29%
JAPAN	19%
SOUTH KOREA	9%
TAIWAN	5%
INDIA	5%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	27%
EURO AREA	12%
UNITED STATES	10%
SOUTH KOREA	6%
JAPAN	6%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	29%
COAL, COKE AND BRIQUETTES	26%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	9%
GOLD, NON-MONETARY	5%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	4%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	15%
ROAD VEHICLES	12%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	5%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	5%
TELECOM. & SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	5%



- Geographic proximity to dynamic Asian economies, member of RCEP
- Rich endowment in mineral resources
- Moderate levels of public debt
- High tourism potential



- Exposed to commodity price volatility (specifically iron ore, coal and LNG)
- Economy remains dependent on Chinese demand
- Substantial household debt (183% of gross disposable income)
- Shortage of infrastructure due to the country's vast territory
- Vulnerable to climate change (bushfires and droughts)
- Disparity between federated states

AUSTRIA

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	A3
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	A1
POPULATION Millions of persons		9.0
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars		52,192



2024 OUTLOOK

- The Austrian economy should slowly recover, supported by a noticeable decrease in the inflation rate together with a moderate increase of nominal wages that should push the purchasing power of private households.
- Robust tourism numbers should support economic growth as well.
- According to the current polls, the right-wing FPÖ (30%) should win the general election in October 2024 before the Social Democrats (SPÖ, 24%) and the Christian Democrats (ÖVP, 20%). If the other parties want to avoid an FPÖ-lead government, they have to step out of their comfort zone and form the very first three-party coalition including the SPÖ and ÖVP.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-6.7	4.4	4.8	-0.7	0.4
Inflation (yearly average, %)	1.4	2.7	8.6	7.8	4.3
Budget balance (% GDP)	-8.0	-5.8	-3.5	-2.7	-2.5
Current account balance (% GDP)	3.4	1.6	-0.3	2.2	2.6
Public debt (% GDP)	83.0	82.5	78.4	78.8	79.2

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

GERMANY	29%
ITALY	7%
UNITED STATES	6%
SWITZERLAND	5%
FRANCE	4%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

GERMANY	38%
ITALY	6%
NETHERLANDS	5%
CZECH REPUBLIC	5%
SWITZERLAND	5%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

ROAD VEHICLES	9%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES	7%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	6%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	6%
IRON AND STEEL	5%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

ROAD VEHICLES	8%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES	6%
PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	5%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	5%
MANUFACTURES OF METAL	4%



- High standard of living (GDP per capita relatively high compared to the neighbouring countries)
- Industrial and tertiary diversification, high added value
- 32% of energy consumption (including imports) sourced from renewable supplies (2022), main source is hydro-energy, share of renewable energy in power production is 86%
- Major tourist destination (10th worldwide in 2022, tourism represented 6.2% of the Austrian GDP in 2022)



- Very dependent on the German and, to a lesser extent, Central/Eastern European economies
- Banking sector exposed to Central-Eastern European and Balkan countries
- Not a member of NATO, no application for membership officially intended

AZERBAIJAN

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	B
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	C
POPULATION Millions of persons		10.2
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars		7,751



2024 OUTLOOK

- Growth should pick up in 2024, driven by household consumption, investment and net exports.
- The slowdown in inflation (helped in part by domestic price regulation) will support household consumption.
- The current account will remain in surplus, thanks to hydrocarbon exports (oil and gas).
- The surplus on the budget balance will shrink, due to lower oil revenues (due to lower production), but also to an increase in spending, particularly in the defence sector (with a share of 18%).

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-4.2	5.6	4.6	2.0	2.3
Inflation (yearly average, %)	2.8	6.7	13.9	9.4	4.7
Budget balance* (% GDP)	-6.4	4.1	6.3	2.0	0.4
Current account balance (% GDP)	21.3	26.3	17.3	18.3	18.0
Public debt (% GDP)	-0.5	15.1	29.8	12.4	13.4

(f): Forecast. * SOFAZ transfers included.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	61%
TÜRKIYE	9%
ISRAEL	4%
INDIA	4%
RUSSIA	3%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

RUSSIA	19%
TÜRKIYE	16%
CHINA	14%
EURO AREA	13%
TURKMENISTAN	4%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	50%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	40%
VEGETABLES AND FRUITS	2%
PLASTICS IN PRIMARY FORMS	1%
NON-FERROUS METALS	1%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

ROAD VEHICLES	9%
PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	8%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	5%
IRON AND STEEL	5%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	5%



- Well-endowed sovereign wealth fund thanks to hydrocarbon production and the state's position as a net external creditor
- Significant gas potential in the Caspian Sea
- Launch of gas exports to Europe via Türkiye and Greece in late 2020
- Strategic position between Europe, Russia and China



- Low economic diversification, high dependence on hydrocarbons (50% of GDP, 90% of exports and ~66% of tax revenues), declining oil resources
- Fragile, opaque and dollarized banking system, underdeveloped credit
- Corruption, low competition, repression, politicised judiciary
- Armed conflict with Armenia over Nagorno-Karabakh
- Low population growth and ageing

BAHAMAS

COUNTRY RISK **B**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **A4**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **0.4**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **32,299**



2024 OUTLOOK

- Growth will be held back by the slowdown in domestic consumption and tourism from the USA but will be supported by FDI in tourism construction.
- Broadening the tax base, improving tax collection, and controlling spending will reduce the public deficit, assuming a moderate slowdown in local US consumption.
- Political stability is set to continue until the 2026 elections, with a large majority for the center-left Progressive Liberal Party, led by Prime Minister Philip Davis.
- Popular discontent will be fuelled by high crime rates and inflationary pressures.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-23.5	17.0	14.4	4.3	1.8
Inflation (yearly average, %)	0.0	2.9	5.6	3.9	3.2
Budget balance* (% GDP)	-7.4	-13.1	-5.8	-3.6	-2.8
Current account balance (% GDP)	-23.4	-21.1	-13.6	-9.5	-8.8
Public debt* (% GDP)	74.3	100.3	88.8	84.2	83.7

(f): Forecast. * Fiscal year: July 1st to June 30th (2024: July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024).

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	98%
EURO AREA	1%
UNITED KINGDOM	0%
CANADA	0%
THAILAND	0%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	81%
SAUDI ARABIA	4%
EURO AREA	3%
CANADA	1%
PANAMA	1%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	43%
OTHER TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	26%
PLASTICS IN PRIMARY FORMS	7%
FISH, CRUSTACEANS, MOLLUSCS & PREPS THEREOF	5%
CRUDE FERTILIZERS AND CRUDE MINERALS	4%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	39%
OTHER TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	10%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	4%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	3%
ROAD VEHICLES	3%



- Well-established tourism sector, benefiting from proximity to the North American market
- International banking and financial services center
- Institutional stability



- Dependence on tourism (around 50% of GDP and 70% of workforce) and on the United States (tourism, trade, USD peg)
- High exposure to natural disasters and the effects of climate change
- Insularity and small size: dependence transport, food and energy imports, leading to a large current account deficit
- High public debt
- High crime rate, particularly associated with drug trafficking
- Considered a tax haven, subject to increased scrutiny: added to EU list in October 2022

BAHRAIN

COUNTRY RISK **D**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **A4**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **1.5**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **28,781**



2024 OUTLOOK

- Bahraini growth is expected to remain firm in 2024, mainly on higher energy prices, easing monetary policy and stronger growth in exports.
- In 2024, increasing hydrocarbon prices will result in a wider current account surplus.
- Oil prices on the spot market stand well below the fiscal breakeven oil price for Bahrain, estimated at USD 126 per barrel, which will continue to weigh on the fiscal balance.
- No major political tension is expected in the short-term. In the longer term, the political scene seems complicated due to the feeling of the Shia population of being marginalised in political and economic terms.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-4.6	2.7	4.2	2.8	3.5
Inflation (yearly average, %)	-2.3	-0.6	3.6	1	2
Budget balance (% GDP)	-16.3	-11.6	-5.6	-7.0	-5
Current account balance (% GDP)	-9.4	6.6	9.1	4.5	6
Public debt* (% GDP)	128.5	126.3	117.6	125	125

(f): Forecast. * General government gross debt.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

SAUDI ARABIA	17%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	10%
UNITED STATES	6%
EURO AREA	5%
OMAN	4%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	14%
EURO AREA	12%
BRAZIL	11%
AUSTRALIA	9%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	8%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

NON-FERROUS METALS	29%
PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	23%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	12%
IRON AND STEEL	5%
MANUFACTURES OF METAL	4%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	21%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	14%
ROAD VEHICLES	5%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	4%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	3%



- Solid banking sector, developed financial hub
- More diversified economy compared with its GCC neighbours
- Large aluminium exports, making Bahrain the eighth largest exporter in the World
- Support of other Gulf countries, and hydrocarbon revenues



- High fiscal and external breakeven oil prices
- High level of public debt
- Fiscal and export dependence on oil and aluminum sales, exposure to volatility in commodity prices
- Instable political landscape

BANGLADESH

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	C
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	C

POPULATION Millions of persons	168.5
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars	2,731



2024 OUTLOOK

- Growth should decelerate in FY2024 due to external sector challenges and persistent (albeit diminishing) inflationary pressures impacting private consumption.
- Exports will remain buoyant, but the sluggishness of the European economy may affect the sector.
- Tight monetary policy will hamper the economy by impacting private investment.
- The current account deficit to narrow marginally, supported by an increase in remittances and a moderate growth in exports.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	3.4	6.9	7.1	5.9	5.7
Inflation (yearly average, %)	5.6	5.6	6.1	9.0	7.2
Budget balance (% GDP)	-4.8	-3.6	-4.6	-5.2	-5.0
Current account balance (% GDP)	-1.5	-1.1	-4.1	-0.7	-0.5
Public debt (% GDP)	34.2	35.5	36.2	37.7	38.3

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	37%
UNITED STATES	20%
UNITED KINGDOM	9%
POLAND	4%
INDIA	4%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	24%
INDIA	16%
MALAYSIA	5%
SINGAPORE	4%
INDONESIA	4%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

ARTICLES OF APPAREL & CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	83%
TEXTILE YARN AND RELATED PRODUCTS	5%
FOOTWEAR	2%
FISH, CRUSTACEANS, MOLLUSCS & PREPS THEREOF	1%
TEXTILES FIBRES AND THEIR WASTES	1%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

TEXTILE YARN AND RELATED PRODUCTS	16%
TEXTILES FIBRES AND THEIR WASTES	8%
PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	7%
FIXED VEG.OILS & FATS, CRUDE, REFINED/FRACTIONATED	6%
IRON AND STEEL	5%



- Competitive garment sector
- Substantial remittances from expatriate workers (mainly from Gulf States)
- International aid helps to cover financing needs
- Moderate level of public debt
- Favourable demographics
- Improving financial inclusion through micro-finance and mobile services



- Economy vulnerable to changes in global textile sector and developments in GCC countries
- Very low per capita income
- Recurring and growing political, religious and social tensions
- Business climate shortcomings; lack of infrastructure
- Recurring natural disasters result in significant damage and crop losses
- Weak banking sector

BARBADOS

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	C
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	A4

POPULATION Millions of persons	0.3
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars	19,648



2024 OUTLOOK

- The continuing recovery in tourism should continue to support activity, but it will remain dependent on the slowdown in the UK, the US and Canada.
- Fiscal consolidation efforts under the aegis of the IMF, notably the reform of state-owned enterprises, are helping to reduce the public deficit. As a result, public debt will remain on a downward trajectory.
- The positive impact of tourism on the current account deficit will be largely wiped out by the rise in imports linked to the rebound in consumption and investment.
- Following her party's landslide victory in the general election, Prime Minister Mia Mottley began her second term in January 2022.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-13.3	-0.2	9.8	4.5	3.5
Inflation (yearly average, %)	0.5	1.5	5.0	5.0	3.0
Budget balance* (% GDP)	-4.8	-4.8	-2.1	-1.5	-1.2
Current account balance (% GDP)	-5.9	-11.2	-11.1	-8.0	-7.5
Public debt (% GDP)	148.8	135.1	122.5	115.0	107.5

(f): Forecast. * Fiscal year from April 1st to March 31st (2024: April 1st, 2024 to March 31st, 2025).

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	27%
JAMAICA	11%
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	10%
GUYANA	9%
ST. LUCIA	7%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	40%
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	19%
EURO AREA	8%
UNITED KINGDOM	5%
CHINA	4%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

BEVERAGES	20%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	13%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	7%
PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	7%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	5%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	23%
ROAD VEHICLES	18%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	4%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	4%
MANUFACTURES OF METAL	3%



- Popular tourist destination
- Growing reputation as an international centre for financial services
- Strong institutions for effective governance
- High foreign exchange reserves (nearly 7 months of imports)
- Member of CARICOM



- Dependence on tourism, particularly from the UK, USA and Canada
- Exposed to the effects of climate change and hazards, as well as the volcanic activity of La Soufrière on the neighbouring island of St Vincent
- Dependence on imports of food, equipment and energy, accentuated by insularity
- High unemployment (over 9% by mid-2022), widespread poverty
- Despite some progress on transparency, jurisdiction under FATF supervision

BELARUS

COUNTRY RISK **D**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **B**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **9.3**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **7,869**



2024 OUTLOOK

- Growth will moderate in 2024, after recovering in 2023 (partly due to a base effect). Growth will be driven by household consumption and investment, while net exports will have a negative impact.
- Import restrictions and the depreciation of the rouble will exert upward pressure on inflation, despite the government's price controls.
- European sanctions and Russia's deteriorating economy will have a negative impact on the current account balance.
- The budget balance will remain negative: the expected increase in revenues will not be enough to offset the rise in spending, particularly on defence.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-0.7	2.3	-3.7	3.7	2.3
Inflation (yearly average, %)	5.5	9.5	15.2	5.2	5.8
Budget balance (% GDP)	-2.9	-1.7	-3.9	-1.3	-1.9
Current account balance (% GDP)	-0.3	3.2	3.7	0.7	-0.1
Public debt (% GDP)	47.5	41.2	41.3	44.1	44.2

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

RUSSIA	59%
EURO AREA	8%
CHINA	5%
POLAND	4%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	4%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

RUSSIA	65%
CHINA	10%
EURO AREA	9%
POLAND	2%
TÜRKIYE	2%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

DAIRY PRODUCTS AND BIRDS' EGGS	12%
FERTILIZERS, NOT CRUDE	8%
ROAD VEHICLES	7%
PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	7%
MEAT AND MEAT PREPARATIONS	5%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	22%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	16%
IRON AND STEEL	5%
ROAD VEHICLES	4%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	3%



- Member of the Eurasian Economic Union
- Relatively well trained and skilled workforce
- Large industrial (33% of GDP in 2022) and agricultural (8% of GDP) sectors
- Little inequality and poverty is rare



- High economic (energy, trade and financial) dependence on Russia
- Low geographical and sectoral diversification of exports
- State plays a massive role in the economy
- Poor governance (high corruption, weak legal system, institutional rigidity, absence of pluralism)
- Monetary policy is not independent, the central bank reports directly to the President
- Shrinking labour force

BELGIUM

COUNTRY RISK **A2**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **A1**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **11.6**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **49,843**



2024 OUTLOOK

- The Belgium economy proved to be very resilient as the automatic indexation of wages balanced out the high inflation rate and kept the purchasing power of private households stable.
- In 2024, private consumption should remain a key driver for economic growth as well as foreign trade.
- Public deficit will remain elevated due to the wage adaptation of public employees and social benefits.
- After the election in June 2024, it should take a long time to form a coalition and probably result again in the wide "Vivaldi-coalition" out of seven parties, to keep the extremist parties out of power.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-5.2	6.9	3.0	1.4	1.3
Inflation (yearly average, %)	0.7	2.4	9.6	4.1	2.6
Budget balance (% GDP)	-8.9	-5.4	-3.5	-5.0	-5.0
Current account balance (% GDP)	1.4	1.3	-1.0	-0.5	-0.3
Public debt (% GDP)	111.8	108.0	104.4	107.6	107.9

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

GERMANY	21%
NETHERLANDS	14%
FRANCE	13%
UNITED STATES	6%
UNITED KINGDOM	5%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

NETHERLANDS	18%
GERMANY	12%
FRANCE	9%
CHINA	6%
UNITED STATES	6%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

ORGANIC CHEMICALS	17%
PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	11%
ROAD VEHICLES	8%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	8%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	4%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	14%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	11%
PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	10%
ROAD VEHICLES	9%
ORGANIC CHEMICALS	6%



- Optimal trade-strategic location between the United Kingdom, Germany and France
- Ports of Antwerp (second-largest in Europe) and Zeebrugge
- Presence of European institutions, international organisations and global groups
- Well-trained workforce thanks to vocational education, multilingualism



- Political and financial tensions between Flanders and Wallonia
- Complex institutional structure and multiple administrative levels
- Very dependent on the Western European economy: exports of goods and services = 86% of GDP, of which almost 60% go to the rest of the EU
- Exports concentrated on intermediate products
- Heavy public debt

BELIZE

COUNTRY RISK **C**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **C**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **0.4**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **6,758**



2024 OUTLOOK

- Growth will be underpinned by the continued recovery in tourism, with arrivals expected to return to pre-pandemic levels, helped by the development of infrastructure. It will nevertheless be subject to the slowdown in the United States, the main market and source of tourists and investment.
- The current account deficit is likely to shrink only moderately, as the rise in tourism receipts is offset by the increase in tourism-induced imports.
- Continued fiscal consolidation will limit the public deficit, without remedying the weakness of fiscal resources. Debt servicing remains high, even though its partial restructuring in 2021 has reduced its cost.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-13.4	15.2	12.7	4.0	3.0
Inflation (yearly average, %)	0.1	3.2	6.3	3.5	1.5
Budget balance* (% GDP)	-8.4	-3.2	-0.7	-0.5	-0.5
Current account balance (% GDP)	-6.2	-6.3	-7.3	-6.5	-6.0
Public debt (% GDP)	101.4	80.1	63.4	59.5	57.0

(f): Forecast. * Fiscal year 2024 from April 1st 2024 to March 31st. 2025.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	25%
UNITED KINGDOM	20%
EURO AREA	14%
GUATEMALA	11%
HONDURAS	7%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	42%
CHINA	18%
MEXICO	10%
GUATEMALA	8%
EURO AREA	3%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

VEGETABLES AND FRUITS	21%
SUGAR, SUGAR PREPARATIONS AND HONEY	18%
OTHER TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	17%
FISH, CRUSTACEANS, MOLLUSCS & PREPS THEREOF	8%
MEAT AND MEAT PREPARATIONS	7%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	13%
TOBACCO AND TOBACCO MANUFACTURES	5%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	4%
MISCELLANEOUS EDIBLE PROD. & PREPARATIONS	4%
OTHER TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	4%



- Competitive tourist industry
- Agricultural resources (sugar cane, citrus fruit, bananas), aquaculture and fisheries
- Mining potential (gold, bauxite, baryte, cassiterite)
- Support from international and bilateral lenders
- Currency pegged to the dollar
- Comfortable foreign exchange reserves



- High level of debt, limited access to international markets
- Underdeveloped manufacturing sector leading to dependence on imports, particularly energy imports
- Non-diversified exports (cane sugar, bananas, shrimps, cigars, fruit juices)
- Exposure to climatic events
- Dependence on tourism
- High level of crime, with drug trafficking, money laundering and corruption as a backdrop
- Public under-investment in infrastructure

BENIN

COUNTRY RISK **B**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **C**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **13.4**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **1,303**



2024 OUTLOOK

- Growth will remain strong, driven by public spending (construction: extension of Cotonou port, energy, sanitation, Glo-Djigbé industrial zone), cotton and transit activity. Inflationary pressures will ease, supporting private consumption.
- A reduction in the public deficit is expected, in line with the reduction in fuel subsidies and the broadening of the tax base, while military spending is likely to remain high due to the increased jihadist threat in the north.
- The erosion of democratic standards under President Patrice Talon could lead to political unrest in a fragile social context.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	3.8	7.2	5.7	6.2	6.0
Inflation (yearly average, %)	3.0	1.7	1.4	3.0	2.0
Budget balance (% GDP)	-4.7	-5.7	-5.5	-4.5	-3.5
Current account balance (% GDP)	-1.7	-4.4	-6.0	-5.5	-4.5
Public debt (% GDP)	46.1	49.9	54.8	55.5	54.5

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

BANGLADESH	42%
INDIA	15%
CHINA	6%
PAKISTAN	5%
TOGO	4%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	20%
INDIA	16%
CHINA	14%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	7%
NIGERIA	5%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

OIL SEEDS AND OLEAGINOUS FRUITS	27%
TEXTILES FIBRES AND THEIR WASTES	24%
VEGETABLES AND FRUITS	18%
PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	6%
GOLD, NON-MONETARY	5%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	18%
ROAD VEHICLES	8%
PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	7%
TEXTILE YARN AND RELATED PRODUCTS	7%
IRON AND STEEL	6%



- High growth potential, based in particular on tourism, cashew nuts and re-exports, and imports of energy and food
- Support from multinational organizations and bilateral partners
- Strategic position (access to the sea for hinterland countries: commissioning of a 2,000 km pipeline from Niger to Benin)
- Effective structural reforms: investment and fiscal consolidation



- Poorly diversified economy (exports based on cotton, cashew nuts and re-exports, and imports of energy and food)
- Weak governance: corruption, bureaucracy, political and judicial arbitrariness
- High poverty rate (47%), high level of underemployment (70%) and large informal sector
- Insecurity in the north due to Islamists

BOLIVIA

COFACE ASSESSMENTS

COUNTRY RISK D

BUSINESS CLIMATE B

POPULATION
Millions of persons **12.0**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **3,705**



2024 OUTLOOK

- Exports will weigh on growth in 2024. Soybean exports may suffer from El Niño and declining prices. Buyers of natural gas (Brazil, Argentina) will increasingly turn to alternative sources.
- Private consumption and investment will still benefit from high public spending.
- The low foreign exchange reserves and distrust could force a departure from the dollar peg, exposing the country to a debt crisis and increased inflation. The Central Bank is buying gold to exchange for dollars.
- Government efficiency will be hindered by the internal rift within the ruling left-wing party, until the general elections in 2025.

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-8.7	6.1	3.5	2.5	2.0
Inflation (yearly average, %)	0.9	0.7	1.7	3.0	4.4
Budget balance (% GDP)	-12.7	-9.3	-7.1	-5.7	-5.7
Current account balance (% GDP)	0.0	2.1	-0.4	-2.7	-3.5
Public debt (% GDP)	78.0	81.4	80.0	81.0	82.0

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

INDIA	17%
BRAZIL	14%
ARGENTINA	13%
EURO AREA	7%
JAPAN	7%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	20%
BRAZIL	15%
ARGENTINA	13%
CHILE	11%
UNITED STATES	9%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

GOLD, NON-MONETARY	24%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	23%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	19%
FEEDSTUFF FOR ANIMALS (EXCL. UNMILLED CEREALS)	7%
FIXED VEG. OILS & FATS, CRUDE, REFINED/FRACTIONATED	7%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	25%
ROAD VEHICLES	9%
IRON AND STEEL	5%
SPECIALISED MACHINERY	5%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	4%



- Significant mineral resources (natural gas, gold, zinc, silver, tin, lead, lithium reserves) and agricultural resources (soy, quinoa)
- 15th largest global exporter of natural gas
- Member of the Andean Community and an associate member of Mercosur
- Tourism potential
- Boliviano currency pegged to the U.S. dollar



- Economically undiversified, reliant on imports of fuels and equipment, and dependent on commodity prices
- Low development of the private sector and a strong reliance on the public sector
- Significant informality
- Poor business environment, characterized by insecurity, drug trafficking, and corruption
- Risks of social unrest in a politically polarized country
- Limited access to external financing
- Risk of a balance of payments and/or debt crisis

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

COFACE ASSESSMENTS

COUNTRY RISK C

BUSINESS CLIMATE B

POPULATION
Millions of persons **3.5**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **7,060**



2024 OUTLOOK

- In 2024, growth will be underpinned by public investment, particularly in large-scale infrastructure projects such as the Vc Corridor motorway that will link the north and south of the country.
- Despite the moderation in inflation, private consumption will weaken as remittances from expatriate workers fall in line with the reform of European countries.
- The fall in exports of goods (aluminum, electricity) and services (tourism), also linked to the sluggishness in Europe, will weigh on growth.
- Discord between the Bosnians, Croats and Serbs will delay negotiations for EU membership, which were opened at the end of 2022.

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-3.0	7.4	3.9	2.0	2.5
Inflation (yearly average, %)	-1.1	2.0	14.0	5.5	3.0
Budget balance (% GDP)	-5.2	-0.3	-0.4	-1.0	-1.5
Current account balance (% GDP)	-3.2	-2.4	-4.5	-4.5	-4.0
Public debt (% GDP)	36.0	34.6	29.7	28.5	28.0

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	66%
SERBIA	13%
MONTENEGRO	3%
HUNGARY	2%
POLAND	2%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	48%
SERBIA	11%
CHINA	8%
TÜRKIYE	6%
UNITED STATES	3%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

MANUFACTURES OF METAL	9%
ARTICLES OF APPAREL & CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	7%
ELECTRIC CURRENT	7%
FURNITURE AND PARTS THEREOF	6%
FOOTWEAR	6%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	10%
IRON AND STEEL	6%
NON-FERROUS METALS	5%
ROAD VEHICLES	5%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	4%



- Significant transfers from expatriate workers
- Currency pegged to the euro
- EU candidate status since 2022
- Tourism (12% of jobs and 10.5% of GDP in 2019) and hydroelectric potential (34.5% of electricity generated)
- Member of various trade agreements, including CEFTA, the regional common market for 6 Balkan countries
- Wage competitiveness



- Institutional, regulatory, economic and community fragmentation, secessionist tendencies
- Lack of public investment
- Corruption, defective rule of law
- High emigration, lack of skilled workforce
- Large informal sector (estimated at 1/3 of GDP), low labour force participation (50%), high youth unemployment (1/3)
- Dependence on external financial assistance

BOTSWANA

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	A4
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	A4
POPULATION Millions of persons		2.6
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars		7,738



2024 OUTLOOK

- Growth will be more dynamic, driven by the mining sector. Although it will continue to be dominated by diamonds, it will benefit above all from the rise in copper production.
- The public deficit is expected to fall, thanks to a fiscal consolidation plan that includes a reduction in the government wage bill and a redefinition of public investment priorities.
- Solid institutions should ensure that the next elections in 2024 run smoothly. Although social frustration, fuelled by inequality and unemployment, will erode support for the Botswana Democratic Party, which has been in power since the country's independence, the party is expected to retain its majority.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-8.7	11.8	5.9	3.7	4.2
Inflation (yearly average, %)	1.9	6.7	12.2	5.8	5.2
Budget balance* (% GDP)	-10.9	-2.4	0.0	-2.0	-1.0
Current account balance (% GDP)	-10.3	-1.3	3.0	1.0	1.0
Public debt (% GDP)	18.7	18.7	18.0	19.0	18.0

(f): Forecast. * Fiscal year 2024 from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

SOUTH AFRICA	26%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	21%
EURO AREA	16%
INDIA	12%
ISRAEL	4%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

SOUTH AFRICA	64%
EURO AREA	7%
NAMIBIA	6%
INDIA	4%
CANADA	4%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

NON METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES	80%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	5%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	3%
LIVE ANIMALS OTHER THAN FISH, CRUSTACEANS AND MOLLUSCS	2%
COAL, COKE AND BRIQUETTES	2%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

NON METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES	29%
PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	17%
ROAD VEHICLES	4%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	3%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	3%



- Abundant natural resources (diamonds, copper, coal, silver and nickel)
- Low public and foreign debt
- Large foreign exchange reserves and substantial sovereign wealth fund
- Political stability and good governance place the country among the best in sub-Saharan Africa in international business environment rankings
- Member of the Southern African Customs Union (SACU)



- Dependence on the diamond sector (over 90% of exports)
- Dependence on South Africa and SACU revenues
- Remote location generating high transport costs
- Inadequate infrastructure (production and distribution of water and electricity)
- Lack of skilled labour, small domestic market

BRAZIL

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	B
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	A4
POPULATION Millions of persons		203.1
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars		9,455



2024 OUTLOOK

- GDP will weaken in 2024 as the lagged effects of tight credit conditions are expected to weigh on the Brazilian economy, even as the central bank continues to cut interest rates.
- Although estimates for the 2023/24 grain harvest point to another record production, the expected slowdown in the Chinese economy should lead to weaker tailwinds from exports.
- President Lula's administration managed to push through important fiscal reforms in the Congress. However, the approval of revenue-increasing measures in 2024 is key to the success of the government's fiscal adjustment strategy.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-3.3	5.0	2.9	3.0	1.2
Inflation (yearly average, %)	3.2	8.3	9.3	4.9	4.0
Budget balance (% GDP)	-13.3	-4.3	-4.6	-7.7	-7.8
Current account balance (% GDP)	-1.9	-2.8	-2.8	-1.5	-1.7
Public debt (% GDP)	86.9	78.3	72.9	75.2	78.3

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	27%
EURO AREA	14%
UNITED STATES	11%
ARGENTINA	5%
CHILE	3%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	22%
UNITED STATES	19%
EURO AREA	14%
ARGENTINA	5%
INDIA	3%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	17%
OIL SEEDS AND OLEAGINOUS FRUITS	14%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	11%
MEAT AND MEAT PREPARATIONS	8%
IRON AND STEEL	5%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	12%
FERTILIZERS, NOT CRUDE	9%
ORGANIC CHEMICALS	6%
ROAD VEHICLES	6%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	6%



- Varied mineral resources and agricultural harvests
- Large population (estimated at 212.6 million)
- Well-diversified industry
- Strong foreign exchange reserves
- Net creditor in foreign currency



- Sensitive fiscal position
- Infrastructure bottlenecks
- Low level of investment (roughly 16% of GDP)
- High costs of production (wages, energy, logistics, credit) that harm competitiveness
- Shortage of qualified labour, inadequate education system

BULGARIA

COUNTRY RISK **B**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **A3**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **6.4**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **13,821**



2024 OUTLOOK

- The economy is expected to continue slowing affected by stagnating household consumption and tightened monetary policy.
- The domestic economy is subject to the ongoing tightness of the labour market, confirmed by employee shortages and vivid wage growth.
- Fiscal revenues are expected to weaken because of subdued economic activity but could be supported by reversing energy related measures and improved collection.
- The latest elections resulted in a coalition majority of centre-right GERB and PP-DB. Nonetheless, the political situation could suffer from political polarisation in the current coalition.

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-4.0	7.7	3.9	2.0	1.9
Inflation (yearly average, %)	1.2	2.8	13.0	9.2	3.9
Budget balance (% GDP)	-3.8	-4.0	-2.9	-3.2	-3.0
Current account balance (% GDP)	0.0	-1.7	-1.4	0.8	-0.5
Public debt (% GDP)	24.6	23.9	22.6	23.8	24.2

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

GERMANY	15%
ROMANIA	11%
ITALY	8%
GREECE	7%
TÜRKIYE	6%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

RUSSIA	11%
GERMANY	11%
TÜRKIYE	8%
ROMANIA	7%
ITALY	6%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

NON-FERROUS METALS	10%
PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	8%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	7%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	5%
FIXED VEG. OILS & FATS, CRUDE, REFINED/FRACTIONATED	3%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	10%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	7%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	6%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	6%
ROAD VEHICLES	5%



- Diversified productive base (Bulgaria is a large producer and exporter of cereal and mostly independent of food imports from abroad)
- Low public debt
- Tourism potential
- Low production costs and good price competitiveness
- Monetary stability, the Bulgarian Lev is in a peg with the Euro



- Corruption and organised crime (No. 72 in the Corruption Perception Index 2022)
- Inefficient public services and judicial system
- Fragmented political landscape makes the implementation of a stable government complicated
- Lack of skilled labour
- Declining and relatively poor population with the lowest GDP per capita in the EU
- Strong informal economy

BURKINA FASO

COUNTRY RISK **D**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **C**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **22.8**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **832**



2024 OUTLOOK

- After two coups d'état in 2022, and with the presence of jihadist groups in part of the country, the political and security context is fragile and social tensions are high. The holding of the next elections, expected in July 2024, could be compromised.
- While agriculture, services and mining will underpin growth, it will remain subject to political and security instability.
- The public deficit will be reduced associated with more dynamic activity and as part of the fiscal consolidation in line with the IMF programme. Defence and security expenditure will be lower but will still penalise public finances.

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	1.9	6.9	1.4	4.5	6.0
Inflation (yearly average, %)	1.9	3.9	14.1	1.5	3.0
Budget balance* (% GDP)	-5.1	-7.4	-10.7	-6.5	-5.5
Current account balance (% GDP)	4.1	-0.4	-6.2	-5.0	-5.0
Public debt (% GDP)	43.3	55.4	58.3	61.0	61.0

(f): Forecast. * Including grants.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

SWITZERLAND	70%
MALI	6%
EURO AREA	5%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	4%
SINGAPORE	4%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	23%
CHINA	12%
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	9%
RUSSIA	8%
GHANA	8%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

GOLD, NON-MONETARY	81%
TEXTILES FIBRES AND THEIR WASTES	6%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	3%
OIL SEEDS AND OLEAGINOUS FRUITS	2%
VEGETABLES AND FRUITS	2%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	21%
ELECTRIC CURRENT	8%
ROAD VEHICLES	8%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	5%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	5%



- Major producer of gold (5th in Africa) and cotton (3rd in Africa in 2023)
- Member of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (ensuring the stability of the currency, the CFA franc, against the euro)
- Support from the international financial community (one of the first countries to benefit from the HIPC initiative)



- Economy strongly exposed to climatic hazards
- Vulnerability to the evolution of the courses of cotton and gold
- High dependence on foreign aid
- Very high poverty rate, exacerbated by massive population displacements, very low human development index and critical food insecurity
- Importance of the informal sector and poor business environment
- Presence of armed Islamist groups
- Instability political: two coups d'état in 2022

BURUNDI

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	D
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	E
POPULATION Millions of persons		
		12.6
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars		
		311



2024 OUTLOOK

- In 2024, activity will be sustained by the recovery of the mining sector, while the publication of a new Code in June 2023 should encourage the return of foreign investors.
- The compression of imports due to low foreign exchange reserves and the size of the black market will contribute to high inflation, which will accentuate the high humanitarian needs.
- The current account deficit will remain massive, with export earnings insufficient to meet the country's dependence on food and energy imports.
- Respect for human rights by President Ndayishimiye's authoritarian regime will be a key factor in the long-term return of international aid.



- Subsoil wealth (rare earths, nickel) largely unexploited
- Agricultural potential (coffee, tea)
- Potential gains in agricultural productivity



- Fragile political institutions in a country marked by ethnic conflicts, attempted coups, a strong military presence and authoritarianism
- Low productive capacity and subsistence farming
- Landlocked location and lack of road and health infrastructure
- Corruption and ineffective economic policy
- Widespread extreme poverty
- Dependence on international aid and recent end to diplomatic and financial isolation
- High risk on debt and external accounts

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	0.3	3.1	1.8	3.0	4.0
Inflation (yearly average, %)	7.5	8.3	18.7	20.0	16.0
Budget balance* (% GDP)	-6.6	-5	-11.5	-5.5	-3.0
Current account balance (% GDP)	-10.2	-12.4	-15.6	-18.0	-20.0
Public debt** (% GDP)	66	66.6	68	72	66

(f): Forecast. * Fiscal year 2024: from 1st July 2023 to 30th June 2024. ** Grants included.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	31%
CONGO DR	20%
SWITZERLAND	10%
PAKISTAN	5%
TANZANIA	5%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

SAUDI ARABIA	16%
CHINA	16%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	16%
TANZANIA	10%
INDIA	7%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

COFFEE, TEA, COCOA, SPICES & MANUFACT. THEREOF	48%
GOLD, NON-MONETARY	19%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	8%
IRON AND STEEL	3%
BEVERAGES	3%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	15%
FERTILIZERS, NOT CRUDE	8%
IRON AND STEEL	6%
NON METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES	6%
ROAD VEHICLES	6%

CABO VERDE

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	B
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	B
POPULATION Millions of persons		
		0.6
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars		
		4,048



2024 OUTLOOK

- In 2024, activity will continue to be sustained by the tourism sector, even though there is a risk that the slowdown in European countries will weight.
- Growth will also benefit from investment (ports, hotels, renewable energies) and the high level of remittances, which will boost household consumption.
- Agriculture will continue to be held back by the persistent drought, which is causing sharp falls in production.
- The pegging of the escudo to the euro and the moderation in energy and food prices will help to reduce inflationary pressures.
- Despite the cohabitation, no major political tensions are expected.



- Stable political institutions
- Exchange rate cooperation agreement with Portugal, guaranteeing convertibility and a fixed rate with the euro, and a credit facility
- Fishing reserves with the sale of fishing licences
- Efficient banking and telecommunications services
- 20% of the country's energy consumption currently comes from solar panels and wind turbines, with a target of 50% by 2030



- Weak economic diversification and dependence on tourism
- Insularity: dependence on food imports and energy products
- Ageing infrastructure and bureaucratic administration
- High dependence on the economic performance of the euro zone (tourism, remittances)
- Very high public debt
- Exposure to climate change and volcanic, seismic and cyclonic risks

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-20.8	6.8	17.7	4.5	4.5
Inflation (yearly average, %)	0.6	1.9	7.9	5.0	2.0
Budget balance* (% GDP)	-9.1	-7.3	-4.1	-4.5	-3.0
Current account balance** (% GDP)	-15	-11.3	-3.6	-5.5	-5.0
Public debt (% GDP)	145.1	151.2	128.3	105	100

(f): Forecast. * Including grants. ** Including official transfers.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	76%
MOROCCO	10%
UNITED STATES	7%
URUGUAY	4%
GUINEA-BISSAU	0%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	68%
ARGENTINA	9%
CHINA	6%
UNITED STATES	4%
BRAZIL	2%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

FISH, CRUSTACEANS, MOLLUSCS & PREPS THEREOF	66%
ARTICLES OF APPAREL & CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	6%
OFFICE MACHINES & AUTO DATA PROCESS. MACHINES	4%
FOOTWEAR	3%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	2%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	21%
ROAD VEHICLES	8%
NON METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES	4%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	4%
MANUFACTURES OF METAL	4%

CAMBODIA

COFACE ASSESSMENTS

COUNTRY RISK **C**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **B**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **16.0**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **1,802**



2024 OUTLOOK

- The economy is set to slightly accelerate in 2024, constrained by subdued global demand. It is particularly vulnerable to recession risk in the US.
- The National Bank of Cambodia (NBC) will remain pressured by the Fed, which is likely to keep interest rates at elevated levels. Therefore, the NBC may continue to intervene in foreign exchange markets to support the managed peg of the riel to the USD.
- Public and current deficit should narrow, although the latter will remain elevated
- No major political changes are expected after Hun Manet took power in August 2023, following the appointment of his father, former Prime Minister Hun Sen.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-3.1	3.0	5.2	5.4	5.8
Inflation (yearly average, %)	2.9	2.9	5.3	2.0	2.7
Budget balance (% GDP)	-3.4	-7.1	-0.9	-5.0	-3.3
Current account balance (% GDP)	-8.5	-42.0	-27.3	-11.1	-8.2
Public debt (% GDP)	34.3	35.9	33.7	35.2	35.6

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	40%
EURO AREA	16%
VIETNAM	10%
CHINA	5%
JAPAN	5%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	33%
VIETNAM	13%
THAILAND	12%
SINGAPORE	10%
SWITZERLAND	5%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

ARTICLES OF APPAREL & CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	45%
FOOTWEAR	9%
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS, ETC.	9%
VEGETABLES AND FRUITS	6%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	4%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

TEXTILE YARN AND RELATED PRODUCTS	17%
GOLD, NON-MONETARY	13%
PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	10%
ROAD VEHICLES	5%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	4%



- Financial support from bilateral and multi-lateral donors
- Dynamic tourism sector with strong potential
- Increasing regional integration
- Young population



- Economy vulnerable to weather conditions
- Dependence on Chinese funding and concessional financing
- Great reliance on garment and tourism
- Underdeveloped electricity and transport networks
- Low-value added garment exports
- Dependence on imports of energy, capital goods and intermediate goods
- Significant governance shortcomings, high levels of corruption
- Elevated poverty rate, low health and education spending
- Limited capacity of the only international seaport of Sihanoukville

CAMEROON

COFACE ASSESSMENTS

COUNTRY RISK **C**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **D**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **27.9**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **1,588**



2024 OUTLOOK

- The expansion of gas and mining activities will support growth and offset the decline in the oil sector.
- Fiscal consolidation continues under an IMF programme.
- The current account deficit will narrow as gas and then mining exports increase.
- Clashes in the English-speaking separatist regions are continuing, maintaining a climate of violence and instability.
- Yaoundé is diversifying its alliances, dealing with Russia as much as France and others.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	0.5	3.6	3.7	4.0	4.3
Inflation (yearly average, %)	2.5	2.3	6.3	7.2	4.8
Budget balance (% GDP)	-3.2	-3.0	-1.1	-0.8	-0.6
Current account balance (% GDP)	-3.7	-4.0	-1.8	-2.6	-2.4
Public debt (% GDP)	44.9	46.8	45.5	42.0	40.0

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	55%
INDIA	11%
CHINA	8%
BANGLADESH	4%
CHAD	3%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	24%
EURO AREA	20%
INDIA	6%
NIGERIA	5%
RUSSIA	4%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	36%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	19%
COFFEE, TEA, COCOA, SPICES & MANUFACT. THEREOF	14%
CORK AND WOOD	10%
TEXTILES FIBRES AND THEIR WASTES	5%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	14%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	12%
ROAD VEHICLES	6%
FISH, CRUSTACEANS, MOLLUSCS & PREPS THEREOF	4%
IRON AND STEEL	4%



- Relatively diversified resources, with forestry, agriculture (e.g. cocoa and bananas) and oil; mineral potential
- Short-term expansion of gas capacity
- Hydroelectric potential
- Efforts to improve infrastructure underway
- CFA franc pegged to the euro



- External and public accounts dependent on commodity prices
- Low public revenues
- Mature oil fields
- Non-inclusive growth (extreme poverty), difficult business environment and poor governance (corruption, smuggling, etc.)
- Increased political risk: insecurity in the far north of the country and tensions in the two English-speaking regions of the north-west and south-west, succession of President Biya

CANADA

COUNTRY RISK **A2**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **A1**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **38.8**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **55,037**



2024 OUTLOOK

- Interest rates will continue to constrain household and business spending. The US slowdown should also weigh on exports.
- With inflation returning to target and activity moderating, the Bank of Canada could begin cutting its key rate in the spring of 2024.
- The government remains committed to increasing public spending on housing and clean energy, maintaining the budget deficit.
- Although losing ground in the polls, the minority government of Justin Trudeau (Liberal Party) should remain in power until the 2025 election, thanks to the support of the NDP.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-5.0	5.0	3.5	1.1	0.9
Inflation (yearly average, %)	0.7	3.4	6.9	3.9	2.5
Budget balance* (% GDP)	-14.0	-3.7	-1.4	-1.4	-1.3
Current account balance (% GDP)	-2.0	0.0	-0.4	1.0	-1.2
Public debt (% GDP)	128.6	120.6	99.8	99.5	99.4

(f): Forecast. * Federal government. Fiscal year from April 1st to March 31st. 2024 data: 2024/25.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	77%
EURO AREA	4%
CHINA	4%
UNITED KINGDOM	2%
JAPAN	2%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	49%
CHINA	14%
EURO AREA	9%
MEXICO	5%
JAPAN	2%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	24%
ROAD VEHICLES	8%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	4%
NON-FERROUS METALS	4%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	3%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

ROAD VEHICLES	14%
PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	7%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	6%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	5%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	4%



- Abundant energy, mineral and agricultural resources
- 5th-largest oil and gas producer in the world
- Strong, well-capitalised and well-supervised banking sector
- Immediate proximity to the U.S. market
- Trade deals: USMCA with the US and Mexico, CETA with the EU
- Excellent business environment
- Lowest debt net in the G7 (about 25% of GDP)



- Dependent on the U.S. economy and energy prices
- Loss of competitiveness in manufacturing companies due to low labour productivity
- Insufficient R&D expenditure
- High household debt
- Deteriorating housing affordability

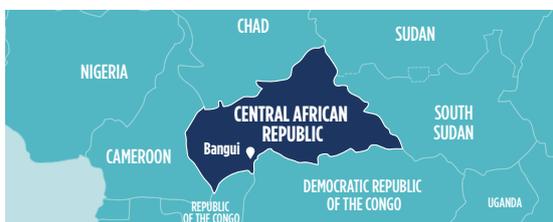
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

COUNTRY RISK **D**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **E**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **5.0**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **491**



2024 OUTLOOK

- In 2024, growth will be underpinned by exports thanks to the still high prices of gold and diamonds.
- The outlook is nonetheless subject to developments in the highly precarious security situation and the supply of fuel.
- Fights between the government, helped by mercenaries from the Wagner group, and rebel groups will continue, reinforced by President Touadéra's plan to reform the constitution, which will be accepted in a referendum in July 2023.
- The USD 191 million Extended Credit Facility granted by the IMF in May 2023 will help finance the priority public services needed to mitigate the effects of food insecurity.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	1.0	1.0	0.5	1.0	2.5
Inflation (yearly average, %)	0.9	4.3	5.5	6.5	3.0
Budget balance* (% GDP)	-3.3	-6.0	-5.3	-3.5	-2.5
Current account balance** (% GDP)	-7.2	-10.8	-13.8	-9.0	-8.0
Public debt (% GDP)	43.4	47.6	51.9	50.5	50

(f): Forecast. * Including grants. ** Including international cooperation.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	35%
BENIN	21%
EURO AREA	14%
CAMEROON	5%
UGANDA	5%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	25%
EURO AREA	23%
CAMEROON	22%
SOUTH KOREA	4%
BRAZIL	4%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

CORK AND WOOD	42%
GOLD, NON-MONETARY	17%
OTHER TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	9%
NON METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES	9%
ROAD VEHICLES	4%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	16%
ROAD VEHICLES	9%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	9%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	6%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	4%



- Agricultural (cotton, coffee), forestry and mining (diamonds, gold, uranium) potential
- Substantial international financial support
- Member of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC)



- Extreme and widespread poverty
- Fragile and unstable security and political conditions leading to significant population movements both within and out of the country
- Low economic diversification
- High dependence on commodity exports
- Landlocked
- Illegal gold and diamond exports undermine government revenues
- Dependence on food and oil imports

CHAD

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	D
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	E

POPULATION Millions of persons	17.4
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars	695



2024 OUTLOOK

- Growth will be driven by defense spending and cotton and gold production. However, it will slow due to the Sudanese conflict and a drop in FDI in oil, whose revenues will be reduced by the nationalization of the main assets in March 2023.
- The repression of the opposition and the constitution adopted by referendum at the end of 2023 will aggravate political and social tensions. However, Mr. Déby is expected to retain the presidency in the elections scheduled for late 2024.
- Regional instability, amplified by the coup d'état in Niger and the crisis in Sudan, will continue to have a negative impact on security, the economy and humanitarian aid.

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-2.1	-1.2	3.4	3.8	3.3
Inflation (yearly average, %)	4.5	-0.8	5.8	8.4	4.5
Budget balance* (% GDP)	1.6	-2.0	5.1	8.0	1.1
Current account balance (% GDP)	-7.4	-3.4	6.2	0.2	-3.3
Public debt (% GDP)	55.9	57.4	48.8	43.2	38.7

(f): Forecast. * Grants and transfers included.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	44%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	27%
CHINA	22%
BANGLADESH	3%
TÜRKIYE	2%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	25%
EURO AREA	22%
CAMEROON	16%
UNITED STATES	7%
TÜRKIYE	6%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	69%
GOLD, NON-MONETARY	19%
OIL SEEDS AND OLEAGINOUS FRUITS	5%
TEXTILES FIBRES AND THEIR WASTES	3%
CRUDE ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE MATERIALS	1%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

SPECIALISED MACHINERY	11%
ROAD VEHICLES	9%
PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	6%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	5%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	5%



- Potential gains in agricultural productivity, arable land reserves, development potential for gum arabic
- Oil sector generating foreign currency and tax revenues
- Gold resource and other minerals in reserve
- First country to reach a debt restructuring agreement within the common G20 framework



- Widespread extreme poverty (38.7% of the population in 2022)
- Food insecurity (12.1% by end 2022)
- Budgetary dependence on oil revenues
- Enclavement and natural disasters (drying up of Lake Chad, flooding)
- Partially controlled territory and political fragility
- Geographical and/or community proximity to Sudan, Libya and the Central African Republic

CHILE

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	A4
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	A3

POPULATION Millions of persons	19.8
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars	15,166



2024 OUTLOOK

- Growth will slightly progress in 2024, aided by mining exports benefiting from global investment in renewable energies.
- While consumption will rebound with receding inflation and credit easing, investment will remain below standard due to reforms affecting the lithium sector (nationalization) and copper sector (taxes).
- El Niño could once again impede production and exports of mining and agricultural goods in the event of new floods.
- A rejection of the constitutional reform proposal, as indicated by November 2023 polls, would not diminish the opposition between the executive and the Congress.

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-6.1	11.7	2.4	-0.5	1.6
Inflation (yearly average, %)	3.0	4.5	11.6	7.8	3.6
Budget balance (% GDP)	-7.1	-7.5	1.4	-1.6	-1.3
Current account balance (% GDP)	-1.9	-7.3	-9.0	-3.5	-3.6
Public debt (% GDP)	32.3	36.3	38.0	38.4	41.2

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	39%
UNITED STATES	14%
JAPAN	8%
EURO AREA	7%
SOUTH KOREA	6%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	25%
UNITED STATES	21%
EURO AREA	10%
BRAZIL	10%
ARGENTINA	6%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	27%
NON-FERROUS METALS	23%
INORGANIC CHEMICALS	11%
VEGETABLES AND FRUITS	8%
FISH, CRUSTACEANS, MOLLUSCS & PREPS THEREOF	8%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	17%
ROAD VEHICLES	11%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	4%
ARTICLES OF APPAREL & CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	4%
SPECIALISED MACHINERY	3%



- Mineral resources (leading producer of copper and second-largest producer of lithium), agricultural, fisheries, and forestry resources
- Numerous free trade agreements
- Flexible monetary, budgetary, and exchange rate policies
- Member of the OECD, the Pacific Alliance, and the TPP
- Strong institutions



- Small and open economy, vulnerable to external shocks due to dependence on copper and Chinese demand
- Exposure to climate and seismic risks
- Insufficient research and innovation
- Disparity in income and wealth, mediocre education and healthcare systems, fostering social discontent

CHINA

COUNTRY RISK **B**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **B**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **1,411.8**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **12,670**



2024 OUTLOOK

- Growth outlook to slow in 2024 as China faces formidable headwinds, including the housing sector crisis, and weakened confidence.
- Structural factors could limit the extent of growth recovery.
- China expected to announce more extensive support measures to shore up growth.
- Restoring confidence among households and private enterprises is critical in the longer term for turning the slowdown around.
- Economic slack and lower local commodity prices will hold down inflation, allowing PBOC to maintain supportive policy stance.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP Growth (%)	2.2	8.4	3.0	5.0	4.3
Inflation (yearly average, %)	2.5	0.9	2.0	0.7	1.8
Budget balance (% GDP)	-3.7	-3.1	-2.8	-3.8	-3.8
Current account (% GDP)	1.7	2.0	2.2	1.5	1.7
Public debt (% GDP)	45.6	46.8	50.4	55.0	58.0

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	16%
EURO AREA	13%
HONG KONG	8%
JAPAN	5%
SOUTH KOREA	5%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	9%
TAIWAN	9%
SOUTH KOREA	7%
JAPAN	7%
UNITED STATES	7%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

TELECOM. & SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	13%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	12%
OFFICE MACHINES & AUTO DATA PROCESS. MACHINES	8%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	7%
ARTICLES OF APPAREL & CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	5%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

TELECOM. & SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	17%
PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	15%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	9%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	5%
PROFESSIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS	4%



- Public debt remains mainly domestic and denominated in local currency
- High level of foreign exchange reserves
- Large labour market
- Good level of infrastructure
- Extensive manufacturing capabilities and comprehensive supplier ecosystem
- Significant presence in emerging and developing countries through the BRI



- US-China strategic competition, and US sanctions on technology transfer
- Housing market crisis
- Labour market uncertainty
- Deteriorating private sector confidence
- High corporate indebtedness
- High 'hidden debt' levels of local governments
- Ageing population
- Environmental issues
- Unclear political succession plans

COLOMBIA

COUNTRY RISK **C**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **A4**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **51.6**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **6,658**



2024 OUTLOOK

- Economic growth will remain weak through 2024 as the combination of high real interest rates and sticky inflation is expected to restrain private consumption and gross fixed investment.
- Risks for agriculture associated with El Niño and higher domestic fuel prices could put further pressure on inflation and lead the central bank to embark on a very slow cycle of rate cuts through 2024.
- Following a massive victory for opposition candidates in the 2023 regional elections, the government of leftist Gustavo Petro may face further pressure to water down structural reforms in Congress.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-7.3	11.0	7.3	1.0	1.2
Inflation (yearly average, %)	2.5	3.5	10.2	11.4	5.3
Budget balance (% GDP)	-7.8	-7.1	-6.2	-3.4	-2.3
Current account balance (% GDP)	-3.4	-5.7	-6.2	-3.5	-3.2
Public debt (% GDP)	65.0	63.5	60.3	55.0	55.0

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	27%
EURO AREA	14%
PANAMA	10%
INDIA	4%
BRAZIL	4%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	25%
CHINA	24%
EURO AREA	13%
BRAZIL	7%
MEXICO	5%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	35%
COAL, COKE AND BRIQUETTES	24%
COFFEE, TEA, COCOA, SPICES & MANUFACT. THEREOF	8%
GOLD, NON-MONETARY	4%
CRUDE ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE MATERIALS	3%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	8%
ROAD VEHICLES	7%
ORGANIC CHEMICALS	6%
TELECOM. & SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	6%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	5%



- Ports on two oceans
- Large population (almost 50 million people)
- Plentiful natural resources (coffee, oil and gas, coal, gold)
- Significant tourism potential
- Large foreign direct investment level



- Shortcomings in road and port infrastructures due to historically low levels of investment and difficult topography
- Problematic security situation because of drug trafficking and illegal mining. Government's initiative to pacify the country through dialogue with armed groups has yet to take off.
- Structural unemployment, poverty and inequality, deficient educational and healthcare systems
- Dependence on commodities, narrow manufacturing

CONGO (DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE)

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	D
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	E
POPULATION		
	Millions of persons	96.8
GDP PER CAPITA		
	US Dollars	680



2024 OUTLOOK

- Minerals will drive growth thanks to Chinese demand and investment, with increased copper mining (expansion of the Kamo-Kakula mine).
- Tight monetary policy, low food prices and moderate currency depreciation (high mineral prices) will dampen inflation.
- Conflict in the east of the country will curb non-mining investment and inflate security and humanitarian spending. Deficits will be financed by the IMF Credit Facility, other concessional loans and FDI.
- The December 2023 general elections were held in a tense political and security context.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	1.7	6.2	8.9	6.7	5.0
Inflation (yearly average, %)	14.0	10.0	7.0	20.0	12.0
Budget balance (% GDP)	-1.4	-1.6	-0.7	-2.0	-2.0
Current account balance (% GDP)	-2.2	-1.0	-5.3	-5.0	-4.0
Public debt (% GDP)	16.7	16.0	14.5	13.5	11.0

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	42%
SINGAPORE	17%
SOUTH AFRICA	15%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	9%
TANZANIA	5%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	23%
SOUTH AFRICA	12%
EURO AREA	9%
ZAMBIA	7%
INDIA	5%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

NON-FERROUS METALS	63%
INORGANIC CHEMICALS	14%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	8%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS É APPLIANCES	2%
PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	2%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

SPECIALISED MACHINERY	7%
ROAD VEHICLES	6%
PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	6%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	6%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	6%



- Abundant mineral resources (copper, cobalt, diamond, gold, tin, etc.)
- Significant hydroelectric potential
- Second-largest tropical forest in the world and vast biodiversity
- International participation and regional cooperation in conflict resolution in the eastern Great Lakes region
- Rapidly growing population
- Largely untapped agricultural potential



- Precarious security and humanitarian situation, with numerous armed militias in the east of the country and tensions with Rwanda
- Extremely dependent on food and oil imports, as well as on commodity prices
- Weak infrastructure (transport, energy, telecommunications)
- Widespread poverty
- Poor governance
- Risk of Ebola outbreaks

CONGO (REPUBLIC OF THE)

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	C
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	D
POPULATION		
	Millions of persons	4.9
GDP PER CAPITA		
	US Dollars	2,838



2024 OUTLOOK

- Growth will be driven by commodity exports, buoyed by high prices, oil investments and gas development, with the start of LNG production from the Marine XII offshore block. It will also benefit from the expansion of the agricultural sector.
- Consumption will continue to be penalized by extreme poverty and high prices for imported food and gasoline.
- Despite development spending and the clearance of domestic arrears, the public surplus will improve slightly thanks to oil revenues and lower fuel subsidies. Guided by the IMF, the country will pursue fiscal consolidation and debt sustainability.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-6.2	-1.0	1.7	3.5	4.0
Inflation (yearly average, %)	1.4	2.0	3.0	3.5	3.0
Budget balance (% GDP)	-1.2	1.6	8.5	3.5	4.0
Current account balance (% GDP)	12.5	9.0	19.0	14.0	18.0
Public debt* (% GDP)	102.5	98.0	92.5	97.0	91.0

(f): Forecast. * Excluding debts of public companies and not guaranteed SNPC debts.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	36%
BRAZIL	11%
EURO AREA	7%
SOUTH AFRICA	7%
INDIA	6%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	32%
CHINA	23%
UNITED STATES	5%
INDIA	3%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	3%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	61%
NON-FERROUS METALS	23%
OTHER TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	3%
CORK AND WOOD	3%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	2%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

MEAT AND MEAT PREPARATIONS	9%
OTHER TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	8%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	6%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	5%
ROAD VEHICLES	4%



- Abundant natural resources (oil, gas, iron ore, timber, potash) and agricultural potential
- Comfortable current account surplus based on raw materials
- Strategic position in Central Africa



- Very high public debt
- Dependence on oil (50% of GDP) and its price
- Maturity of several oil fields
- Widespread extreme poverty, no equitable distribution of oil windfall
- Authoritarian regime, laborious public policies and risk regarding the presidential succession
- Under-investment in transport, health and education
- Low attractiveness to foreign investment outside the extractive sector due to poor governance (corruption)
- Exposure to climate change may hamper agricultural development

COSTA RICA 

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	B
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	A3

POPULATION Millions of persons	5.2
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars	13,075



2024 OUTLOOK

- Growth is likely to moderate as the rebound in consumer spending, linked to improved labour market conditions and lower inflation, fades. Activity will also be affected by the expected slowdown in the United States, although the continuing recovery in tourism will support exports.
- Fiscal consolidation will continue. The reform of public employment, aimed at reducing the state wage bill, will enable spending to be cut.
- President Chavès remains popular with voters, as economic conditions have improved (lower inflation, stronger fiscal position) since he took office.

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-4.3	7.8	4.3	4.4	3.1
Inflation (yearly average, %)	0.7	1.7	8.3	0.7	1.9
Budget balance (% GDP)	-8.4	-5.1	-2.8	-3.5	-3.0
Current account balance (% GDP)	-1.0	-2.5	-3.7	-2.8	-2.3
Public debt (% GDP)	66.9	68.0	63.8	63.0	62.0

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	44%
EURO AREA	18%
GUATEMALA	5%
NICARAGUA	4%
PANAMA	4%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	39%
CHINA	15%
EURO AREA	8%
MEXICO	6%
GUATEMALA	3%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

PROFESSIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS	25%
VEGETABLES AND FRUITS	21%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	9%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	8%
MISCELLANEOUS EDIBLE PRODUCTS & PREPARATIONS	5%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	12%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	6%
ROAD VEHICLES	5%
IRON AND STEEL	5%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	5%



- Significant progress in economic and social development (education, health)
- Leading-edge industries (pharmaceuticals, microprocessors) attractive to FDI
- Diversified trade thanks to multiple free trade agreements: European Union, United Kingdom, South Korea, CARICOM, China, CAFTA, Canada
- Tourism resources: hotels, national parks
- IMF support: EFF and Resilience and Sustainability Facility concluded in March 2021 and November 2022
- OECD member since May 2021



- Exposure to natural disasters
- Inadequate transport infrastructure
- Low level of foreign exchange reserves (3 months of imports)
- Economic and financial dependence on the United States, with the economy fully dollarised

CÔTE D'IVOIRE 

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	B
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	B

POPULATION Millions of persons	28.4
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars	2,473



2024 OUTLOOK

- Growth will remain comfortable, driven by industrial activity and public investment (construction of a metro in Abidjan). Oil and gas production will underpin activity, with the commissioning of the new offshore field (Baleine project).
- A reduction in deficits is expected, with the decline in subsidies, the improvement in the tax base following the new IMF program, and the rise in hydrocarbon exports. Imports will remain high due to the need for capital goods.
- The political climate is improving after the post-election violence of 2020, thanks to the reforms implemented (compensation process for victims).

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	1.7	7.0	6.7	6.2	6.5
Inflation (yearly average, %)	2.4	4.2	5.2	4.5	2.5
Budget balance (% GDP)	-5.4	-4.9	-6.8	-5.0	-4.0
Current account balance (% GDP)	-3.1	-4.0	-6.5	-4.5	-3.5
Public debt (% GDP)	46.3	50.9	56.8	56.8	57.0

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	32%
UNITED STATES	7%
VIETNAM	6%
SWITZERLAND	5%
MALI	5%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	26%
CHINA	16%
NIGERIA	13%
INDIA	5%
UNITED STATES	4%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

COFFEE, TEA, COCOA, SPICES & MANUFACT. THEREOF	37%
PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	15%
GOLD, NON-MONETARY	10%
VEGETABLES AND FRUITS	9%
CRUDE RUBBER	8%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	19%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	9%
ROAD VEHICLES	6%
FISH, CRUSTACEANS, MOLLUSCS & PREPS THEREOF	5%
IRON AND STEEL	4%



- Multiple resources: cocoa (1st world producer), rubber, cashew nuts, bananas, gold, manganese, nickel, hydroelectricity, oil and gas, tourism
- WAEMU membership and regional currency
- Significant multilateral financial support
- Growing middle class, but poverty still affects 30% of the population Reconciliation between former political heavyweights is a guarantee of stability



- Vulnerability to climate and the price of cocoa, the main export
- Gaps in public management, infrastructure, access to credit and vocational training
- Low public revenues (16% of GDP)
- Massive informality: 90% of jobs, 70% of added value; illegal cocoa production hurts cocoa prices
- Jihadist threats on northern border

CROATIA

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	A3
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	A2

POPULATION Millions of persons	3.9
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars	18,305



2024 OUTLOOK

- In 2024, growth will benefit from the resilience of the tourism sector, bolstered by the country's entry into the Schengen area, although the lack of reform in European countries is likely to weigh.
- Private consumption will be boosted by the dynamism of tourism, the slowdown in price rises and by wage gains linked to persistent labour market shortages.
- The current account deficit will be maintained, with the surplus on services (tourism) more than offset by imports of goods.
- Relations between President Milanovic (SPD) and Prime Minister Plenkovic (HDZ) will remain tense in the run-up to the parliamentary and presidential elections in mid and late 2024.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-8.5	13	6.2	2.5	2.5
Inflation (yearly average, %)	0.02	2.7	10.7	8.5	4.0
Budget balance (% GDP)	-7.3	-2.5	0.4	-1.0	-1.0
Current account balance (% GDP)	-0.5	1.8	-1.5	-0.5	-1.0
Public debt (% GDP)	86.9	78.3	68.8	63.0	61.0

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

ITALY	12%
SLOVENIA	11%
GERMANY	11%
HUNGARY	11%
BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA	10%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

ITALY	14%
GERMANY	12%
SLOVENIA	11%
UNITED STATES	7%
HUNGARY	7%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	8%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	7%
ELECTRIC CURRENT	6%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	6%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	4%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	10%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	9%
ROAD VEHICLES	6%
ELECTRIC CURRENT	5%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	5%



- Long coastline and historical and natural heritages conducive to tourism
- Support from EU funds
- High-quality infrastructure
- Diversification of energy sources before the Russia-Ukraine war
- Member of the euro zone and the Schengen area since 2023, and of NATO



- Dependence on tourism (20% of GDP)
- Private and public debt still high
- Institutional gaps: inefficient administration, health and justice; overlapping administrative levels, corruption
- Low industrial diversification/lack of competitiveness
- Labour shortage fuelled by emigration of skilled workers and declining population

CUBA

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	E
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	E

POPULATION Millions of persons	11.2
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars	9,477



2024 OUTLOOK

- The modest economic recovery will continue, hampered by inflation impacting private consumption, a shortage of foreign currency aggravated by US sanctions, and low tourist numbers constraining exports.
- Debt rescheduling under an agreement with the Paris Club will ease the burden of debt, but access to international financing will remain limited.
- Despite its grip, President Miguel Díaz-Canel's Communist Party, re-elected in April 2023, faces popular discontent.
- At a time when Mr. Díaz-Canel's Communist Party is facing popular discontent, Plan 2024 for economic stabilization will exacerbate social tensions. Including the end of general subsidies and an increase in the price of public services, it will change the Cuban economic model.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-10.9	1.3	2.0	1.8	1.7
Inflation (yearly average, %)	18.5	152.0	39.1	46.0	32.0
Budget balance (% GDP)	-17.7	-11.7	-5.7	-5.0	-4.5
Current account balance (% GDP)	0.9	-5.7	-5.1	-4.0	-3.5
Public debt (% GDP)	59.3	117.1	118.9	120.0	124.0

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	25%
VENEZUELA	23%
RUSSIA	18%
URUGUAY	4%
TAIWAN	4%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	32%
CHINA	10%
UNITED STATES	9%
ARGENTINA	7%
MEXICO	7%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

TOBACCO AND TOBACCO MANUFACTURES	18%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	15%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	8%
SUGAR, SUGAR PREPARATIONS AND HONEY	7%
FISH, CRUSTACEANS, MOLLUSCS & PREPS THEREOF	4%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	11%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	7%
PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	7%
MEAT AND MEAT PREPARATIONS	6%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	5%



- Tourism, mining (nickel, cobalt) and agricultural potential (sugar, tobacco)
- Opening up of agriculture, commerce, catering and construction to the individual and cooperative private sector
- Inexpensive skilled workforce
- Quality health care and education
- Dialogue and cooperation agreement with the EU



- External vulnerabilities (climate, raw materials, debt)
- Low productivity in public sector and agriculture
- Cumbersome administration, recent trade regulations
- State control of wholesale trade, credit, foreign trade and FDI
- Monetary reform fizzled out: return to duality
- Fiscal cost of commodity subsidies to the detriment of investment
- Extensive shortages, including of energy

CYPRUS

COUNTRY RISK **B**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **A3**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **0.9**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **31,459**



2024 OUTLOOK

- The Cypriot economy will post a small rebound, with consumption still supported by the by partial wage indexation, a strong labor market and easing inflation, and investment supported by European funds
- A real-estate market subdued by high rates, as well as a slowdown in tourism (still suffering the loss of Russian and Ukrainian visitors), will be the main headwinds
- Fiscal consolidation will continue, boosted by stronger VAT incomes, the phasing out of pandemic and energy crisis measures, and improved collection of corporate taxes.
- Banking health has improved significantly, though it will start to endure mortgage delinquencies

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-4.4	6.6	5.6	2.3	2.7
Inflation (yearly average, %)	-1.1	2.2	8.1	3.7	2.8
Budget balance (% GDP)	-5.8	-2.0	2.1	2.1	2.0
Current account balance (% GDP)	-10.1	-6.8	-9.1	-8.9	-8.3
Public debt (% GDP)	113.5	101.1	86.5	78.7	70.5

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

HONG KONG	12%
LEBANON	8%
GREECE	8%
LIBERIA	7%
UNITED KINGDOM	6%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

GREECE	24%
ITALY	11%
CHINA	8%
ISRAEL	8%
GERMANY	5%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

OTHER TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	33%
PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	20%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	9%
DAIRY PRODUCTS AND BIRDS' EGGS	7%
ESSENTIAL OILS FOR PERFUME MATERIALS & CLEANING PREPS	3%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	23%
OTHER TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	13%
ROAD VEHICLES	6%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	4%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	3%



- Central geographical location between Europe, the Middle East and Africa favours the transhipment industry
- Offshore finance business services, and trans-shipping hub
- Rich, unexploited offshore natural gas deposits
- Skilled, English-speaking workforce



- Island divided between the EU-aligned Republic of Cyprus and Türkiye-aligned Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus
- Strong links to Russia, Ukraine and the UK through financial and trade interdependence (tourism, finance, professional services)
- Slow legal process, poor enforcement of contracts
- Heavy debt load for the state, banks, companies, and households
- Weak industrial diversification (tourism, construction, natural gas, finance)

CZECHIA (CZECH REPUBLIC)

COUNTRY RISK **A4**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **A2**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **10.8**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **26,832**



2024 OUTLOOK

- The Czech economy will rebound from recession but GDP growth in 2024 will remain below pre-pandemic levels.
- Gradually household consumption is expected to recover, thanks to increasing real disposable income because of falling inflation and an expected series of interest rate cuts.
- Industry lost its resilience and will suffer from the deterioration as long as its main trading partner, Germany, experiences weak economic activity.
- The ruling coalition consists of five parties, while the latest polls indicate strong support for ANO, the main opposition party, for the next parliamentary elections scheduled for October 2025.

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-5.5	3.6	2.4	-0.4	1.5
Inflation (yearly average, %)	3.3	3.3	14.8	11.6	3.3
Budget balance (% GDP)	-5.8	-5.1	-3.2	-4.0	-2.3
Current account balance (% GDP)	0.7	-2.3	-4.7	-0.5	0.6
Public debt (% GDP)	37.7	42.0	44.2	44.9	45.6

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

GERMANY	33%
SLOVAKIA	8%
POLAND	7%
FRANCE	5%
AUSTRIA	4%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

GERMANY	28%
CHINA	14%
POLAND	9%
NETHERLANDS	6%
SLOVAKIA	6%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

ROAD VEHICLES	18%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	10%
TELECOM. & SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	9%
OFFICE MACHINES & AUTO DATA PROCESS. MACHINES	7%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	6%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	11%
TELECOM. & SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	10%
ROAD VEHICLES	8%
OFFICE MACHINES & AUTO DATA PROCESS. MACHINES	7%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	4%



- Central geographic location at the heart of industrial Europe
- Tightly integrated in the international production chain, and more particularly the German one
- Preferred destination for FDI in Central Europe
- Significant industrial potential
- Robust public accounts and banking system



- Small, open economy
- Dependent on European demand, particularly Germany
- High foreign intermediate inputs in exports and low contribution of services to local value-added in exports
- Automotive sector occupies a large share of the economy
- Lack of rapid transport links with the rest of Europe
- Ageing population and shortage of skilled labour

DENMARK

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	A1
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	A1
POPULATION <small>Millions of persons</small>		5.9
GDP PER CAPITA <small>US Dollars</small>		68,295



2024 OUTLOOK

- A slowdown in inflation and positive real wage growth along with a strong labour market will support an improvement in household consumption in 2024.
- High interest rate levels will continue to affect business activity with cost of debt challenging margins and reduce investments. Corporate insolvencies continue to be high, albeit slowing down.
- Exports are slowing down with the effective exchange rate relatively strong and important sectors, such as offshore wind and shipping, are weakening.
- The current government is generally stable and given their current unpopularity (currently polling around 33%) unlikely to call an early election for the time being.

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-2.4	6.8	2.7	1.2	1.1
Inflation (yearly average, %)	0.4	1.9	7.7	3.3	2.4
Budget balance (% GDP)	0.4	4.1	3.3	2.5	1.7
Current account balance (% GDP)	8.1	9.1	13.4	10.6	11.6
Public debt (% GDP)	42.3	36.0	29.8	28.4	26.5

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

GERMANY	16%
SWEDEN	10%
UNITED STATES	10%
NETHERLANDS	7%
NORWAY	6%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

GERMANY	20%
SWEDEN	12%
NETHERLANDS	9%
CHINA	8%
NORWAY	5%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	10%
PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	7%
MEAT AND MEAT PREPARATIONS	4%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	4%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	4%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

ROAD VEHICLES	7%
PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	7%
ARTICLES OF APPAREL & CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	5%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	5%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	5%



- World's second largest shipping operator (2022)
- Almost energy self-sufficient (oil and gas in the North Sea and Greenland as well as numerous wind-energy parks)
- Niche industries with cyclically non-sensitive export goods (pharmaceuticals, wind turbines, food products)
- Well managed public finances and large current account surplus
- Krone pegged to the euro



- Small open economy sensitive to external demand, especially from Germany and Sweden
- Very high household debt (165% of gross disposable income in Q2 2023)
- Public sector constitutes a significant part of the country's employment
- High private non-financial corporate debt (123% of GDP in Q3 2023)

DJIBOUTI

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	C
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	C
POPULATION <small>Millions of persons</small>		1.0
GDP PER CAPITA <small>US Dollars</small>		3,604



2024 OUTLOOK

- As a regional hub, Djibouti's economy will continue to benefit from its port services, as well as the ongoing infrastructure projects around them.
- Growth will be faster, following the relative easing of the conflict in Ethiopia, on which almost all freight traffic through the port of Djibouti depends.
- The improved external situation will help to reduce deficits, but public finances will still be burdened by increased capital expenditure and high debt servicing.
- Political and social stability is relative, given the weak civil liberties and widespread poverty.

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	1.3	4.5	3.2	5.0	6.0
Inflation (yearly average, %)	1.8	1.2	5.2	1.5	2.0
Budget balance (% GDP)	-2.3	-2.7	-1.4	-3.5	-3.0
Current account balance (% GDP)	11.5	2.6	-4.8	-3.0	-1.5
Public debt (% GDP)	42.2	40.8	40.4	42.0	42.0

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

ETHIOPIA	38%
SOMALIA	23%
YEMEN	7%
BRAZIL	6%
QATAR	5%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	18%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	18%
CHINA	14%
TAIWAN	6%
SAUDI ARABIA	6%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	10%
LIVE ANIMALS OTHER THAN FISH, CRUSTACEANS & MOLLUSCS	9%
IRON AND STEEL	8%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	8%
RUBBER MANUFACTURES	5%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	21%
FIXED VEG. OILS & FATS, CRUDE, REFINED/FRACTIONATED	6%
IRON AND STEEL	6%
ROAD VEHICLES	5%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	5%



- Geostrategic position at the entrance to the Red Sea and support from the international community
- Emergence of the country as a regional commercial, logistical and military hub
- Influx of foreign direct investment
- Modernisation of port and rail infrastructure, free trade zones, etc.
- At the heart of China's Silk Road project
- Ethiopia's only access to the sea, through which over 90% of its trade transits



- High risk of debt distress
- Dependence on Ethiopia and China
- Large informal economy: widespread poverty and unemployment
- Arid climate
- Difficult business environment

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

COFACE ASSESSMENTS

COUNTRY RISK **B**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **B**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **10.6**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **10,711**



2024 OUTLOOK

- Growth will be accelerated by rising exports and public and private investment. It will also be underpinned by private consumption, stimulated by monetary easing and expatriate remittances.
- Electoral spending (infrastructure, police, and subsidies) will offset fiscal consolidation efforts.
- Luis Abinader looks well positioned for re-election in May 2024, given his victory in the October 2023 primaries and a November 2023 Gallup-RCC Media poll giving him a 64% approval rating.
- The authorities' main concerns will continue to be insecurity and the tightening of the immigration blockade on the border with Haiti.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-6.7	12.3	4.9	3.1	4.8
Inflation (yearly average, %)	3.8	8.2	8.8	4.7	4.0
Budget balance (% GDP)	-7.9	-2.9	-3.2	-3.2	-3.0
Current account balance (% GDP)	-1.7	-2.8	-5.6	-3.7	-3.5
Public debt* (% GDP)	71.5	63.2	59.5	59.8	59.5

(f): Forecast. * Non-financial public sector.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	53%
EURO AREA	8%
SWITZERLAND	8%
HAITI	8%
INDIA	4%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	36%
CHINA	20%
EURO AREA	7%
VENEZUELA	6%
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	5%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

PROFESSIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS	13%
GOLD, NON-MONETARY	12%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	11%
TOBACCO AND TOBACCO MANUFACTURES	8%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	7%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	11%
ROAD VEHICLES	7%
IRON AND STEEL	6%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	5%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	5%



- Main tourist destination in the Caribbean
- Remittances from its diaspora
- Solid infrastructure network
- Free trade agreement with the United States (CAFTA-DR) and economic partnership agreement with the EU
- Institutional stability and presidential popularity



- Dependence on US and European economic conditions
- Dependent on gold prices
- Faulty and under-priced electricity supply
- Limited manufacturing activity
- Structurally weak tax revenues (10.5% of GDP in August 2023)
- Proximity and strained relations with Haiti
- High levels of poverty (poverty rate of 24% in 2023) and inequality (GINI coefficient of 0.40)
- High crime rate, corruption
- Widespread corruption

ECUADOR

COFACE ASSESSMENTS

COUNTRY RISK **C**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **B**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **18.0**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **6,389**



2024 OUTLOOK

- In 2024, economic activity will be hampered by adverse weather conditions linked to El Niño, with the agriculture, marine and oil sectors expected to be the hardest hit.
- Fiscal situation should remain challenging, as slowdown in activity will lead to revenue losses that will widen fiscal deficit. In addition, the ban on oil drilling in ITT oil field will aggravate this outlook.
- President Noboa has managed to build a majority in the National Assembly, but the coalition doesn't seem stable as ideological differences might emerge ahead of 2025 general elections.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-7.8	4.2	2.9	1.5	1.0
Inflation (yearly average, %)	-0.3	0.1	3.5	2.7	2.0
Budget balance (% GDP)	-7.1	-1.6	0.0	-3.0	-4.0
Current account balance (% GDP)	2.9	3.2	2.4	1.5	1.6
Public debt (% GDP)	60.9	62.3	57.7	58.0	60.0

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	28%
CHINA	18%
PANAMA	14%
EURO AREA	11%
CHILE	4%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	26%
CHINA	22%
EURO AREA	10%
COLOMBIA	6%
BRAZIL	4%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	35%
FISH, CRUSTACEANS, MOLLUSCS & PREPS THEREOF	26%
VEGETABLES AND FRUITS	16%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	5%
CRUDE ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE MATERIALS	4%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	19%
ROAD VEHICLES	7%
IRON AND STEEL	5%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	5%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	4%



- Significant mineral resources (copper, gold, etc.), oil and gas
- Tourism potential (flora, fauna, heritage)
- Climate diversity allowing for many crops
- Marine resources: number one exporter of shrimp and prawn
- Relatively low inflationary risk due to full dollarization



- Oil-dependent economy
- High seismic risk: volcanic eruptions
- Competitiveness subject to the evolution of the dollar because of full dollarization
- Largely informal economy and low qualification of the workforce
- History of sovereign defaults
- Deficient business environment: corruption, opaque public procurement, state interventionism
- Rising drug-related gang violence

EGYPT

COUNTRY RISK **C**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **B**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **103.6**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **4,587**



2024 OUTLOOK

- Inflation and interest rates will weigh on consumption and investment.
- Public spending, excluding interest and subsidies, will remain constrained. Foreign trade will make a slightly positive contribution, as the compression of imports due to the shortage of foreign currency and the devaluation of the pound will outweigh the misfortune of tourism and LNG sales.
- The public deficit will worsen, and the duality of the exchange rate will persist. Nonetheless, the IMF could release its credits, particularly in view of the country's role in the conflict between Israel and Hamas. This would ease the pressure on the balance of payments, without generating too much popular discontent.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth* (%)	3.6	3.2	6.6	3.8	3.3
Inflation* (yearly average, %)	5.7	4.5	8.5	24.0	30.0
Budget balance* (% GDP)	-7.5	-7.0	-5.8	-7.0	-8.0
Current account balance* (% GDP)	-2.9	-4.3	-3.5	-1.3	-1.8
Public debt* (% GDP)	86.2	89.9	88.5	96.0	92.0

(f): Forecast. * Fiscal year from 1st July to 30th June. 2024 data : FY23-24.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	31%
TÜRKIYE	8%
SAUDI ARABIA	5%
UNITED STATES	5%
SOUTH KOREA	4%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	17%
CHINA	14%
SAUDI ARABIA	9%
UNITED STATES	7%
INDIA	4%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	21%
PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	8%
VEGETABLES AND FRUITS	8%
FERTILIZERS, NOT CRUDE	5%
ARTICLES OF APPAREL & CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	5%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	10%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	7%
PLASTICS IN PRIMARY FORMS	6%
IRON AND STEEL	5%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	4%



- More than 100 million inhabitants, young and growing population
- Geostrategic crossroads (Suez Canal) and role in the fight against terrorism
- Tourism, gas and mineral potential
- Political and financial support from the Gulf and the West
- Expatriate remittances to the Gulf and the UK



- High poverty rate, low employment among young people and women, informality
- Weak public accounts, significant external financing needs
- Very negative net external position
- Banking system exposed to sovereign risk
- Lack of water and dependence on the Nile, dependence on imports
- Corruption, bureaucracy, lack of independence of judiciary, dual foreign exchange market
- Low private investment, strong military presence in the economy

EL SALVADOR

COUNTRY RISK **D**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **B**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **6.3**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **5,127**



2024 OUTLOOK

- Public finances will remain under pressure, with public debt remaining on an unsustainable path and high debt servicing costs generating substantial financing requirements.
- The moderate economic slowdown will stem from the deceleration in export growth and remittances from the United States, impacting private consumption.
- The improved security situation will stimulate tourism, reducing the current account deficit.
- In the run-up to the presidential elections in February 2024, the popularity of President N. Bukele's and his success in the fight against crime increase his chances of winning, despite a constitutional ban on standing for re-election.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	39%
GUATEMALA	17%
HONDURAS	17%
NICARAGUA	7%
COSTA RICA	4%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	30%
CHINA	17%
GUATEMALA	10%
MEXICO	8%
HONDURAS	6%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

ARTICLES OF APPAREL & CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	32%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	7%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	7%
TEXTILE YARN AND RELATED PRODUCTS	6%
PAPER AND PAPER MANUFACTURES	6%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	12%
TEXTILE YARN AND RELATED PRODUCTS	6%
ROAD VEHICLES	5%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	4%
IRON AND STEEL	4%



- Relative economic diversification
- Free trade agreements with Central America, the United States, Mexico, the European Union, Guatemala, Honduras and South Korea
- High population density



- Vulnerability to climate and seismic activity
- Insufficient infrastructure and investment
- Dependence on the United States (investment, trade, and remittances)
- Lack of independent monetary policy
- Limited access to multilateral financing
- Structurally weak public and external accounts
- High levels of inequality and poverty
- Introduction of Bitcoin has shaken market and investor confidence

ESTONIA 

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	A3
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	A1
POPULATION Millions of persons		1.3
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars		28,136



2024 OUTLOOK

- After two years of recession, caused by the war in Ukraine and the Nordic sluggishness, economic activity will slowly pick up again in 2024. It will be underpinned by the NICTs and by the recovery in private consumption, helped by the gradual fall in inflation and the improvement of real wages.
- Tax and VAT increases and the gradual phasing-out of energy support measures will offset the permanent rise in defense spending and social transfers.
- Bolstered by the 2023 parliamentary elections, Prime Minister Kaja Kallas will continue to lead a tripartite coalition, but is weakened by her husband's links with Russia.

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-0.9	7.3	-0.5	-2.5	2.0
Inflation (yearly average, %)	-0.6	4.5	19.4	9.5	3.5
Budget balance (% GDP)	-5.5	-2.4	-0.9	-3.5	-3.0
Current account balance (% GDP)	-1.0	-2.0	-3.0	-0.3	1.0
Public debt (% GDP)	18.6	17.7	18.5	21.0	23.5

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

Country	% of total
FINLAND	15%
LATVIA	14%
SWEDEN	9%
LITHUANIA	6%
GERMANY	6%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

Country	% of total
FINLAND	17%
LITHUANIA	10%
GERMANY	10%
LATVIA	10%
RUSSIA	7%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

Product	% of total
PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	10%
TELECOM. & SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	6%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES	6%
CORK AND WOOD	6%
ELECTRIC CURRENT	6%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

Product	% of total
PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	12%
ROAD VEHICLES	8%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	6%
IRON AND STEEL	4%
TELECOM. & SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	4%



- Traditionally low indebtedness
- Diversified energy sources, half of them domestic thanks to oil shales
- Membership in the Eurozone and NATO
- Close commercial, financial and cultural links with the Baltics, Scandinavia and Finland
- Development of high value-added sectors (electronics, IT services) and traditional sectors (transport, furniture)
- Flexibility of economic policy



- Small open economy sensitive to external shocks
- Before the war started, Russia was one of the biggest trading partners of Estonia
- Declining labour force, productivity slowdown, and shortage of skilled labour
- Lack of land links with the rest of the EU
- Income inequalities and persistent poverty, especially in the predominantly Russian speaking eastern regions

ESWATINI 

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	D
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	C
POPULATION Millions of persons		1.2
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars		4,050



2024 OUTLOOK

- Although hampered by South Africa's slowdown, growth will be underpinned by exports, which will benefit from the depreciation of the lilangeni and the rise in agricultural and manufacturing output, particularly beverages and dairy products.
- The high level of SACU transfers will enable the government to increase its spending on public investment, particularly in the construction sector.
- Social tensions, fuelled by poverty and inequality, will continue to be exacerbated by frustration with the absolute monarchy and its restrictions on civil liberties, further illustrated by the sham parliamentary elections in 2023.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

Country	% of total
SOUTH AFRICA	69%
KENYA	5%
NIGERIA	3%
MOZAMBIQUE	3%
EURO AREA	2%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

Country	% of total
SOUTH AFRICA	65%
CHINA	13%
INDIA	5%
EURO AREA	4%
UNITED STATES	3%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

Product	% of total
ESSENTIAL OILS FOR PERFUME MATERIALS & CLEANING PREPS	25%
SUGAR, SUGAR PREPARATIONS AND HONEY	20%
CHEMICAL MATERIALS AND PRODUCTS	10%
ARTICLES OF APPAREL & CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	9%
CORK AND WOOD	5%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

Product	% of total
PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	12%
ELECTRIC CURRENT	9%
TEXTILE YARN AND RELATED PRODUCTS	6%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	6%
ROAD VEHICLES	4%



- Significant agricultural and forestry resources
- Tourism potential
- Relatively well-developed livestock farming, agro-industry (sugar cane, food processing, concentrates for sodas) and textile/clothing sector
- Lilangeni pegged to the South African rand



- Heavy dependence on South Africa (trade, remittances, SACU revenues)
- Strong and inefficient state presence in the economy, limiting private sector investment
- Corruption, favouritism, mismanagement of public funds
- Fiscal and external balances highly subject to volatility of SACU transfers
- Poverty, inequality and informality sustained by low wages, low skills and limited fiscal resources
- High unemployment and lack of infrastructure
- High HIV prevalence (15% of 15-49 year olds)

ETHIOPIA

COUNTRY RISK **C**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **D**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **104.1**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **1,156**



2024 OUTLOOK

- In the wake of the civil war in Tigray, the country is weakened by insurgencies in the Amhara and Oromia regions.
- In 2024, growth will be driven by reconstruction, public consumption and investment in finance, telecommunications, and energy. However, political instability and inflation will curb household demand.
- At the end of 2023, Ethiopia defaulted on the payment of \$33 million in interest on an international government bond. It will therefore continue its debt restructuring negotiations, with a view to reaching an agreement with the IMF.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth* (%)	6.0	6.3	6.4	6.0	6.2
Inflation (yearly average, %)	20.3	26.8	33.9	30.0	25.0
Budget balance* (% GDP)	-2.8	-2.8	-4.2	-2.8	-2.0
Current account balance* (% GDP)	-4.2	-3.0	-4.2	-3.0	-2.3
Public debt* (% GDP)	56.5	56.6	54.4	50.4	44.6

(f): Forecast. * Fiscal year 2024 from July 8 2023 to July 7 2024.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	25%
EURO AREA	17%
SOMALIA	9%
UNITED STATES	9%
CHINA	7%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	28%
UNITED STATES	12%
EURO AREA	10%
INDIA	7%
KUWAIT	5%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

COFFEE, TEA, COCOA, SPICES & MANUFACT. THEREOF	32%
VEGETABLES AND FRUITS	17%
OIL SEEDS AND OLEAGINOUS FRUITS	14%
GOLD, NON-MONETARY	10%
CRUDE ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE MATERIALS	6%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	11%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	10%
ROAD VEHICLES	6%
POWER GENERATING MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT	6%
IRON AND STEEL	6%



- Large market (over 100 million people)
- One of the continent's main coffee exporters
- Airline hub on the continent thanks to Ethiopian Airlines
- Public investment in infrastructure development
- Hydroelectric, mining, agricultural and tourism potential
- Opening and modernisation of the banking, financial and telecommunications sectors
- BRICS membership (January, 2024)



- Fragile peace with Eritrea (2020) and in Tigray (2022), insurrection in Amhara and Oromia
- Rising poverty, inequality and food insecurity linked to armed conflicts, inflation and climate shocks
- Agriculture is not very productive
- Low foreign exchange reserves
- Suspension from AGOA (January 2022) penalizing the textile industry
- Landlocked country

FIJI

COUNTRY RISK **C**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **A4**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **0.9**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **5,474**



2024 OUTLOOK

- Economic growth should be robust in 2024, supported by tourist arrivals and an increase in budget spending in FY2024.
- Recovery in tourism will keep unemployment low, supporting private consumption.
- The current account deficit is expected to narrow thanks to increasing remittances and higher tourism receipts.
- The fiscal deficit and public debt ratio are projected to decrease, thanks to higher government revenue driven by the tourism sector.
- Risks are adverse weather conditions, skilled labor shortages, and high global commodity prices.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	21%
AUSTRALIA	11%
TONGA	7%
NEW ZEALAND	6%
EURO AREA	6%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

SINGAPORE	26%
CHINA	16%
AUSTRALIA	16%
NEW ZEALAND	14%
MALAYSIA	4%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

BEVERAGES	20%
PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	17%
FISH, CRUSTACEANS, MOLLUSCS & PREPS THEREOF	12%
SUGAR, SUGAR PREPARATIONS AND HONEY	6%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	6%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	24%
ROAD VEHICLES	5%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	4%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	4%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	3%



- Economic, transportation and academic hub in the Pacific
- Main industries: tourism sector, sugar industry, fishing and mineral
- Young population (According to the 2017 census, the median age was 27.5)
- Sovereign risk is limited by the large funding from the Fiji National Provident Fund (FNPF) and increasing level of financial support from international financial institutions



- Import dependency, chronic trade deficits
- Vulnerable to natural disasters
- Remoteness and small domestic market
- High dependency on tourism (26% of GDP, 36.5% of employment in 2019)
- Weak business environment and regulatory framework
- High youth unemployment rate
- In the EU tax blacklist

FINLAND

COUNTRY RISK **A3**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **A1**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **5.5**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **51,030**



2024 OUTLOOK

- With a high usage of variable interest rates, households are feeling the brunt of rising rates which are and will continue to negatively affect consumption in 2024.
- Falling inflation in 2024 is expected to ease and will eventually start to support domestic demand in the latter half of the year.
- The housing market is experiencing a sharp downturn with falling demand due to the interest rate environment. Falling interest rates will help the sector.
- The current government is still planning to limit the fiscal deficit. This will include expenditure cuts, some higher taxes and other reforms, but this will in the short-term still result in a rising debt-to-GDP ratio.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-2.4	3.2	1.6	-0.6	0.4
Inflation (yearly average, %)	0.3	2.2	7.1	6.3	2.5
Budget balance (% GDP)	-5.6	-2.8	-0.8	-2.4	-3.3
Current account balance (% GDP)	0.5	0.4	-2.5	-1.2	-0.8
Public debt (% GDP)	74.7	72.5	73.2	74.1	75.5

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

GERMANY	12%
SWEDEN	11%
UNITED STATES	9%
NETHERLANDS	7%
CHINA	5%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

SWEDEN	17%
GERMANY	14%
NETHERLANDS	9%
RUSSIA	7%
NORWAY	7%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	9%
PAPER AND PAPER MANUFACTURES	9%
SPECIALISED MACHINERY	7%
IRON AND STEEL	6%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	5%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	13%
ROAD VEHICLES	7%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	6%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	6%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	4%



- Favorable business climate, strong institutions and high standard of living
- Strong ICT-sector and domestic supply of commodities
- Diversified energy production with nuclear, biomass, hydro and wind power production
- Finland is part of the Eurozone, and became a member of NATO in April 2023



- Highly vulnerable to international economic conditions
- Direct neighbour of Russia (common border is around 1,340 km long)
- Dependence of the Finnish banking on the Swedish and Danish financial sectors
- Labour market inflexibility leads to relatively high structural unemployment and shortages in certain areas and sectors

FRANCE

COUNTRY RISK **A3**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **A1**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **65.6**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **42,350**



2024 OUTLOOK

- While household consumption should rebound slightly, thanks to the slowdown in inflation and the firmness of wages, business investment will be affected by the still restrictive monetary policy.
- Against a backdrop of high costs (wages, interest rates) and lacklustre demand, corporate insolvencies - which exceeded their pre-COVID level in 2023 - will continue to rise.
- In the absence of an absolute majority for President Macron, the risk of political instability is significantly increased. The risk of social tensions is also high.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-8.0	7.0	2.5	0.8	0.7
Inflation (yearly average, %)	0.5	1.6	5.9	5.8	3.3
Budget balance (% GDP)	-9.0	-6.5	-4.7	-4.9	-5.0
Current account balance (% GDP)	-2.5	0.4	-2.0	-1.2	-1.5
Public debt (% GDP)	115.0	112.8	111.7	109.7	110.5

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

GERMANY	14%
ITALY	9%
UNITED STATES	8%
BELGIUM	8%
SPAIN	8%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

GERMANY	15%
BELGIUM	11%
NETHERLANDS	8%
SPAIN	8%
ITALY	7%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

ROAD VEHICLES	8%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	6%
OTHER TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	6%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	5%
ESSENTIAL OILS FOR PERFUME MATERIALS & CLEANING PREPS	4%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	9%
ROAD VEHICLES	9%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	7%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	5%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	4%



- Quality of infrastructure and public services
- Skilled and productive workforce, dynamic demographics
- Tourism power
- Competitive international groups (aerospace, energy, environment, pharmaceuticals, luxury goods, agri-food, retail)
- Global agricultural powerhouse
- High level of savings



- Insufficient number of exporting companies, loss of competitiveness and market shares. Structural trade deficit
- Advanced de-industrialisation, relatively low level of product range, insufficient innovation efforts
- Low employment rate for young and older workers
- Relatively inefficient public spending and high tax burden
- High and growing public and private debt

GABON

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	C
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	D
POPULATION Millions of persons		2.2
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars		9,771



2024 OUTLOOK

- Despite the coup on 30 August 2023, growth will be maintained in 2024, mainly supported by oil exports, which will benefit from high prices, but also timber and manganese exports, despite a possible drop in FDI following the coup.
- The resurgence of twin deficits is linked to the drop in oil revenues compared with 2022.
- Following the controversial re-election of Ali Bongo Ondimba, in office since 2009, General Brice Oligui Nguema seized power with the help of part of the army. The transitional government has announced that free elections will be held mid-2024, and that the country's domestic and foreign commitments will be respected.

Main Economic Indicators

	2019	2020	2021	2022 (f)	2023 (f)
GDP growth (%)	3.9	-1.9	1.5	2.8	3.7
Inflation (yearly average, %)	2.0	1.3	1.1	3.5	3.2
Budget balance (% GDP)	2.1	-2.2	-1.9	1.2	3.0
Current account balance (% GDP)	-5.0	-6.9	-5.7	-1.4	-2.9
Public debt (% GDP)	59.8	78.3	65.8	52.6	50.8

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	34%
EURO AREA	29%
SOUTH KOREA	11%
UNITED STATES	6%
THAILAND	5%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	47%
CHINA	16%
UNITED STATES	5%
INDIA	4%
UNITED KINGDOM	3%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	62%
CORK AND WOOD	13%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	12%
CORK AND WOOD MANUFACTURES (EXCLUDING FURNITURE)	2%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	1%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

ROAD VEHICLES	9%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	9%
MEAT AND MEAT PREPARATIONS	8%
IRON AND STEEL	7%
SPECIALISED MACHINERY	6%



- Abundant natural resources: 4th largest oil producer in sub-Saharan Africa, 2nd largest manganese producer in the world, and one of the continent's leading producers of tropical timber
- Under-exploited mining potential: iron, gold, uranium, diamonds, copper, zinc and rare earth metals
- Hydroelectric potential
- Net carbon absorber thanks to forest density
- Member of the CEMAC and the Commonwealth



- Oil-dependent economy
- High cost of production factors, linked to inadequate infrastructure
- Dependence on imports of food and capital goods
- High unemployment, endemic poverty, informal economy (estimated at 40-50% of GDP)
- Widespread corruption
- Stock of domestic and external arrears not yet cleared

GEORGIA

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	B
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	A3
POPULATION Millions of persons		3.7
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars		6,671



2024 OUTLOOK

- Growth will return to normal in 2024, supported by investment and tourism. It had moderated in 2023 after the recovery in tourism and then the boost to services and construction following the arrival of the Russians.
- Inflation moderated in 2023, due to the slowdown in world goods prices, the appreciation of the lari and a restrictive monetary policy. It will remain close to the Central Bank's target (3%) in 2024.
- The current account deficit will remain similar to 2023, after a widening of the trade deficit and a reduction in expatriate remittances.
- The fiscal deficit will improve slightly, thanks to an increase in tax revenues.

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-6.8	10.5	10.4	6.5	5.0
Inflation (yearly average, %)	5.2	9.6	11.9	2.6	2.9
Budget balance (% GDP)	-9.3	-6.0	-2.6	-3.0	-2.7
Current account balance (% GDP)	-12.5	-10.4	-4.0	-6.1	-5.8
Public debt (% GDP)	60.2	49.7	39.8	39.6	39.3

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	13%
AZERBAIJAN	12%
RUSSIA	12%
ARMENIA	10%
TÜRKIYE	8%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

TÜRKIYE	18%
EURO AREA	15%
RUSSIA	14%
CHINA	8%
UNITED STATES	7%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	21%
ROAD VEHICLES	18%
BEVERAGES	11%
IRON AND STEEL	9%
FERTILIZERS, NOT CRUDE	5%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

ROAD VEHICLES	14%
PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	10%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	7%
IRON AND STEEL	4%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	4%



- Tourism, agricultural, mineral and hydroelectric potential (near self-sufficiency in electricity)
- Strategic geographical position between Central Asia, Russia, Europe and Türkiye
- International support, numerous trade agreements
- Relatively good business environment



- Weak diversification of the economy, low manufacturing activity (11% of GDP in 2022) and low productivity of agriculture (7% of GDP in 2022)
- Structural trade deficit and low export valuation
- Highly dollarized banking system (59% of deposits and 47% of credits in 2022)
- High poverty, informal economy and rural population
- Political instability: pro-Western/pro-Russian division, Abkhazia and South Ossetia occupied by Russian military forces

GERMANY

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	A3
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	A1
POPULATION Millions of persons		83.8
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars		48,756



2024 OUTLOOK

- Stronger wage increases will support private consumption. Together with a modest revival of foreign demand, this should lead to a moderate economic recovery.
- The high level of interest rates will still curb investment and construction activity.
- State-support will be reduced further to keep the public deficit on a low level.
- The "traffic-light"-coalition (social democrats, liberals, environmentalist) will keep up its compromises and remain in office to avoid a new election with probably high electoral gains for the right-wing party.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-3.8	3.2	1.8	-0.2	0.6
Inflation (yearly average, %)	0.5	3.1	6.9	5.9	2.7
Budget balance (% GDP)	-4.3	-3.6	-2.5	-2.2	-1.6
Current account balance (% GDP)	6.9	7.8	4.4	6.7	7.0
Public debt (% GDP)	68.7	69.0	66.1	65.9	65.6

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	10%
FRANCE	7%
NETHERLANDS	7%
CHINA	7%
POLAND	6%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

NETHERLANDS	14%
CHINA	9%
BELGIUM	6%
POLAND	6%
ITALY	5%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

ROAD VEHICLES	15%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	8%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	7%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	7%
SPECIALISED MACHINERY	4%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

ROAD VEHICLES	8%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	8%
PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	6%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	5%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	5%



- Strong industrial base (23% of GDP in 2022)
- Low structural unemployment; well-developed apprenticeship system
- Importance of family-owned exporting SMEs (Mittelstand)
- Consensus-orientated politics, institutional system promoting representativeness



- Declining working population from 2020 onwards, despite immigration
- Strong dependence on international energy imports (share of net imports in domestic consumption was 69% in 2022)
- Economy's heavy dependence on foreign trade, which is mainly focused on single countries and single sectors
- Lots of bureaucracy and insufficient investment (especially in internet accessibility)

GHANA

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	C
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	B
POPULATION Millions of persons		32.1
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars		2,252



2024 OUTLOOK

- Despite the moderation in inflation, private consumption and investment will continue to be held back by fiscal consolidation and high interest rates.
- Climatic hazards caused by El Niño are likely to weigh on cocoa production, a sector that is already under pressure.
- Despite delays to some oil projects, high gold and oil prices, coupled with weak domestic demand, will support the trade surplus.
- An agreement to restructure the country's external debt should allow IMF aid to continue.

Main Economic Indicators	2019	2020	2021	2022 (f)	2023 (f)
GDP growth (%)	6.5	0.5	5.4	3.6	2.5
Inflation (yearly average, %)	7.8	10.5	12.6	31.7	18.0
Budget balance (% GDP)	-7.3	-15.3	-11.4	-9.2	-7.5
Current account balance (% GDP)	-2.7	-3.0	-3.2	-5.3	-2.5
Public debt* (% GDP)	62.7	79.1	82.1	91.0	94.0

(f): Forecast. * From 2022, figures include, in addition to central government debt, the guaranteed debt of state-owned enterprises, bonds issued by Cocobod and recognised domestic arrears // as the restructuring process has not yet been completed, the debt forecast for 2024 is very uncertain.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	23%
SWITZERLAND	19%
SOUTH AFRICA	16%
EURO AREA	10%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	5%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	17%
EURO AREA	14%
UNITED STATES	12%
UNITED KINGDOM	7%
INDIA	5%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

GOLD, NON-MONETARY	35%
PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	33%
COFFEE, TEA, COCOA, SPICES & MANUFACT. THEREOF	12%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	4%
VEGETABLES AND FRUITS	3%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

ROAD VEHICLES	9%
MANUFACTURES OF METAL	7%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	6%
PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	5%
IRON AND STEEL	5%



- Significant mining (gold), agricultural (cocoa), oil and gas resources
- Diversified, self-sufficient energy mix
- Major development of mobile telephony and progress in digitisation
- Stable democracy, active civil society
- Attractive business environment, favourable to FDI



- Very high public debt
- High government deficit resulting from low revenues and poor public sector management
- Fragile banking sector: non-performing loans, exposure to public debt, high interest rates
- Dependence on commodities: gold and oil (67% of exports), cocoa (10%, 30% with other agricultural products, such as cashew nuts)
- Illegal mining and gold smuggling
- Security threats, including jihadist infiltration in the north

GREECE

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	A4
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	A2

POPULATION Millions of persons	10.5
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars	20,960



2024 OUTLOOK

- Despite the broader European slowdown, growth will remain resilient. Continuous flow of EU funds will sustain investment, and a competitive tourism sector will continue to perform
- Fiscal consolidation needs will force a quick compression of government consumption, constituting the main drag on growth
- The confident re-election of New Democracy in the June snap elections ensures the country will continue implementing growth-friendly structural reforms
- Though public debt is very high, it is mostly held by official creditors. This, combined with the large cash buffer held by the state (17% of GDP) strongly mitigate sovereign risk

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-9.3	8.4	5.9	2.4	2.6
Inflation (yearly average, %)	-1.3	0.6	9.3	4.4	2.5
Budget balance (% GDP)	-9.7	-7.0	-2.4	-2.3	-0.9
Current account balance (% GDP)	-8.0	-8.6	-10.6	-6.9	-6.0
Public debt (% GDP)	207.0	195.0	172.6	161.1	152.3

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

ITALY	10%
BULGARIA	8%
GERMANY	6%
CYPRUS	6%
TÜRKIYE	5%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

RUSSIA	10%
GERMANY	9%
CHINA	9%
IRAQ	7%
ITALY	7%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	31%
NON-FERROUS METALS	7%
VEGETABLES AND FRUITS	5%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	5%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	5%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	23%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	11%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	4%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	4%
ROAD VEHICLES	4%



- Abundant European financial support (NGEU funds = 18% of 2019 GDP)
- World leader in maritime transport
- Booming tourism sector
- Healing bank balance sheets
- Rapidly improving business climate



- Very high public debt, quality of public services and infrastructures eroded by years of fiscal consolidation
- Lingering tensions vis-à-vis Türkiye, a NATO partner
- Poorly diversified industry, overwhelming dependence on tourism
- Cumbersome bureaucracy and judicial system
- High dependence on hydrocarbon imports (oil, gas, and coal account for 80% of the energy mix)

GUATEMALA

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	C
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	C

POPULATION Millions of persons	18.6
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars	5,098



2024 OUTLOOK

- Growth will be mitigated by unfavourable external conditions. While private consumption would benefit from lower inflation, a slowdown in North America would penalise expatriate remittances and exports.
- Arévalo's election as president is being contested by the opposition and the establishment. His centre-left policies, including the fight against corruption, could be constrained. With his Semilla party in the minority in Congress, he will have to forge alliances of convenience.
- The new administration wants to devote a substantial budget to education and the environment, and hopes to increase revenue by broadening the tax base.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-1.8	8.0	4.1	3.5	3.5
Inflation (yearly average, %)	3.2	4.2	6.9	6.5	5.5
Budget balance (% GDP)	-4.9	-1.2	-1.7	-2.0	-2.0
Current account balance (% GDP)	5.0	2.2	1.4	2.5	2.0
Public debt (% GDP)	31.5	30.8	29.2	28.0	28.0

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	32%
EL SALVADOR	13%
HONDURAS	10%
EURO AREA	9%
NICARAGUA	6%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	35%
CHINA	14%
MEXICO	11%
EURO AREA	7%
EL SALVADOR	5%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

VEGETABLES AND FRUITS	15%
ARTICLES OF APPAREL & CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	13%
COFFEE, TEA, COCOA, SPICES & MANUFACT. THEREOF	10%
FIXED VEG. OILS & FATS, CRUDE, REFINED/FRACTIONATED	7%
SUGAR, SUGAR PREPARATIONS AND HONEY	6%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	15%
ROAD VEHICLES	7%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	4%
IRON AND STEEL	4%
TELECOM. & SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	4%



- Financial support from the United States
- Free trade agreements with the United States and the European Union
- Agricultural (bananas, coffee, sugar, palm oil, cardamom), tourism, hydroelectric and geothermal resources
- Mining potential (gold, silver, nickel, alkaline earths)
- High foreign exchange reserves (around 7 months' imports)
- Low level of public and external debt, particularly in comparison with its regional peers



- Heavy dependence on remittances from expatriates living in the United States
- Political/social instability, corruption and insecurity (drug trafficking)
- Social divide fuelled by poverty, inequality, public under-investment, ethnic divisions and external shocks
- Low tax revenues (12% of GDP by 2023)

GUINEA

COUNTRY RISK **C**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **D**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **14.7**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **1,384**



2024 OUTLOOK

- In 2024, domestic demand will drive growth: household consumption, public investment in infrastructure and FDI in mining projects, such as the Simandou iron ore mine, which should be completed by the end of the year.
- Trade will also contribute positively to growth, thanks to mineral exports (bauxite, aluminium, gold) and a recovery in agriculture.
- Since the 2021 coup, the country has been led by a military junta, which is supposed to lead a transition to civilian rule. However, the general elections scheduled for early 2025 are likely to be postponed due to the government's authoritarian tendencies and the delay in implementing reforms.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	4.9	4.5	4.5	5.5	5.5
Inflation (yearly average, %)	10.6	12.6	10.5	8.0	7.5
Budget balance* (% GDP)	-3.1	-1.7	-1.0	-2.3	-2.3
Current account balance** (% GDP)	18.9	28.9	17.0	8.0	13.0
Public debt (% GDP)	47.5	41.5	33.0	32.0	32.0

(f): Forecast. * Grants included. ** Official transfers included.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

INDIA	40%
CHINA	15%
EURO AREA	8%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	8%
SWITZERLAND	7%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	32%
CHINA	17%
INDIA	11%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	8%
JAPAN	7%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

GOLD, NON-MONETARY	42%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	41%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	4%
PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	4%
VEGETABLES AND FRUITS	2%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	14%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	11%
ROAD VEHICLES	11%
SPECIALISED MACHINERY	9%
VEGETABLES AND FRUITS	5%



- The world's largest bauxite reserves and second largest producer
- Iron, gold, diamond, uranium, and oil deposits still largely unexploited
- Significant hydroelectric potential
- Vibrant mining sector



- Dependence on exports and mineral prices
- Dependence on Chinese demand for bauxite
- Military government in power since the 2021 coup, and risk of a delay in the return to democracy
- Low public revenues (13% of GDP)
- Lack of public services and infrastructure, especially in the electricity and transport sectors
- High poverty (44% of the population)
- Structural weakness in agriculture, with vulnerability to weather conditions and climate change

GUYANA

COUNTRY RISK **C**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **C**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **0.8**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **18,353**



2024 OUTLOOK

- Oil will support the exceptional pace of growth in 2024. The introduction of a new ship to the Payara field will enhance production capabilities. Auctioning off blocks will attract investors.
- Non-oil activities (construction, services) will be stimulated by the positive impacts of the oil sector. This trickle-down effect will boost domestic demand (increased wages and public spending) while maintaining inflationary pressures.
- Agricultural production (sugar cane, rice) may still suffer from El Niño and associated drought.
- The narrow legislative majority is expected to persist until the next elections in 2025.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	43.5	20.1	62.3	25.2	21.2
Inflation (yearly average, %)	1.2	3.3	6.5	6.2	5.5
Budget balance (% GDP)	-7.8	-7.3	-5.2	-6.7	-5.0
Current account balance (% GDP)	-16.3	-25.9	23.7	18.	20.0
Public debt (% GDP)	51.1	43.2	26.0	29.9	29.0

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	50%
UNITED KINGDOM	17%
BARBADOS	9%
CANADA	7%
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	6%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

SINGAPORE	31%
UNITED STATES	24%
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	10%
CHINA	8%
EURO AREA	4%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	73%
ROAD VEHICLES	11%
GOLD, NON-MONETARY	7%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	2%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	1%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

OTHER TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	30%
PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	15%
SPECIALISED MACHINERY	10%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	5%
ROAD VEHICLES	4%



- Attractive prospects for investors in extraction, hydroelectricity, and agriculture
- Abundant reserves of offshore oil and gas, under exploitation since 2020, and extensive forest cover
- Transparent management of oil revenues through a sovereign fund
- Member of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM)

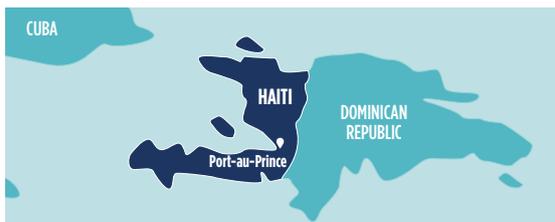


- Dependency on natural resources (gold, bauxite, sugar, rice, timber, and notably, oil since 2020)
- Insufficient infrastructure in transportation, electricity, education, and healthcare
- Vulnerability to climatic events (exposure to hurricanes)
- Drug-related crime, within a context of poverty and efforts to combat corruption (country scored 40/100 and ranked 85/180 by Transparency International in 2022)

HAITI

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	E
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	E

POPULATION Millions of persons	12.1
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars	1,702



2024 OUTLOOK

- Since the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in July 2021, the country has been plunged into an economic, political and security crisis.
- The country is expected to return to growth in 2024. However, this rebound depends on an improvement in the political and security situation. To this end, in October 2023, the UN approved the deployment of an international military force to support the local police.
- Endemic insecurity and corruption will maintain a mediocre business climate. Private consumption will be restricted by the still high unemployment rate, the cholera epidemic and persistent inflation.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-3.3	-1.8	-1.7	-2.0	1.0
Inflation (yearly average, %)	22.9	15.9	27.6	44.0	15.0
Budget balance/** (% GDP)	-2.2	-2.2	-1.7	-1.5	-1.5
Current account balance (% GDP)	0.4	0.4	-2.3	-3.0	-2.5
Public debt (% GDP)	22.0	25.6	23.9	19.5	18.5

(f): Forecast. * 2024 Fiscal year from 1st October 2023 to 30th September 2024. ** Grants included.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	82%
CANADA	4%
MEXICO	4%
EURO AREA	3%
THAILAND	2%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	25%
UNITED STATES	24%
INDONESIA	12%
EURO AREA	5%
CANADA	4%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

ARTICLES OF APPAREL & CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	72%
VEGETABLES AND FRUITS	5%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	3%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	2%
TEXTILE YARN AND RELATED PRODUCTS	2%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	22%
ARTICLES OF APPAREL & CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	10%
TEXTILE YARN AND RELATED PRODUCTS	7%
PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	6%
ROAD VEHICLES	6%



- Development and reconstruction programmes established with international donors
- Membership of regional organisations: Association of Caribbean States, Organisation of American States, CARICOM, CARIFORUM
- 9-month programme concluded with the IMF in June 2023



- High vulnerability to natural disasters
- Low level of development, deep inequalities, poverty
- Dependence on remittances from Haitian expatriates in the US and Canada and on international donations
- Lack of infrastructure, particularly energy infrastructure (70% of the population has no access to electricity)
- Large informal sector
- Political instability, corruption and insecurity: armed gangs control more than half the country and almost 90% of the capital

HONDURAS

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	C
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	C

POPULATION Millions of persons	10.3
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars	3,062



2024 OUTLOOK

- Activity will recover slightly, thanks to rising private consumption and public investment. Nevertheless, economic recovery will depend on the US activity, which is expected to slow.
- Inflation will continue the deceleration begun in February 2023.
- The reduction in the current account deficit will be mainly attributed to the recovery in tourism.
- Lower energy subsidies will help reduce the public deficit, whose financing will depend on multilateral loans.
- The Castro administration, which is in a minority in Congress, is facing a reorganization of the opposition with a new coalition, the Citizen's Opposition Bloc, led by S.Nasralla.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-9.0	12.5	4.0	2.9	3.2
Inflation (yearly average, %)	3.5	4.5	9.1	6.4	4.7
Budget balance (% GDP)	-5.5	-3.7	-0.2	-3.4	-3.0
Current account balance (% GDP)	2.9	-5.2	-3.2	-5.2	-4.9
Public debt (% GDP)	54.1	55.8	51.0	51.7	52.1

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	33%
EURO AREA	21%
GUATEMALA	9%
EL SALVADOR	8%
NICARAGUA	6%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	34%
CHINA	14%
GUATEMALA	10%
MEXICO	6%
EL SALVADOR	5%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

ARTICLES OF APPAREL & CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	24%
COFFEE, TEA, COCOA, SPICES, AND MANUFACT. THEREOF	19%
VEGETABLES AND FRUITS	9%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES	9%
FIXED VE. OILS & FATS, CRUDE, REFINED/FRACTIONATED	6%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	16%
TEXTILE YARN AND RELATED PRODUCTS	7%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	6%
IRON AND STEEL	5%
ROAD VEHICLES	5%



- Privileged relations with the United States (preferential trade agreement under CAFTA-DR, military presence)
- Agricultural resources
- Multilateral donor support, particularly from the IMF, for the current government's economic reforms



- Dependence on the US economy (exports, FDI and expatriate remittances)
- Dependence on fuel and cereal imports
- High emigration due to insecurity
- High level of informality in the economy (80% of employment by 2023)
- Fiscal resources still too low (17% of GDP in 2021)
- High unemployment rate (8.1% in 2023)
- Vulnerable to climatic events
- One of the poorest and most unequal countries in Latin America and the Caribbean

HONG KONG SAR

COFACE ASSESSMENTS

COUNTRY RISK **A3**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **A1**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **7.5**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **48,154**



2024 OUTLOOK

- Modest GDP expansion anticipated in 2024, driven by private consumption and the services sector.
- Resilient labor market and rising tourism to bolster retail sales and services.
- Slow growth in advanced economies continues to hinder external demand.
- High interest rates pose a downside risk to private consumption due to a weak asset market implying a negative wealth effect, a shift from liquid accounts to higher yielding fixed deposit accounts, and the appreciation of the HKD encouraging spending outside Hong Kong.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-6.5	6.3	-3.5	4.1	3.3
Inflation (yearly average, %)	0.3	1.6	1.9	2.2	2.3
Budget balance (% GDP)	-9.2	-0.6	-7.3	-3.6	0.6
Current account balance (% GDP)	7.0	11.8	10.5	7.0	6.4
Public debt (% GDP)	1.0	2.1	4.3	6.0	6.9

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	57%
UNITED STATES	6%
EURO AREA	5%
INDIA	4%
TAIWAN	3%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	40%
TAIWAN	11%
SINGAPORE	8%
SOUTH KOREA	6%
JAPAN	5%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

TELECOM. AND SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	44%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	13%
OFFICE MACHINES & AUTO DATA PROCESS. MACHINES	12%
GOLD, NON-MONETARY	5%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	4%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

TELECOM. & SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	42%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	11%
OFFICE MACHINES & AUTO DATA PROCESS. MACHINES	10%
GOLD, NON-MONETARY	6%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	5%



- Open economy
- High-quality infrastructure
- Top-class global financial centre, airlock between China and the rest of the world
- Healthy banking system
- HKD pegged to USD



- Lack of diversification of the Economy
- Exposure to the economy of mainland China
- Mismatch between business cycles in the United States and China and HKD-USD peg allows no independence in monetary policy
- Limited fiscal stimulus potential
- Real estate sector risks and housing Affordability
- Rising income inequality
- Ageing population
- Caught in between US-China tensions
- Potential weakening of foreign investor confidence due to increased political alignment with mainland China

HUNGARY

COFACE ASSESSMENTS

COUNTRY RISK **A4**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **A3**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **9.7**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **18,579**



2024 OUTLOOK

- The Hungarian economy will rebound from the recession with household consumption driving growth thanks to increasing real wages and less precautionary savings.
- Although inflation has been receding, it is expected to remain higher than the EU and regional averages.
- Foreign direct investment projects will boost investment while exports will contribute to growth, especially if the main trading partner, Western Europe, recovers.
- The lack of transfers from the EU budget results from the disputed rule-of-law issues making public sector investments limited.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-4.5	7.1	4.6	-0.6	1.9
Inflation (yearly average, %)	3.4	5.2	15.3	17.4	5.2
Budget balance (% GDP)	-7.6	-7.2	-6.2	-5.8	-4.5
Current account balance (% GDP)	-1.0	-4.1	-8.2	0.8	0.3
Public debt (% GDP)	79.3	76.7	73.9	70.8	72.1

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

GERMANY	25%
ITALY	6%
ROMANIA	5%
SLOVAKIA	5%
AUSTRIA	5%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

GERMANY	21%
CHINA	8%
AUSTRIA	7%
RUSSIA	7%
SLOVAKIA	7%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

ROAD VEHICLES	15%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES	15%
TELECOM. AND SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	7%
POWER GENERATING MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT	6%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	5%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	11%
ROAD VEHICLES	8%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	6%
TELECOM. & SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	5%
ELECTRIC CURRENT	5%



- Diversified economy
- High quality infrastructure thanks to European funds
- Integrated within the European supply chain
- Trained workforce
- Low corporate taxation
- Generally positive payment behaviour



- Ageing population, low birth rate
- Open economy exposed to European economic trends
- Regional disparities; lack of mobility
- Deficiencies in vocational education
- Poor levels of innovation and R&D, high content of imported inputs in exports
- The EU rule-of-law dispute

ICELAND

COUNTRY RISK **A3**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **A1**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **0.4**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **74,591**



2024 OUTLOOK

- Iceland's strong tourism industry is expected to be less affected by a slowdown in tourism as it is generally a "high end" destination.
- Domestic demand will slow down in 2024, affected by still high inflation and a weakening labour market.
- The high interest rate level will dampen business activity and is expected to remain high until inflation converges towards its target.
- The current government, which started its second term in 2021, is slowing down public investments and spending as it tries to ease inflationary pressures.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-7.2	4.5	7.2	2.4	1.5
Inflation (yearly average, %)	2.9	4.5	8.3	8.7	4.4
Budget balance (% GDP)	-8.9	-8.5	-4.1	-1.3	-1.0
Current account balance (% GDP)	0.9	-3.0	-2.3	1.6	1.6
Public debt (% GDP)	77.8	75.5	68.2	61.9	58.8

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	60%
UNITED KINGDOM	9%
UNITED STATES	8%
NORWAY	5%
DENMARK	3%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	31%
NORWAY	12%
CHINA	9%
UNITED STATES	7%
DENMARK	6%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

NON-FERROUS METALS	41%
FISH, CRUSTACEANS, MOLLUSCS & PREPS THEREOF	33%
IRON AND STEEL	5%
FEEDSTUFF FOR ANIMALS (EXCL. UNMILLED CEREALS)	4%
ANIMAL OILS AND FATS	3%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	14%
ROAD VEHICLES	11%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	8%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	7%
OTHER TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	4%



- Very high standard of living and low inequality in the society
- Strong tourism industry
- Abundant renewable energy (100% of the electricity consumption is produced by renewable energy)
- Not an EU-country, but highly integrated into the European Union via the Agreement on the European Economic Area and the Schengen Agreement, a NATO-member state



- Volcanic and seismic risks
- Small and very open economy: constrained monetary policy
- Concentration of production and exports (aluminum and marine products accounted for 73% of all goods exports in 2022)
- Volatile activity due to dependence on tourist inflows
- Wage growth higher than productivity growth

INDIA

COUNTRY RISK **B**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **A4**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **1,417.2**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **2,392**



2024 OUTLOOK

- Moderation in manufacturing activity and exports amid a global slowdown means that domestic demand is the main growth anchor.
- Despite a focus on government capex, monsoon-related impact on agricultural output should fan food inflationary pressures. This will hit consumption and risk new food export restrictions.
- Private investment growth could also be affected ahead of the general elections in April-May 2024.
- Rising global energy prices will pressure current account balance, while rising policy rate and subsidy burdens will impose fiscal restraint.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP Growth (%)**	-6.0	8.9	6.7	6.9	5.5
Inflation (yearly average, %)	6.6	5.1	6.7	5.5	4.5
Budget balance (% GDP)*	-12.9	-9.6	-9.2	-8.8	-8.5
Current account (% GDP)*	0.9	-1.2	-2.0	-2.0	-1.8
Public debt (% GDP)*	88.5	83.8	81.0	81.9	82.3

(f): Forecast. * FY 2024: April 2024-March 2025. ** calendar year.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	18%
EURO AREA	15%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	7%
CHINA	3%
BANGLADESH	3%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	14%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	7%
UNITED STATES	7%
EURO AREA	7%
SAUDI ARABIA	6%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	21%
NON METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES	7%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	5%
ORGANIC CHEMICALS	4%
ROAD VEHICLES	4%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	25%
COAL, COKE AND BRIQUETTES	7%
GOLD, NON-MONETARY	5%
NON METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES	5%
TELECOM. & SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	4%



- Diversified growth drivers
- Large and young workforce with good command of English
- Efficient IT services
- Expatriates' and diaspora's remittances, jewellery, garments, vehicles and medicine exports, tourism, and IT services, contribute positively to the current account
- Low level of external debt and adequate FX reserves



- High corporate debt and non-performing loans (NPL)
- Net importer of energy resources
- Lack of adequate infrastructure
- Weak public finances
- Bureaucratic red tape, inefficient justice
- Widespread poverty, inequality, informality
- Military confrontation with China and Pakistan
- Climate impact on agriculture
- Heightened communal tensions (Hindu-Muslim)

INDONESIA 

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	A4
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	A4
POPULATION Millions of persons		274.9
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars		4,798



2024 OUTLOOK

- Economic growth will remain stable, driven by robust private consumption and the recovery in tourism.
- The building of the new capital city and the development of metal processing, notably nickel, would drive investment.
- Bank Indonesia is likely to moderately cut its policy rate in 2024, as inflation remains within target range and depreciation pressure alleviates amid a monetary easing from the Fed.
- Prabowo Subianto is one of the favorites for the general elections to be held in February 2024. While not from the same party than Jokowi, his economic policies would remain broadly in line with the former president.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-2.1	3.7	5.3	5.1	5.1
Inflation (yearly average, %)	2.0	1.6	4.2	3.8	3.0
Budget balance (% GDP)	-6.1	-4.5	-2.4	-2.3	-2.4
Current account balance (% GDP)	-0.4	0.3	1.0	-0.3	-0.6
Public debt (% GDP)	39.7	41.1	40.1	39.0	38.6

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	21%
UNITED STATES	11%
JAPAN	8%
INDIA	8%
EURO AREA	7%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	25%
SINGAPORE	9%
JAPAN	8%
THAILAND	6%
INDIA	5%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

COAL, COKE AND BRIQUETTES	21%
FIXED VE. OILS & FATS, CRUDE, REFINED/FRACTIONATED	12%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	11%
IRON AND STEEL	6%
ARTICLES OF APPAREL & CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	4%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	13%
IRON AND STEEL	7%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	5%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	5%
ORGANIC CHEMICALS	5%



- Diverse natural resources (agriculture, energy, mining)
- Low labour costs and demographic dividend
- Growing tourism industry
- Huge domestic market
- Sovereign bonds rated "Investment Grade"
- Exchange rate flexibility



- Large infrastructure investment gap
- Low fiscal revenues
- Exposure to shifts in Chinese demand
- Market fragmentation: extensive archipelago with numerous islands and ethnic diversity
- Highly exposed to natural disasters
- Persistent corruption and lack of transparency
- Dependency on raw material exports

IRAN 

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	E
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	D
POPULATION Millions of persons		85.7
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars		4,043



2024 OUTLOOK

- Higher oil prices will support growth in 2024, but the pace will remain subdued due to international sanctions and high inflation.
- Iran's current account surplus is expected to inch down as economic challenges in key export markets will weigh on non-oil exports.
- Budget deficit will widen as public sector wage will weigh despite efforts to cut expenditure.
- A return to the Iran Nuclear Deal seems challenging to achieve despite recent indirect talks between Iran and the US. Establishment of closer ties with Saudi Arabia may have positive contributions to regional trade.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	3.3	4.7	3.8	3	2.5
Inflation (yearly average, %)	36.4	40.1	45.8	47	33
Budget balance (% GDP)	-5.8	-4.2	-4.1	-5.5	-5.7
Current account balance (% GDP)	-0.4	3.9	4.2	3.4	3
Public debt (% GDP)	48.3	42.4	34.1	30.5	30.5

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	32%
TÜRKIYE	17%
TAIWAN	6%
AFGHANISTAN	5%
EURO AREA	4%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	26%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	15%
EURO AREA	13%
TÜRKIYE	9%
RUSSIA	7%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	36%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	14%
PLASTICS IN PRIMARY FORMS	7%
VEGETABLES AND FRUITS	6%
ORGANIC CHEMICALS	5%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	10%
ROAD VEHICLES	7%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	7%
IRON AND STEEL	5%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	5%



- Second largest proven oil and gas reserves in the world
- A strong manufacturing sector
- Low penetrated, large consumer market



- High dependence on oil and gas
- The delayed return to the nuclear deal constrains growth, international sanctions weigh on trade, investment and capital flows
- Existence of multiple exchange regimes, assets frozen abroad putting pressure on investment funding
- High inflation, heavy bureaucracy and corruption

IRAQ

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	E
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	E

POPULATION Millions of persons	42.2
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars	6,181



2024 OUTLOOK

- The country will return to growth, if oil production increases, after being subject to OPEC+ restrictions in 2023.
- While public revenues would benefit from a more dynamic oil sector, the expansionary budget of 2023-25 will penalise the budget balance.
- The rise in oil exports would offset the rise in imports linked to the revaluation of the dinar, as well as increased public spending and foreign investment.
- While the election of a president, the appointment of a prime minister and the formation of a government in 2022 have reduced political uncertainty, problems, particularly security problems, persist.



- Vast oil and gas reserves, low extraction costs
- Interest from foreign investors in infrastructure, hydrocarbons and cement
- Young and growing population
- Strengthening relations with China, leading to new oil and construction agreements



- Oil-dependent economy
- Social, political and security instability fuelled by Iranian interference, religious and ethnic divisions, corruption, bureaucracy and poor infrastructure (especially electricity)
- Government bringing together Sunnis, Kurds and pro-Iranian Shiites, reluctant to speed up economic and institutional reforms
- Tensions between the central government and Kurdistan over the redistribution of oil revenues
- Large informal sector

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-12.1	1.6	7.0	-2.5	3.0
Inflation (yearly average, %)	0.6	6.0	5.0	5.0	3.5
Budget balance (% GDP)	-12.9	-0.4	7.6	-7.5	-8.0
Current account balance (% GDP)	-15.0	6.9	17.3	4.5	5.0
Public debt (% GDP)	78.7	59.2	44.9	49.0	54.5

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	30%
INDIA	29%
EURO AREA	18%
UNITED STATES	8%
SOUTH KOREA	7%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	29%
TÜRKIYE	29%
EURO AREA	8%
INDIA	5%
SAUDI ARABIA	3%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	96%
GOLD, NON-MONETARY	2%
VEGETABLES AND FRUITS	0%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	0%
IRON AND STEEL	0%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

ROAD VEHICLES	8%
IRON AND STEEL	8%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	6%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	5%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	4%

IRELAND

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	A3
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	A1

POPULATION Millions of persons	5.2
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars	103,311



2024 OUTLOOK

- A fall in activity of multinational corporations is causing a slowdown with investments and exports falling but is expected to slowly recover in 2024.
- Domestic consumption is still buoyant and labour market is strong which, along with improving purchasing power, will help household spending in 2024.
- Ireland is still suffering from an undersupply of housing, which is causing some public discontent, but also supporting house prices, which will help the construction sector.
- Phasing out of the last government support measures are expected to cause a further rise in corporate insolvencies in 2024.



- Flexible labour and goods markets
- Favourable business environment, attractive taxation
- Presence of multinational companies, particularly from the United States, which account for 22% of employment and 63% of value added in the non-financial business sector
- Presence (through multinationals) in sectors with high value added, including pharmaceuticals, IT and medical equipment



- Dependent on the economic situation and tax regimes of the United States and Europe, particularly the United Kingdom
- Vulnerable to changes in the strategies of foreign companies
- Private corporate debt levels still high
- Banking sector still vulnerable to shocks

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	5.8	14.8	9.5	-1.5	3.0
Inflation (yearly average, %)	-0.3	2.4	7.8	6.4	3.2
Budget balance (% GDP)	-5.0	-1.5	1.7	1.0	0.6
Current account balance (% GDP)	-6.5	13.7	10.8	12.9	11.1
Public debt (% GDP)	58.1	54.4	44.4	44.1	42.9

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	29%
GERMANY	13%
UNITED KINGDOM	11%
BELGIUM	9%
NETHERLANDS	7%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED KINGDOM	21%
UNITED STATES	15%
FRANCE	9%
CHINA	9%
GERMANY	8%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	35%
ORGANIC CHEMICALS	21%
TELECOM. AND SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	6%
ESSENTIAL OILS FOR PERFUME MATERIALS & CLEANING PREPS	5%
PROFESSIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS	5%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

ORGANIC CHEMICALS	13%
OTHER TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	11%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	8%
TELECOM. & SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	7%
PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	5%

ISRAEL

COUNTRY RISK **A3**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **A2**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **9.7**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **54,337**



2024 OUTLOOK

- Assuming the war between Hamas and Israel remains contained in Gaza, the economy will modestly grow in 2024. Relatively high living costs, poor growth in main export markets, increased political and security risks, will weigh on domestic demand.
- The goods balance will remain in deficit, compounded by weak external demand. Tourism flows will be negatively affected by the war.
- Increased social spending to support growth and households most affected by the war will result in a wider fiscal deficit in 2024.
- Gaza war and controversial judicial reform will raise political and security risks.

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-1.5	9.3	6.5	2.0	1.5
Inflation (yearly average, %)	-0.6	1.5	4.4	4.2	2.5
Budget balance (% GDP)	-10.8	-3.7	0.6	-4.2	-6.5
Current account balance (% GDP)	5.4	4.2	3.4	3.5	3.5
Public debt (% GDP)	70.7	68	61	62	66

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	26%
EURO AREA	23%
CHINA	6%
INDIA	5%
UNITED KINGDOM	4%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	28%
CHINA	12%
UNITED STATES	9%
SWITZERLAND	6%
TÜRKIYE	5%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

NON METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES	16%
TELECOM. AND SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	12%
PROFESSIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS	9%
CHEMICAL MATERIALS AND PRODUCTS	6%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	6%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	14%
NON METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES	10%
ROAD VEHICLES	8%
TELECOM. & SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	6%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	5%



- Diversified economy, resilient, and highly integrated into global trade
- High level of international reserves
- Decreasing public debt to GDP ratio, strong external accounts
- Offshore natural gas potentials



- Dangerous geopolitical environment
- Small economy
- Lack of workers in key sectors
- Strongly divided and fragmented political landscape leading to political instability and frequent snap elections
- Unresolved problem of cohabitation with Palestinians

ITALY

COUNTRY RISK **B**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **A2**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **59.0**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **34,085**



2024 OUTLOOK

- The economy will struggle to break away from near-stagnant growth rates, suffering from still-subdued export demand from European partners
- Depleting household savings and a resilient labor market will outweigh each other, resulting in stable consumption
- Private investment will continue to lose steam, but European funds will continue to support public investment
- ECB/EU support will mitigate risks arising from higher debt, as long as the government and the EU remain in good terms
- The right-wing coalition led by Giorgia Meloni has consolidated enough support to form a durable government, improving political stability

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-9.0	7.0	3.7	0.6	0.7
Inflation (yearly average, %)	-0.1	1.9	8.7	6.1	2.5
Budget balance (% GDP)	-9.7	-9.0	-8.0	-5.3	-4.5
Current account balance (% GDP)	3.9	3.0	-0.7	0.6	1.0
Public debt (% GDP)	154.9	147.1	141.7	140.1	141.2

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

GERMANY	13%
UNITED STATES	11%
FRANCE	10%
SPAIN	5%
SWITZERLAND	5%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

GERMANY	14%
CHINA	9%
FRANCE	7%
NETHERLANDS	6%
SPAIN	5%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	8%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	7%
ROAD VEHICLES	6%
SPECIALISED MACHINERY	4%
IRON AND STEEL	4%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	9%
PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	8%
ROAD VEHICLES	6%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	5%
IRON AND STEEL	4%



- Renewal of the construction and manufacturing sectors
- Diversification of the energy supply
- Low private debt (107% of GDP compared to the eurozone average of 162%)
- Comparative advantages: food, textiles, furniture, machinery, pharmaceuticals
- European funds support modernization



- Strong regional disparities, significant informal economy estimated at 11% of GDP
- Prevalence of small, unproductive enterprises (over 90% of businesses have 10 employees or fewer)
- Very high public debt, increasing demands for fiscal discipline
- Unfavorable demographics aggravate labor shortages
- Dependency on energy imports

JAMAICA

COUNTRY RISK **C**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **A4**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **2.7**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **6,198**



2024 OUTLOOK

- Activity is set to slow in 2024, with growth in expatriate remittances and exports held back by the expected economic slowdown in the United States.
- Growth will be driven by mining, tourism and private investment in hospitality and infrastructure.
- The Holness Administration's prudent fiscal policy will support the downward trajectory of the public debt ratio.
- Frustrations over the cost of living, wage demands, and persistent crime are undermining the government's popularity. These factors are also strengthening the People's National Party, the main opposition party.

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-9.9	4.6	5.2	2.0	1.8
Inflation (yearly average, %)	5.2	5.9	10.3	6.5	5.0
Budget balance* (% GDP)	-3.1	0.9	0.3	0.3	0.3
Current account balance (% GDP)	-1.1	1.0	-0.8	-1.2	-1.7
Public debt* (% GDP)	109.7	94.2	77.1	72.3	68.4

(f): Forecast. * FY 2024: from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	48%
CANADA	8%
UNITED KINGDOM	7%
EURO AREA	5%
GEORGIA	5%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	37%
CHINA	8%
COLOMBIA	7%
BRAZIL	7%
EURO AREA	5%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	38%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	16%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	16%
BEVERAGES	8%
VEGETABLES AND FRUITS	5%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	24%
ROAD VEHICLES	6%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	6%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	5%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	4%



- Natural resources (bauxite, sugar, bananas, coffee) and tourism
- Financial support from multilateral organizations
- Strategic geographic location
- Significant diaspora remittances
- Stable democratic framework



- Poorly diversified economy and high dependence on tourism
- Vulnerability to external shocks (climate, US economic situation, raw materials)
- High public debt
- High levels of corruption, criminality, and largely unskilled labor, affecting the attractiveness of the business climate
- One of the slowest economies in Latin America and the Caribbean (concentration in low-productivity services, pervasive crime, limited adoption of innovation and technology)

JAPAN

COUNTRY RISK **A2**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **A1**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **125.2**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **33,854**



2024 OUTLOOK

- Slower growth expected in 2024 as effects of the post-Covid economic normalisation fade. Consumption and capital expenditure projected to contribute less to GDP growth.
- Export growth should accelerate on the recovery of global electronics cycle. Tourism recovery should continue through more Chinese visitors.
- Disinflation continues, but inflation to remain elevated in 2024. Rollback of energy subsidies will fan consumer price pressures.
- Risk of monetary policy normalisation if inflationary pressures stay elevated, and wage growth remains robust.

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022 (e)	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP Growth (%)	-4.2	2.2	0.9	1.5	1.2
Inflation (yearly average, %)	0.0	-0.2	2.5	3.3	3.2
Budget balance (% GDP)*	-9.1	-6.2	-6.9	-5.6	-3.7
Current account (% GDP)	3.0	3.9	1.9	3.3	3.5
Public debt (% GDP)*	258.6	255.1	260.1	255.2	251.9

(e): Estimate. (f): Forecast. * Fiscal year: FY2024 (April 2024 - March 2025).

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	19%
UNITED STATES	19%
EURO AREA	8%
SOUTH KOREA	7%
TAIWAN	7%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	21%
UNITED STATES	10%
AUSTRALIA	10%
EURO AREA	8%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	5%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

ROAD VEHICLES	18%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	9%
SPECIALISED MACHINERY	9%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	5%
TELECOM. AND SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	5%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	14%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	8%
TELECOM. & SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	8%
COAL, COKE AND BRIQUETTES	7%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	5%



- Privileged location in a dynamic region
- High level of national savings rate (around 25% of GDP)
- Public debt is over 90% owned by local investors
- Advanced technology products and diversified industrial sector
- Trade agreement with the EU and Transpacific Partnership
- Regional trade agreements (RCEP, CPTPP)
- Excellent corporate payment behaviour



- Rapidly ageing population
- Reduction of the workforce and low immigration contribution, increasing share of precarious workers
- Difficulty in fiscal consolidation
- Stagnant real wage growth
- Japan-China-Russia tensions over disputed islands

JORDAN

COFACE ASSESSMENTS

COUNTRY RISK **C**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **B**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **10.3**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **4,613**



2024 OUTLOOK

- Growth will remain subdued as the Israel-Hamas war will weigh on private consumption, investments, and tourism flows.
- An estimated increase in fertilizer prices will raise Jordan's export revenues but the goods trade balance will remain in deficit due to strong domestic demand for imported fuels, food and gold.
- Fiscal consolidation is expected to continue in line with the IMF program's targets.
- The geographic proximity to the Israel-Hamas war and the domestic pro-Palestinian stance may exert pressure on the authorities to balance ties with Israel.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-1.6	2.2	2.5	2.6	2.7
Inflation (yearly average, %)	0.4	1.3	4.2	2.7	3.0
Budget balance (% GDP)	-8.5	-8.9	-8.3	-7.4	-7.0
Current account balance (% GDP)	-5.7	-8.2	-8.8	-7.5	-5.5
Public debt (% GDP)	87	89.8	91.0	91.0	89.0

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	21%
INDIA	16%
SAUDI ARABIA	10%
IRAQ	8%
EURO AREA	5%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	15%
SAUDI ARABIA	15%
EURO AREA	11%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	8%
UNITED STATES	5%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

FERTILIZERS, NOT CRUDE	19%
ARTICLES OF APPAREL & CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	18%
INORGANIC CHEMICALS	10%
CRUDE FERTILIZERS AND CRUDE MINERALS	9%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	5%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	13%
GOLD, NON-MONETARY	8%
ROAD VEHICLES	6%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	6%
TEXTILE YARN AND RELATED PRODUCTS	5%



- Political and financial support from Gulf monarchies and Western countries
- Major producer of phosphate and potash
- Expatriate workforce and tourism are important sources of foreign currency



- Shortage of natural energy, food, and water resources and weak manufacturing base
- Vulnerability to international economic conditions and geopolitical instability in the Middle East
- Public and external accounts imbalances resulting in dependence on foreign aid and capital

KAZAKHSTAN

COFACE ASSESSMENTS

COUNTRY RISK **B**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **B**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **19.8**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **11,409**



2024 OUTLOOK

- Economic growth will slow in 2024, but will remain dynamic, driven by household consumption and investment.
- The slowdown in inflation will support household consumption.
- The current account balance will deteriorate: oil exports (subject to the risk of disruption in the event of sanctions) will be offset by an increase in imports. Negative primary income will contribute to maintaining this deficit. This result is due to the presence of foreign companies, particularly in the energy sector.
- The budget balance will deteriorate as a result of increased spending.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-2.6	4.3	3.2	4.8	4.2
Inflation (yearly average, %)	6.8	8.0	15.0	15.0	9.0
Budget balance (% GDP)	-6.4	-5.0	0.1	-0.9	-1.2
Current account balance (% GDP)	-3.7	-1.4	3.1	-3.5	-3.9
Public debt (% GDP)	26.4	25.1	23.5	22.7	23.0

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	36%
CHINA	18%
RUSSIA	10%
TÜRKIYE	4%
UZBEKISTAN	4%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

RUSSIA	36%
CHINA	17%
EURO AREA	13%
SOUTH KOREA	11%
UNITED STATES	3%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	58%
NON-FERROUS METALS	8%
IRON AND STEEL	7%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	6%
INORGANIC CHEMICALS	4%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

ROAD VEHICLES	9%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	6%
IRON AND STEEL	5%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	5%
TELECOM. & SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	4%



- Significant oil, gas and mining potential
- The State enjoys a net creditor position and has a well-endowed sovereign wealth fund thanks to hydrocarbon production
- Abundant FDI
- Floating exchange rate
- Member of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)
- Strategically located between Europe, Russia and China



- Highly dependent on Russia, China and commodities (oil, gas, uranium, iron, steel, copper)
- Weakly competitive market structures and significant non-tariff barriers despite WTO membership
- Banking system still fragile and significant dollarization
- Weak governance

KENYA

COUNTRY RISK **C**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **A4**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **50.6**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **2,245**



2024 OUTLOOK

- Business activity will grow slightly faster thanks to the agricultural recovery (return of rains with el Niño), which will moderate prices. Monetary and fiscal tightening will dampen demand for credit, despite renewed confidence following the peaceful transfer of power.
- Commitments made with the IMF will support fiscal consolidation. External public debt will present risks, with servicing of the debt by 2024 likely to be problematic but should be covered by IMF support.
- The boom in regional trade and the firmness of expatriate remittances will offset the higher cost of imports due to the depreciation of the shilling, stabilizing the current account balance.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-0.3	7.6	4.8	5.0	5.5
Inflation (yearly average, %)	5.3	6.1	7.6	7.5	6.5
Budget balance* (% GDP)	-8.1	-7.2	-5.8	-5.5	-5.5
Current account balance (% GDP)	-4.7	-5.2	-5.1	-5.0	-5.0
Public debt* (% GDP)	68.0	68.2	68.4	70.0	68.0

(f): Forecast. * Fiscal year from 1st July to 30th June. 2024 data : FY23-24.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	15%
UGANDA	12%
UNITED STATES	8%
PAKISTAN	7%
UNITED KINGDOM	6%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	20%
INDIA	11%
EURO AREA	9%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	9%
SAUDI ARABIA	6%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

COFFEE, TEA, COCOA, SPICES, AND MANUFACT. THEREOF	22%
CRUDE ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE MATERIALS	12%
VEGETABLES AND FRUITS	9%
ARTICLES OF APPAREL & CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	5%
GOLD, NON-MONETARY	5%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	19%
IRON AND STEEL	7%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	6%
ROAD VEHICLES	6%
FIXED VEG. OILS & FATS, CRUDE, REFINED/FRACTIONATED	5%



- Seventh-largest African economy
- Diversified agriculture and dynamic services
- Mombasa is the largest port in East Africa
- Geothermal and hydroelectrical-generated electricity
- Hydrocarbon deposits in the northwestern Turkana region
- Fast-growing population and emerging middle class
- Multi- and bilateral financial support



- Weather-sensitive hydropower and rain-fed agriculture
- Weak public resources resources (16% of GDP) and high public debt
- Bottlenecks due to lack of skills and poor infrastructure management
- Terrorist risk in the east, near Somalia
- Poverty (36% of population) and food insecurity; political and ethnic divisions
- Corruption and weak governance

KUWAIT

COUNTRY RISK **A4**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **A3**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **4.9**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **36,092**



2024 OUTLOOK

- Growth will recover in 2024 due to a rise of crude oil and refined fuel exports to the additional refining capacity offered by the Al-Zour refinery.
- An estimated rise of around 3% in oil production and gradually higher oil prices will support fiscal revenues. The failure to pass a new debt law will continue to weigh on the government's ability to tap international capital. Persisting disagreements between the parliament and the executive could delay the approval of the law. Higher oil revenues will contribute to the current account surplus.
- Tensions between the cabinet and the parliament will persist.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	27%
INDIA	13%
SOUTH KOREA	12%
JAPAN	10%
VIETNAM	7%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	20%
EURO AREA	16%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	11%
UNITED STATES	7%
SAUDI ARABIA	6%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	45%
ORGANIC CHEMICALS	9%
ROAD VEHICLES	8%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	6%
PLASTICS IN PRIMARY FORMS	4%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

ROAD VEHICLES	12%
IRON AND STEEL	5%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	5%
TELECOM. & SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	5%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	5%



- Large financial buffers
- One of the world's key oil producers and exporters
- Strategic geographic location allowing the entry to key markets such as Eastern Asia, Europe and Türkiye
- Solid external account
- Improving ties with neighboring countries, lower geopolitical risks



- Low economic diversification, heavy dependence on oil and imports
- Slow bureaucracy
- Continuous standoff between the legislative opposition and the emir-appointed cabinet
- Struggles about introduction of a public debt law

KYRGYZSTAN

COFACE ASSESSMENTS

COUNTRY RISK C

BUSINESS CLIMATE D

POPULATION
Millions of persons **6.8**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **1,718**



2024 OUTLOOK

- Growth will stabilise in 2024. It will be driven by household consumption and investment.
- Inflation will slow, but remain high, hampering household consumption. It will also be affected by lower transfers from Russia.
- The current account balance will improve, with higher exports of services and non-gold products and lower energy prices, but will remain in deficit. The decline in remittances from Russia will have a negative impact.
- The budget deficit will widen, following a reduction in revenues associated with gold revenues and a moderation in imports.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-7,1	5,5	6,3	4,5	4,3
Inflation (yearly average, %)	6,3	11,9	13,9	11,3	8,6
Budget balance (% GDP)	-3,1	-0,7	-0,3	0,1	-1,6
Current account balance (% GDP)	4,5	-8,0	-43,6	-31,8	-7,9
Public debt (% GDP)	63,6	56,2	49,2	46,9	44,3

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

RUSSIA	44%
KAZAKHSTAN	20%
UZBEKISTAN	11%
TÜRKIYE	6%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	5%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	42%
RUSSIA	24%
KAZAKHSTAN	8%
TÜRKIYE	5%
EURO AREA	5%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

GOLD, NON-MONETARY	48%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	14%
VEGETABLES AND FRUITS	6%
NON METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES	4%
ARTICLES OF APPAREL & CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	3%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	12%
TEXTILE YARN AND RELATED PRODUCTS	7%
IRON AND STEEL	6%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	5%
ROAD VEHICLES	4%



- Abundant metal resources
- Tourism and hydroelectric potential
- Strategic position and transit corridor between China, Russia and Europe
- Financial support from multilateral and bilateral donors, particularly from China
- Member of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)



- Small open economy highly dependent on economic fluctuations in Russia (via remittances) and in China and Kazakhstan
- High dependence on gold and agriculture
- Fragile, concentrated and dollarized banking system, while credit is expensive, directed and underdeveloped
- Challenging geography and significant energy dependence
- Weak governance and difficult business environment
- Political and social instability

LAOS

COFACE ASSESSMENTS

COUNTRY RISK D

BUSINESS CLIMATE D

POPULATION
Millions of persons **7.5**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **2,047**



2024 OUTLOOK

- In 2024, growth is expected to stay sustained, driven by tourism, foreign investment, and exports.
- Lao kip depreciation keeps imported prices high, and inflation elevated. Although easing, still-high inflation will continue to weigh on consumption.
- Current account deficit to widen as tourism receipts, remittances, and exports unable to offset higher imports and debt-related interest payments.
- Over half of the debt is owed to China due to major Chinese-funded infrastructure projects, which raises concerns about the country's sovereignty.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-0.4	2.1	2.4	3.8	4.0
Inflation (yearly average, %)	5.1	3.8	23.0	28.0	10.1
Budget balance (% GDP)	-5.3	-1.3	-1.0	-2.7	-2.8
Current account balance (% GDP)	-4.5	-0.2	-4.6	-2.9	-6.0
Public debt (% GDP)	73.6	87.5	112.8	110.5	108.6

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	33%
THAILAND	33%
VIETNAM	10%
AUSTRALIA	4%
EURO AREA	3%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

THAILAND	54%
CHINA	28%
VIETNAM	8%
MALAYSIA	3%
EURO AREA	2%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

ELECTRIC CURRENT	34%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	9%
GOLD, NON-MONETARY	7%
CRUDE RUBBER	5%
PULP AND WASTE PAPER	4%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	15%
ROAD VEHICLES	7%
ELECTRIC CURRENT	6%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	6%
IRON AND STEEL	5%



- Abundant natural resources: minerals, agricultural commodities and forestry
- Expansion of the hydroelectric sector and diversification of the economy (agri-food, electronics, clothing)
- Vast tourism potential
- Foreign investment in the commodities and energy sectors
- Regional integration (ASEAN) and WTO membership



- Persistent and increasing current account deficit
- Very low foreign exchange reserves
- Significant sovereign risk due to high external debt, especially Chinese-owned external debt
- Labor shortages
- Sensitive to commodity prices
- Governance shortcomings and major inequalities
- Fragile banking sector
- Dependent on regional economic and geopolitical conditions (landlocked location)

LATVIA

COUNTRY RISK **A4**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **A1**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **1.9**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **21,947**



2024 OUTLOOK

- The fallout from the conflict in Ukraine will continue to be felt, despite a moderate upturn in neighborhood demand for IT and electronics, and lower inflation, boosting private consumption. The wood sector is suffering with the European construction.
- The EU Recovery Fund will continue to encourage investment in infrastructure and energy.
- The removal of support measures related to the cost of energy and the flow of Ukrainian refugees will exceed defense and health spending.
- The ruling coalition, shaken by differences that led to the resignation of the Prime Minister, has been reconstituted by the new head of government, Evika Silina.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-2.2	4.2	3.0	0.0	2.0
Inflation (yearly average, %)	0.1	3.2	17.2	9.5	3.0
Budget balance (% GDP)	-4.3	-7.0	-4.4	-3.0	-3.0
Current account balance (% GDP)	2.9	-4.0	-4.7	-3.0	-3.0
Public debt (% GDP)	42.0	44.0	41.0	41.0	41.5

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

LITHUANIA	17%
ESTONIA	11%
RUSSIA	10%
GERMANY	6%
SWEDEN	5%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

LITHUANIA	23%
ESTONIA	10%
GERMANY	10%
POLAND	9%
RUSSIA	7%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

CORK AND WOOD	11%
CORK & WOOD MANUFACTURES (EXCL. FURNITURE)	6%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	5%
TELECOM. AND SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	5%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	4%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	9%
PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	7%
ROAD VEHICLES	6%
ELECTRIC CURRENT	5%
TELECOM. & SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	5%



- Member of the NATO (2004), the Eurozone (2014) and the OECD (2016)
- Domestic financial system dominated by Swedish banks
- Efforts to improve the regulation of the offshore financial system
- High level of digitalisation



- As the interface between the EU and Russia, the latter plays an important role in Latvian trade
- Except for the Baltics neighbors, inadequate land links with the rest of the European Union
- Declining workforce (low birth rate, emigration), lack of skilled labor, and high structural unemployment
- High labor taxation, which hits low-wage earners and encourages under-reporting
- High income inequality
- Governmental instability as representatives of the Russian-speaking minority (1/3) are excluded from power

LEBANON

COUNTRY RISK **D**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **D**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **6.6**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **3,283**



2024 OUTLOOK

- The Lebanese economy will remain under severe stress despite a modest recovery in 2024, owing to favourable base effects. But the war between Hamas and Israel will have depressive impacts mainly through a decline in tourism revenues and inflow of expatriates' remittances.
- The current account deficit is expected to narrow in 2024 due to a decrease in domestic demand.
- The fiscal performance will remain weak due to low growth and lack of implementation of fiscal reforms.
- The fragmented parliament, a caretaking government since the 2022 elections, and the absence of a president will continue to present a significant strain against the reform process.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	21%
EURO AREA	11%
SYRIA	9%
IRAQ	5%
EGYPT	4%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	28%
CHINA	14%
TÜRKIYE	12%
UNITED STATES	5%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	4%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

NON METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES	13%
VEGETABLES AND FRUITS	10%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	8%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	8%
PLASTICS IN PRIMARY FORMS	6%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	27%
ROAD VEHICLES	8%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	6%
GOLD, NON-MONETARY	5%
NON METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES	4%



- Strategic geopolitical location, at the crossroads of three continents
- Possibility to attract international aid in case of a commitment by the government on reforms
- Offshore gas potential
- Tourism potential



- March 2020 sovereign default makes access to external funding problematic, forcing the consumption of dwindling foreign exchange reserves
- Commercial banks remain insolvent due to sovereign default
- Lack of a diversified manufacturing base leading to import dependence
- Persistent political quagmire, with confessional and sectarian divisions paralysing the political scene and hindering reforms
- Armed Iran-controlled Shiite Hezbollah contributes to political stalemate and tensions with Israel

LESOTHO

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	C
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	B
POPULATION Millions of persons		2.1
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars		1,166



2024 OUTLOOK

- The second phase of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project and the resulting investments will support growth.
- The public deficit will improve because of higher revenues from the Southern African Customs Union.
- The current account deficit will be widened by high bills and rising imports, combined with a fall in diamond exports.
- By reorganizing his cabinet and allying himself with the Basotho Action Party, Prime Minister S. Matekane has overcome the motion of censure against his coalition government. Political instability will persist in the absence of a two-thirds majority for the coalition government.

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-3.9	1.8	2.1	2.2	2.3
Inflation (yearly average, %)	5.0	6.0	8.2	6.4	5.2
Budget balance*** (% GDP)	0.0	-5.1	-7.7	-1.0	-0.4
Current account balance** (% GDP)	-1.0	-4.4	-7.9	-3.0	-4.7
Public debt* (% GDP)	53.6	55.7	59.9	61.3	60.4

(f): Forecast. * Fiscal year from April 1 to March 31 (2024: April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025). ** Including imports under the LHWP imports financed by South Africa. *** Including transfers and subsidies from the Southern African Customs Union.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

SOUTH AFRICA	43%
EURO AREA	31%
UNITED STATES	23%
ESWATINI	1%
CANADA	0%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

SOUTH AFRICA	84%
CHINA	5%
TAIWAN	5%
JAPAN	1%
ZIMBABWE	1%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

ARTICLES OF APPAREL & CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	38%
NON METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES	37%
TEXTILES FIBRES AND THEIR WASTES	5%
TEXTILE YARN AND RELATED PRODUCTS	5%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	5%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	14%
TEXTILE YARN AND RELATED PRODUCTS	11%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	9%
ELECTRIC CURRENT	6%
ROAD VEHICLES	4%



- Mineral resources (diamonds)
- Substantial water resources, hydroelectric potential (LHWP-II project)
- Relatively well-developed textile-clothing industry
- Tourism potential
- Well-capitalized banking sector
- Loti indexed to South African rand



- Heavy dependence on South Africa in terms of electricity supply, trade and remittances from mineworkers (15.2% of GDP in 2022)
- Fiscal outlook dependent on volatile transfers from the SACU (Southern African Customs Union) and the needs of a large public sector
- Agriculture exposed to regular climatic disasters
- Political instability
- High levels of poverty and unemployment
- High prevalence of HIV and tuberculosis

LIBERIA

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	D
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	D
POPULATION Millions of persons		5.3
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars		749



2024 OUTLOOK

- Growth will be driven by the mining sector, which will benefit from high prices and major investments, such as ArcelorMittal's expansion of its iron ore concentrate production.
- Public spending, fuelled by mining royalties, will enable the development of road and energy infrastructures. Private consumption will remain hampered by inflation and poverty.
- Deficits will be financed by mining investments, concessional loans, and external grants, but no longer by the IMF facility, which expired at the end of 2023.
- With 51% of the vote, Joseph Boakai succeeded George Weah as president in November 2023, without obtaining a majority in parliament.

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-3.0	5.0	4.8	4.5	5.0
Inflation (yearly average, %)	17.0	7.8	7.6	10.5	8.0
Budget balance* (% GDP)	-3.7	-2.4	-5.5	-3.0	-3.5
Current account balance** (% GDP)	-16.0	-17.8	-18.0	-22.5	-22.5
Public debt (% GDP)	58.7	53.3	54.0	52.5	53.0

(f): Forecast. * Grants included, Fiscal year 2024 from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. ** Official transfers included.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

SWITZERLAND	68%
UNITED STATES	15%
EURO AREA	13%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	2%
SINGAPORE	1%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CÔTE D'IVOIRE	26%
INDIA	16%
CHINA	15%
EURO AREA	8%
UNITED STATES	4%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

GOLD, NON-MONETARY	34%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	22%
OTHER TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	21%
CRUDE RUBBER	9%
FIXED VE. OILS & FATS, CRUDE, REFINED/FRACTIONATED	5%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

OTHER TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	51%
PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	19%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	3%
MANUFACTURES OF METAL	1%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	1%



- Diverse natural resources (rubber, iron, gold, diamonds, oil) attract foreign investment
- Strong agricultural sector (30% of GDP) and forestry sector (11% of GDP)
- Financial support from the international community
- Substantial expatriate remittances (25% of GDP, the world's 5th largest recipient)
- Member of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)



- Poor infrastructure
- Dependent on commodity prices
- Significant levels of poverty and unemployment, shortcomings in education and healthcare
- Recent Ebola epidemic, which could reoccur
- Recent and fragile democracy, high levels of corruption
- Difficult business environment

LIBYA

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	E
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	E

POPULATION Millions of persons	6.8
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars	5,577



2024 OUTLOOK

- The country is divided between the Government of National Unity (GNU) in Tripoli (north-west) and the National Stability Government (GNS) in Sirte (north-east).
- Higher oil production and prices, excluding disruptions due to political disagreements, will support private and public consumption, and ensure public and current account surpluses. Political and security instability is weighing on investment, other than offshore.
- The reunification of the central bank in 2023 will strengthen monetary policy and the banking system. This step towards national reconciliation could be followed by presidential and parliamentary elections in late 2024.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-29.5	28.3	-9.6	12.5	7.5
Inflation (yearly average, %)	1.5	2.9	4.5	3.5	3.0
Budget balance (% GDP)	-22.3	14.8	23.2	12.0	9.0
Current account balance (% GDP)	-8.5	-5.4	32.9	21.0	20.0
Public debt (% GDP)	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	66%
CHINA	8%
UNITED STATES	6%
THAILAND	5%
UNITED KINGDOM	4%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	47%
TÜRKIYE	18%
CHINA	15%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	12%
EGYPT	6%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	79%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	14%
GOLD, NON-MONETARY	2%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	1%
IRON AND STEEL	1%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	21%
ROAD VEHICLES	6%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	6%
TELECOM. & SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	4%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	4%



- Hydrocarbon reserves (the largest in Africa)
- Very low foreign debt and surplus accounts
- Substantial foreign exchange reserves and sovereign wealth fund
- Strategic position in the Mediterranean, close to Europe



- Dependence on hydrocarbons: oil revenues = 50% of GDP
- West-East division of the northern part of the country, against a backdrop of struggles for influence between outside powers
- Deep south vulnerable to proliferation of trafficking (human, arms, drugs) and animosity between Touaregs, Toubous and Arabs
- Corruption, poor governance, mediocre public services
- Road, health, education and electricity infrastructures
- Selective access to foreign currency for importers
- Sovereign wealth fund frozen by sanctions since 2011

LITHUANIA

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	A4
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	A1

POPULATION Millions of persons	2.8
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars	24,989



2024 OUTLOOK

- Lithuania's economic activity will gain momentum in 2024 thanks to the recovery of household consumption.
- The labour market remains robust with strong employment growth and will benefit from the rise in real incomes.
- If the sluggish development of Western Europe continues, it will result in the further stagnation of the Lithuanian manufacturing sector.
- Public account management remains prudent, but government expenditures will increase in 2024 because of more generous social measures and public investments.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

LATVIA	13%
POLAND	9%
GERMANY	8%
RUSSIA	6%
ESTONIA	6%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

POLAND	12%
GERMANY	12%
LATVIA	8%
UNITED STATES	7%
SWEDEN	5%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	12%
FURNITURE AND PARTS THEREOF	6%
ROAD VEHICLES	6%
CHEMICAL MATERIALS AND PRODUCTS	4%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	3%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	14%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	10%
ROAD VEHICLES	7%
ELECTRIC CURRENT	5%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	4%



- Sound public and external accounts
- Banking system dominated by three Scandinavian institutions
- Diversification of energy supply (Klaipeda gas terminal, shale gas potential, electricity links with Poland and Sweden)
- Member of the EU, the Eurozone and NATO



- Tight labour market: shrinking workforce (emigration of skilled young people) and high structural unemployment
- Large informal economy (22% of GDP)
- High income disparity between the capital and the regions, particularly in the northeast, where poverty persists
- Limited value added of exports (mineral products, agri-food, electrical equipment)

LUXEMBOURG 

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	A2
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	A1
POPULATION Millions of persons		0.6
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars		126,598



2023 OUTLOOK

- The ECB's restrictive monetary policy led to a noticeable decrease in investments and financial activity. As the central bank should keep its interest rates stable or even decrease them in the second half of 2024, activity should show a moderate recovery.
- Thanks to the indexation of wages, the purchasing power should remain stable, which will foster private consumption.
- In the last general election in October 2023, the coalition of Liberals, Greens and Social Democrats lost its majority. The election winners were the Christian Democrats who formed a new government together with the Liberals.

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-0.9	7.2	1.4	-1.0	0.7
Inflation (yearly average, %)	0.8	2.5	6.3	3.7	3.1
Budget balance (% GDP)	-3.4	0.6	-0.3	-1.9	-2.2
Current account balance (% GDP)	8.6	7.9	7.7	6.6	7.0
Public debt (% GDP)	24.6	24.5	24.7	27.1	29.3

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

GERMANY	27%
FRANCE	15%
BELGIUM	12%
NETHERLANDS	7%
ITALY	4%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

BELGIUM	35%
GERMANY	26%
FRANCE	11%
NETHERLANDS	7%
ITALY	3%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

IRON AND STEEL	18%
NON-FERROUS METALS	7%
ROAD VEHICLES	6%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	6%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	6%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

ROAD VEHICLES	11%
PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	8%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	5%
ELECTRIC CURRENT	4%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	4%



- Fiscal stability
- Skilled multilingual workforce
- High-quality infrastructure, business-friendly regulation
- Major international financial center
- High standard of living



- Heavily dependent on the financial sector
- Economy vulnerable to Eurozone economic conditions
- Long-term budgetary impact of ageing population

MADAGASCAR 

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	C
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	C
POPULATION Millions of persons		29.0
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars		523



2024 OUTLOOK

- In 2024, the mining sector will boost economic growth thanks to the implementation of its revised code and increased investment, both domestic and foreign.
- Mining exports will increase, along with vanilla (lift of the minimum export price) and textiles.
- Structural reforms, supported by an IMF program until July 2024, and mining revenues will reduce fiscal risk. The deficit will be financed mainly by concessional loans.
- In November and December 2023, the two rounds of presidential elections will have taken place in a tense social and political climate, with a possible risk of a coup.

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-7.1	5.7	4.0	4.0	5.0
Inflation (yearly average, %)	4.2	5.8	8.2	10.5	9.0
Budget balance* (% GDP)	-4.0	-2.8	-6.4	-4.0	-3.5
Current account balance* (% GDP)	-5.4	-4.9	-5.5	-4.5	-4.5
Public debt (% GDP)	52.0	53.0	55.0	54.0	53.0

(f): Forecast. * Grants included.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	26%
UNITED STATES	17%
CHINA	14%
JAPAN	12%
SOUTH KOREA	4%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	22%
EURO AREA	12%
OMAN	11%
INDIA	10%
SOUTH AFRICA	5%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

NON-FERROUS METALS	29%
COFFEE, TEA, COCOA, SPICES, AND MANUFACT. THEREOF	28%
ARTICLES OF APPAREL & CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	14%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	7%
FISH, CRUSTACEANS, MOLLUSCS & PREPS THEREOF	4%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	23%
TEXTILE YARN AND RELATED PRODUCTS	10%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	7%
FIXED VEG. OILS & FATS, CRUDE, REFINED/FRACTIONATED	5%
ROAD VEHICLES	4%



- Large mineral reserves (nickel, gold, titanium, cobalt and precious stones)
- Agricultural potential: world's largest producer of vanilla
- Positive development of tourism
- External public debt mainly in the form of concessional loans
- Trade agreements with the USA (AGOA), the EU (EPA) and membership in three Regional Economic Communities (COMESA, SADC, IOC)



- Dependence on agriculture, livestock, mining, and fuel imports
- Vulnerability to terms-of-trade fluctuations and extreme climatic hazards (recurrent cyclones and severe droughts)
- High poverty and widespread food insecurity
- Heavy dependence on foreign aid
- Inadequate road, water and electricity networks
- High corruption and chronic political instability (crises in 1972, 1991, 2002 and 2009)

MALAWI

COUNTRY RISK **D**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **D**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **22.1**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **567**



2024 OUTLOOK

- In 2024, growth will be sustained by a recovery in agriculture, particularly through higher tobacco production and exports.
- The depreciation of the Malawian kwacha, and the shortage of some imported goods due to the lack of foreign currency, will continue to drive up the already high prices of energy and food on the domestic market.
- Foreign exchange reserves should increase thanks to the signing of an agreement with the IMF on a USD 174 million, 48-month Extended Credit Facility (ECF), and the conclusion of debt restructuring agreements, the repayment of which is estimated at 24% of the government budget for 2023/24.



- Natural resources (tobacco, tea, coffee, sugar, soybeans, uranium, niobium)
- Growing service sector
- Active civil society
- Relative institutional stability



- Economy dominated by subsistence agriculture, vulnerable to climatic hazards and input prices
- Food insecurity, extreme poverty (in 2020, 70% of the population lived on less than USD 2.15 a day)
- Lack of infrastructures (water, energy, transport, education, health) and geographical isolation
- Widespread corruption
- Heavy public debt fuelled by a high deficit
- Extremely weakness of foreign exchange reserves fuelled by a massive deficit in trade in goods (fertilisers, fuel, medicines) and services, despite remittances from expatriates and international aid

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	0.9	2.8	0.9	1.7	3.0
Inflation (yearly average, %)	7.6	11.5	21.0	28.0	19.0
Budget balance/** (% GDP)	-8.2	-8.6	-8.7	-10.0	-9.0
Current account balance (% GDP)	-13.8	-13.3	-3.0	-5.0	-8.5
Public debt* (% GDP)	54.8	63.9	75.2	79.0	78.0

(f): Forecast. * Fiscal year 2024: from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. ** Grants included.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	27%
KENYA	15%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	6%
ZAMBIA	6%
SOUTH AFRICA	5%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

SOUTH AFRICA	18%
CHINA	16%
KUWAIT	11%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	9%
EURO AREA	5%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

TOBACCO AND TOBACCO MANUFACTURES	39%
SUGAR, SUGAR PREPARATIONS AND HONEY	15%
OIL SEEDS AND OLEAGINOUS FRUITS	14%
VEGETABLES AND FRUITS	8%
COFFEE, TEA, COCOA, SPICES, AND MANUFACT. THEREOF	8%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	16%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	7%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	7%
ROAD VEHICLES	6%
FERTILIZERS, NOT CRUDE	6%

MALAYSIA

COUNTRY RISK **A3**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **A3**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **32.7**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **12,466**



2024 OUTLOOK

- The economy will continue to be mostly driven by domestic demand, which benefits from policy measures such as financial aid for low- and middle-income households and the introduction of a progressive wage scheme.
- However, Bank Negara Malaysia may maintain interest rates throughout 2024 as the introduction of target subsidies scheme would result in higher inflation.
- After a decline in 2023, better export prospects are expected, particularly in the technology sector.
- Prime Minister Anwar has faced a fall in popularity, weakening his presidency at the head of a fragmented government.



- Diversified exports
- Large domestic demand mitigates external headwinds
- Dynamic services sector
- Investment supported by the expansion of the local financial market and access to FDI
- Exchange rate flexibility
- High per capita income
- Air travel hub



- Budget income dependent on performances in the oil and gas sector
- Very high household debt levels
- Low fiscal revenues
- Erosion of price competitiveness due to increasing labour costs
- Political uncertainties and instability
- Persistent regional disparities
- Ethnic and religious disputes

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-5.5	3.3	8.7	3.8	4.4
Inflation (yearly average, %)	-1.1	2.5	3.4	2.6	3.0
Budget balance (% GDP)	-4.9	-5.8	-5.9	-5.0	-4.4
Current account balance (% GDP)	4.2	3.9	3.1	2.7	2.8
Public debt (% GDP)	67.7	69.2	65.6	66.9	66.9

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

SINGAPORE	15%
CHINA	14%
UNITED STATES	11%
EURO AREA	7%
JAPAN	6%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	21%
SINGAPORE	10%
TAIWAN	8%
UNITED STATES	8%
JAPAN	6%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	25%
PETROLEUM, PETROL. PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	13%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	11%
FIXED VE. OILS & FATS, CRUDE, REFINED/FRACTIONATED	6%
OFFICE MACHINES & AUTO DATA PROCESS. MACHINES	4%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	23%
PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	16%
COAL, COKE AND BRIQUETTES	3%
NON-FERROUS METALS	3%
OFFICE MACHINES & AUTO DATA PROCESS. MACHINES	3%

MALDIVES 

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	C
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	C

POPULATION Millions of persons	0.4
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars	15,962



2024 OUTLOOK

- Strong economic growth is expected in 2024, mainly driven by tourism.
- The current account is expected to stay under pressure from capital imports necessary for infrastructure investments.
- The fiscal deficit is expected to narrow thanks to revenue from a stronger tourism sector.
- External financing and liquidity stress are high as external debt servicing is rising, global financial conditions are tight and FX reserves are low.
- President Mohamed Muizzu was elected on the promise of withdrawing Indian soldiers from the Maldives, which could deteriorate relations with New Delhi.

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-33.5	41.7	13.9	7.5	5.9
Inflation (yearly average, %)	-1.6	0.2	2.5	3.5	2.7
Budget balance (% GDP)	-23.5	-13.8	-11.8	-9.5	-9.1
Current account balance (% GDP)	-35.5	-8.8	-16.7	-15.7	-13.4
Public debt (% GDP)	154.0	108.1	105.4	110.5	111.5

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

Country	% of total
THAILAND	49%
EURO AREA	19%
UNITED KINGDOM	9%
MAURITIUS	6%
INDIA	4%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

Country	% of total
OMAN	18%
INDIA	14%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	12%
CHINA	11%
SINGAPORE	9%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

Product	% of total
FISH, CRUSTACEANS, MOLLUSCS & PREPS THEREOF	87%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	4%
OTHER TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	2%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	2%
FEEDSTUFF FOR ANIMALS (EXCL. UNMILLED CEREALS)	1%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

Product	% of total
PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	11%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	5%
VEGETABLES AND FRUITS	5%
DAIRY PRODUCTS AND BIRDS' EGGS	5%
MANUFACTURES OF METAL	5%



- Sustained historical growth compared to its regional peers
- Expanding tourism potential in uninhabited islands
- Improving transport infrastructure
- Improving relations with the West, reliable support from multilateral institutions



- Extraordinary dependence on tourism
- Geographical isolation
- Precarious public finances and high external vulnerabilities
- Extraordinary exposure to climate risk (rising sea level)
- Low human capital limits diversification potential

MALI 

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	D
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	D

POPULATION Millions of persons	22.6
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars	847



2024 OUTLOOK

- Growth will be driven by cotton production and the mining sector, thanks to high gold prices and the opening of the Goulamina lithium mine.
- Security and political risks will limit non-mining investments and other external financing.
- Security problems will remain alarming, as fighting between the government and the northern Tuaregs resumed in September 2023 and UN troops withdrew at the end of the year.
- The ruling junta was strengthened by the constitutional referendum of June 2023. It pledged to restore power to civilians, but announced the postponement of the presidential election, initially scheduled for February 2024.

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-1.2	3.0	3.7	4.0	4.0
Inflation (yearly average, %)	0.5	3.9	9.7	4.0	2.5
Budget balance* (% GDP)	-5.4	-4.8	-4.8	-5.0	-4.5
Current account balance** (% GDP)	-2.2	-7.7	-6.9	-6.5	-5.5
Public debt (% GDP)	46.9	50.4	51.7	51.5	52.5

(f): Forecast. * Including grants. ** Including official transfers.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

Country	% of total
SOUTH AFRICA	35%
SWITZERLAND	25%
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	10%
AUSTRALIA	8%
BANGLADESH	5%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

Country	% of total
SENEGAL	30%
CHINA	16%
EURO AREA	14%
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	8%
BENIN	4%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

Product	% of total
GOLD, NON-MONETARY	85%
TEXTILES FIBRES AND THEIR WASTES	5%
LIVE ANIMALS OTHER THAN FISH, CRUSTACEANS & MOLLUSCS	3%
FIXED VE. OILS & FATS, CRUDE, REFINED/FRACTIONATED	1%
OIL SEEDS AND OLEAGINOUS FRUITS	1%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

Product	% of total
PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	28%
ROAD VEHICLES	7%
NON METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES	5%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	4%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	4%



- Important natural resources in agriculture (cotton) and mining (gold, bauxite, iron)
- Expatriate remittances
- Member of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)



- Security situation worsened by the presence of jihadist groups in a large part of the country
- Military junta in power, after the coups of 2020 and 2021, and renewed clashes with the Tuaregs in the North
- Economy vulnerable to climatic hazards and commodity price fluctuations
- Widespread poverty
- Geographical isolation
- Dependence on international aid
- Poor business environment (political instability, insecurity)
- Lack of transparency in the gold industry

MALTA

COUNTRY RISK **A3**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **A4**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **0.5**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **34,819**



2024 OUTLOOK

- Amid buoyant tourism and a strong labor market, Malta will continue to be among the EU's most dynamic economies
- Thanks to the low public debt, generous energy subsidies were deployed to protect purchasing power, and thus household consumption
- Malta faces significant scrutiny from the EU and other international authorities on corruption and money laundering. This constitutes a risk to the country's financial sector, foreign investment flows, and the stability of the incumbent government (Labor Party, led by PM Robert Abela)
- The golden passport scheme is being phased out, creating structural downward pressure on revenue

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-8.1	12.3	6.9	3.6	3.3
Inflation (yearly average, %)	0.8	0.7	6.1	5.5	3.0
Budget balance (% GDP)	-9.5	-7.7	-5.7	-4.9	-4.2
Current account balance (% GDP)	2.2	1.2	-5.7	-2.7	-1.4
Public debt (% GDP)	52.2	54.0	52.3	53.6	55.2

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

GERMANY	18%
FRANCE	8%
JAPAN	8%
ITALY	6%
UNITED KINGDOM	6%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

ITALY	22%
CANADA	9%
FRANCE	7%
SPAIN	6%
GERMANY	5%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

TELECOM. & SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	26%
PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	14%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	12%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	10%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	7%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

OTHER TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	25%
PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	24%
TELECOM. & SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	4%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	3%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	2%



- At the crossroads of Suez and Gibraltar, a Mediterranean transshipment center
- Public debt mostly held by residents
- Emerging tech cluster (online gaming, blockchain, AI)
- Productive, high-income, low-tax, English-speaking workforce
- Booming tourism



- Exposure to volatile capital flows (offshore finance, online gambling, citizenship program)
- Poor road infrastructure
- Chronic shortage of skilled labor
- Judicial delays, cronyism, corruption; judicial risks linked to suspected money laundering

MAURITANIA

COUNTRY RISK **C**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **C**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **4.3**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **2,285**



2024 OUTLOOK

- Growth will be based on the extractive sector: increased mining production, start of gas exports thanks to the Grand Tortue Ahmeyim offshore field in cooperation with Senegal, and foreign investments in the country's natural reserves.
- Lower fuel subsidies and higher gas and mining revenues will gently reduce the budget deficit. Structural reforms will be supported by two IMF programs: an Extended Credit Facility and a Resilience and Sustainability Facility.
- The presidential election will be held in June 2024, while the 2023 legislative elections were won by the ruling party.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-0.9	2.4	6.5	4.5	5.5
Inflation (yearly average, %)	2.4	3.6	9.5	6.0	3.5
Budget balance* (% GDP)	2.3	2.0	-3.0	-3.0	-2.0
Current account balance (% GDP)	-6.8	-8.0	-14.5	-11.0	-9.0
Public debt** (% GDP)	55.8	51.0	50.0	49.0	48.0

(f): Forecast. * Grants included. ** Including debts to the Central Bank and Kuwait.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	46%
EURO AREA	24%
CANADA	10%
JAPAN	5%
AUSTRALIA	4%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	43%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	14%
CHINA	5%
MOROCCO	4%
JAPAN	3%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	43%
FISH, CRUSTACEANS, MOLLUSCS & PREPS THEREOF	29%
GOLD, NON-MONETARY	19%
FEEDSTUFF FOR ANIMALS (EXCL. UNMILLED CEREALS)	4%
ANIMAL OILS AND FATS	1%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	21%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	7%
SUGAR, SUGAR PREPARATIONS AND HONEY	5%
ROAD VEHICLES	5%
FIXED VEG. OILS & FATS, CRUDE, REFINED/FRACTIONATED	5%



- A much lower risk of terrorism than its Sahelian neighbours
- Support from donor countries and international organisations
- Some macroeconomic stability, even in a difficult context
- Mineral resources (iron ore, gold, copper, natural gas) and fisheries
- Potential in renewable energies
- Relatively large domestic budgetary resources



- Poor governance and business environment: high corruption, lack of insolvency treatment
- Poorly diversified economy, vulnerable to commodity prices and weather conditions
- Low inclusive growth, deficient education system, high poverty and unemployment
- Very little arable land, more than 2/3 of the country is deserts
- Persistent community divisions: discrimination against the Haratine population

MAURITIUS

COFACE ASSESSMENTS

COUNTRY RISK **A4**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **A3**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **1.3**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **10,227**



2024 OUTLOOK

- Growth will stabilise, driven mainly by an albeit more measured recovery in tourism, a strengthening in construction, and expansion in the financial sector.
- The current account deficit is expected to shrink thanks to tourism, with free trade and double taxation agreements with India and China supporting transshipment and financial services benefiting from the removal from the lists of «tax havens».
- Fiscal consolidation will be slower than expected. In the run-up to the elections, and due to the increase in social benefits and subsidies (oil, food), the public deficit will widen slightly.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-14.6	3.5	8.3	4.6	4.0
Inflation (yearly average, %)	2.5	4.0	10.8	8.5	6.5
Budget balance* (% GDP)	-10.4	-4.0	-3.2	-5.0	-5.7
Current account balance (% GDP)	-8.8	-13.0	-11.5	-6.2	-4.1
Public debt (% GDP)	94.6	88.4	83.1	79.5	79.0

(f): Forecast. * Fiscal year from 1 July to 30 June. Last FY 23/24.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	33%
SOUTH AFRICA	15%
MADAGASCAR	10%
UNITED KINGDOM	10%
UNITED STATES	9%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	20%
INDIA	12%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	12%
SOUTH AFRICA	11%
OMAN	11%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

ARTICLES OF APPAREL & CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	19%
FISH, CRUSTACEANS, MOLLUSCS & PREPS THEREOF	15%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	9%
SUGAR, SUGAR PREPARATIONS AND HONEY	9%
NON METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES	7%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	19%
ROAD VEHICLES	6%
FISH, CRUSTACEANS, MOLLUSCS & PREPS THEREOF	4%
NON METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES	4%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	4%



- Stable democratic institutions and excellent business climate
- Strategic location between Africa and Asia
- Thriving offshore financial sector
- Modernisation and diversification of the sugar sector (industrialised refining, biomass plant, bioethanol)
- Free trade agreements with China and India
- Bilingual (English and French)



- Commercial, economic and political dependence on Europe and Asia, especially China and India
- Extreme dependence on food and energy imports
- Insular location, small domestic market and poor infrastructure
- Lack of skilled workers and declining competitiveness of exports
- High unemployment rate among young people (20% by early 2023 for the 16-24 age group)

MEXICO

COFACE ASSESSMENTS

COUNTRY RISK **B**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **A4**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **130.1**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **11,266**



2024 OUTLOOK

- GDP growth will lose steam in 2024, dragged down by weaker U.S. activity affecting manufacturing and consumption (via lower remittances from expatriates) as well as still tight credit conditions.
- Conversely, public expenditure is likely to accelerate as the government aggressively loosens fiscal policy, with higher social spending ahead of the general elections.
- General elections will be held in June 2024. Leftist Claudia Sheinbaum is the most likely to become the next president, benefiting from incumbent President Lopez Obrador's popularity.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	82%
EURO AREA	4%
CANADA	3%
CHINA	2%
SOUTH KOREA	1%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	44%
CHINA	20%
EURO AREA	8%
SOUTH KOREA	4%
JAPAN	3%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

ROAD VEHICLES	21%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	10%
OFFICE MACHINES & AUTO DATA PROCESS. MACHINES	8%
PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	6%
TELECOM. & SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	6%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	9%
ROAD VEHICLES	8%
PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	7%
TELECOM. & SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	7%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	5%



- Geographic proximity to the U.S. economy
- Membership of USMCA and many other agreements
- Substantial industrial base
- Prudent fiscal and monetary policies
- Free-floating exchange rate
- Adequate foreign exchange reserves
- Large population and relatively low labour cost



- High dependence on the U.S. economy
- Rising criminality linked to drug cartels and trafficking, high corruption level surfacing on poverty and inequality
- Weaknesses in transport, health and education
- High informality in the economy (55%) and the job market
- Narrow tax base, with tax revenues representing 13% of GDP

MOLDOVA

COUNTRY RISK **C**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **B**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **2.5**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **5,726**



2024 OUTLOOK

- After modest growth in 2023, the economy should recover in 2024. The slowdown in inflation and the reduction in key interest rates by the National Bank of Moldova will support household consumption (the main contributor to growth).
- The current account balance, still very negative, will be financed by the IMF and the EU.
- An expected increase in revenues should slightly reduce the budget deficit. External public debt (mainly with international organisations) will increase, in order to support the 2024 budget, but also to finance projects, notably in the transport and energy sectors.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-8.3	13.9	-5.0	2.0	3.5
Inflation (yearly average, %)	3.8	5.1	28.6	14.3	5.7
Budget balance (% GDP)	-5.3	-2.6	-5.1	-5.0	-4.6
Current account balance (% GDP)	-7.8	-12.4	-17.2	-12.2	-11.4
Public debt (% GDP)	35.6	34.6	36.4	37.1	38.2

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

ROMANIA	29%
EURO AREA	20%
UKRAINE	17%
TÜRKIYE	7%
RUSSIA	4%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	21%
ROMANIA	18%
RUSSIA	12%
CHINA	10%
UKRAINE	9%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	13%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	12%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	10%
OIL SEEDS AND OLEAGINOUS FRUITS	9%
FIXED VEG. OILS & FATS, CRUDE, REFINED/FRACTIONATED	9%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	17%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	9%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	6%
ROAD VEHICLES	6%
TEXTILE YARN AND RELATED PRODUCTS	3%



- Agricultural potential (wine, fruit, vegetables, sunflower, wheat)
- Association and free trade agreements with the EU (2014, extended to Transnistria in 2016)
- EU candidate status since 2022
- International financial support
- Relatively inexpensive labour
- Managed floating currency regime



- Europe's poorest country, high emigration
- Large informal sector, low productivity
- Corruption, weak governance, oligarchic system and cronyism
- Credit not very developed
- Dependence on transfers from expatriate workers
- Separatism in Transnistria
- Tensions between supporters of a rapprochement with the European Union and those with Russia

MONGOLIA

COUNTRY RISK **C**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **C**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **3.5**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **4,954**



2024 OUTLOOK

- Strong economic growth is expected in 2024, driven by exports and private consumption.
- Exports will be supported by the Chinese demand for its mining sector products.
- Inflation will decrease moderately thanks to lower global commodity prices and still tight monetary policy.
- Fiscal expansion will support consumption but will tip the budget balance into deficit given the lower revenues from the mining sector.
- The current account deficit will widen as the resumption in demand will push up imports, and mining exports will stabilize after their strong performance in 2023.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	84%
SWITZERLAND	8%
SINGAPORE	3%
SOUTH KOREA	2%
EURO AREA	1%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	35%
RUSSIA	30%
JAPAN	8%
EURO AREA	7%
SOUTH KOREA	5%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

COAL, COKE AND BRIQUETTES	52%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	27%
GOLD, NON-MONETARY	10%
PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	3%
TEXTILES FIBRES AND THEIR WASTES	2%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	21%
ROAD VEHICLES	13%
ELECTRIC CURRENT	10%
IRON AND STEEL	5%
SPECIALISED MACHINERY	4%



- Development of colossal mining resources (coal, copper, gold)
- Strategic geographical position between China and Europe/Russia
- Potential for diversification of production, including agribusiness, and tourism
- Important donor support (4.8% of GDP in 2019)



- Small economy vulnerable to changes in commodity prices and Chinese demand
- Landlocked country
- Internal political dissensions
- Massive land degradation, 90% of the vast grasslands prone to desertification
- Alarming level of corruption and fragile governance
- Limited economic diversification and heavy reliance on mining sector
- Infrastructure gaps

MONTENEGRO

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	C
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	A4
POPULATION Millions of persons		0.6
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars		9,820



2024 OUTLOOK

- The economy will be exposed to the weakness of that of its European partners. However, tourism will remain dynamic and continue to grow, after arrivals exceeded their pre-pandemic level in 2023.
- Despite fiscal consolidation efforts, high debt servicing (7.4% of GDP) will weigh on public accounts.
- The April 2023 presidential election was won by J. Milatović of the Europe Now! party. The party also won the parliamentary elections in June 2023, forming a pro-Serbian and pro-Russian alliance. While the coalition is diverse, the government retains a pro-European majority, with the aim of rapid EU accession.

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-15.3	13.0	6.1	4.5	3.5
Inflation (yearly average, %)	-0.2	2.4	13.1	8.3	4.0
Budget balance (% GDP)	-10.9	-1.7	-4.2	-2.0	-4.5
Current account balance (% GDP)	-26.0	-9.2	-13.2	-11.5	-11.0
Public debt (% GDP)	107.3	85.6	72.1	66.0	67.5

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	23%
SERBIA	21%
SWITZERLAND	16%
BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA	13%
KOSOVO	3%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	38%
SERBIA	17%
CHINA	9%
BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA	5%
TÜRKIYE	5%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

NON-FERROUS METALS	24%
ELECTRIC CURRENT	24%
CORK AND WOOD	6%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	6%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	5%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	11%
ROAD VEHICLES	6%
ELECTRIC CURRENT	6%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	4%
NON-FERROUS METALS	4%



- Booming tourism sector
- Application to join the European Union supported by economic reforms (Europe Now programme)
- Use of the euro to avoid exchange rate crises



- Small, undiversified economy, with a weak export base and dependence on tourism
- Structural current account deficit weighed down by a large trade deficit, which has generated a high level of external debt
- Corruption, informal economy, emigration and unemployment
- Use of the euro can lead to asymmetric shocks, with no credible early prospect of participating in European economic and monetary governance

MOROCCO

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	B
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	A4
POPULATION Millions of persons		36.7
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars		3,570



2024 OUTLOOK

- The economic impact of the September 2023 earthquake will remain limited: tourism, which will have exceeded its pre-pandemic level, and reconstruction will drive growth. It will also benefit from the booming of the manufacturing and phosphate sectors.
- Consumption will be boosted by remittances from the Diaspora and tourism, but limited by inflation. Public investment in renewable energies and agriculture will increase.
- The reconstruction plan, budgeted at USD 12 billion (1.8% of GDP) over five years, is financed by domestic funds and international aid. Health spending will also weigh on the deficit, despite IMF-led fiscal consolidation.

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-7.2	8.0	1.3	2.3	3.0
Inflation (yearly average, %)	0.7	1.4	6.6	6.0	4.0
Budget balance (% GDP)	-7.1	-6.0	-5.2	-5.0	-6.0
Current account balance (% GDP)	-1.2	-2.3	3.5	-3.0	-3.5
Public debt (% GDP)	72.3	69.5	71.5	70.0	70.0

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	54%
BRAZIL	18%
INDIA	5%
UNITED KINGDOM	4%
UNITED STATES	3%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	41%
CHINA	10%
UNITED STATES	7%
SAUDI ARABIA	6%
TÜRKIYE	6%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

FERTILIZERS, NOT CRUDE	19%
ROAD VEHICLES	14%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	13%
VEGETABLES AND FRUITS	11%
ARTICLES OF APPAREL & CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	10%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	14%
ROAD VEHICLES	7%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	6%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	5%
TEXTILE YARN AND RELATED PRODUCTS	5%



- Strategic position on the Strait of Gibraltar and proximity to the European market
- Institutional stability: attachment to King Mohammed VI, active civil society
- Strong relations with Europe, the United States, and international donors
- Substantial inward investment from Europe and outward investment to West Africa
- Upmarket strategy and industrial diversification



- Poverty, youth unemployment, social and regional disparities, Islamist-liberal opposition
- Economy dependent on agriculture (12% of GDP and 30% of population), and therefore on climate and water availability
- Commercial dependence on the European Union, particularly in tourism and industry
- Low productivity
- Competition from other Mediterranean countries, such as Türkiye and Egypt
- Dispute over former Spanish Sahara

MOZAMBIQUE

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	D
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	D

POPULATION	33.0
Millions of persons	
GDP PER CAPITA	581
US Dollars	



2024 OUTLOOK

- Growth will decelerate, supported by increased offshore LNG production and the resumption of the Total Energies LNG project.
- Increased imports of LNG-related goods will widen the current account deficit.
- Reforms agreed with the IMF, including wage cuts, mining taxation and the resumption of European aid, will reduce the public deficit. Debt servicing and defense spending will continue to weigh heavily.
- Frelimo will retain its political grip until the October 2024 elections, led by President F. Nyusi, who could stand for re-election thanks to a constitutional amendment and an improved security situation in the north.

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-1.2	2.4	4.2	6.2	5.1
Inflation (yearly average, %)	3.1	5.7	9.8	7.2	6.3
Budget balance* (% GDP)	-5.4	-3.6	-5.0	-3.0	-2.5
Current account balance* (% GDP)	-27.5	-22.3	-32.9	-16.3	-38.0
Public debt (% GDP)	120.0	104.9	95.5	90.2	93.0

(f): Forecast. * Grants included.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	24%
INDIA	21%
SOUTH AFRICA	14%
CHINA	8%
SOUTH KOREA	6%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

SOUTH AFRICA	31%
CHINA	12%
INDIA	8%
EURO AREA	8%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	7%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

COAL, COKE AND BRIQUETTES	33%
NON-FERROUS METALS	18%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	10%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	6%
ELECTRIC CURRENT	4%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	22%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	8%
IRON AND STEEL	7%
INORGANIC CHEMICALS	5%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	5%



- Favourable geographical position: long coastline, proximity to the South African market
- Substantial mineral (coal, titanium, tantalite, aluminum, etc.), agricultural and hydroelectric resources
- Huge offshore gas fields, massive investment in NG megaprojects and new export opportunities



- Weak diversification, dependence on raw material and energy prices
- Inadequate port and transport infrastructure, limiting export capacity
- Banking system constrained by government financing requirements.
- Unstable political and security environment in the north of the country
- Weak governance
- Difficult climatic conditions (cyclones, floods and droughts)

MYANMAR

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	D
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	D

POPULATION	53.9
Millions of persons	
GDP PER CAPITA	1,228
US Dollars	



2024 OUTLOOK

- Slim prospects for civil war resolution by 2024, signaling a sluggish economy ahead.
- Western sanctions impact the economy, posing additional barriers to recovery.
- Persistent inflationary pressures from production disruptions, increased business costs (minimum wage hike), and currency depreciation leading to higher import prices.
- Persistent current account deficit due to trade restrictions and global economic weakness
- Myanmar's neighboring countries exploit opportunities arising from Western companies withdrawing post the military coup.

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	3.2	-17.9	2.0	2.7	2.7
Inflation (yearly average, %)	5.7	3.6	18.4	14.0	7.1
Budget balance (% GDP)	-5.6	-7.8	-5.0	-5.4	-5.7
Current account balance (% GDP)	-3.4	-1.4	-3.0	-5.8	-4.9
Public debt (% GDP)	39.3	62.3	62.5	63.1	62.4

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	28%
THAILAND	22%
EURO AREA	16%
JAPAN	7%
INDIA	5%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	31%
SINGAPORE	23%
THAILAND	12%
MALAYSIA	9%
INDONESIA	5%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

ARTICLES OF APPAREL & CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	33%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	23%
VEGETABLES AND FRUITS	11%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	9%
FISH, CRUSTACEANS, MOLLUSCS & PREPS THEREOF	4%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	29%
TEXTILE YARN AND RELATED PRODUCTS	13%
IRON AND STEEL	5%
FIXED VEG. OILS & FATS, CRUDE, REFINED/FRACTIONATED	4%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	4%



- Abundant commodities (jade, ruby, copper, gold, gas, oil), hydroelectricity opportunities
- Young population (25% under 14)
- Proximity to dynamic economies (India, China, Thailand)
- High potential in the agriculture, tourism, and garment sectors
- Availability of low-cost labour
- Member of ASEAN



- The coup has isolated the country from the international community
- Endemic corruption, poor business environment
- Tensions linked to lack of tolerance towards ethnic minorities
- FATF blacklisted for terrorism and criminal financing
- Ineffective central bank under government influence
- Lack of diversification and infrastructure
- Underdeveloped financial sector
- Vulnerability to natural disasters

NAMIBIA

COUNTRY RISK **B**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **A4**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **2.6**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **4,854**



2024 OUTLOOK

- In 2024, growth will continue to be sustained by diamond, gold and uranium mining and exports, driven by global demand and high prices.
- However, the growth outlook will be dampened by the sluggishness of South Africa and Europe, which will have a negative impact on tourism, and by the uncertainties surrounding agriculture, which is suffering from drought.
- The current account deficit will remain high, but will be largely financed by foreign investment, notably in oil and gas exploration.
- Despite the persistence of significant inequalities, partly linked to the ownership of agricultural land, SWAPO remains dominant in the run-up to the November 2024 elections.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-8.0	3.5	4.6	3.0	3.0
Inflation (yearly average, %)	2.2	3.6	6.1	5.5	5.5
Budget balance* (% GDP)	-8.2	-8.7	-5.2	-4.5	-4.5
Current account balance (% GDP)	2.8	-9.9	-12.3	-7.0	-6.0
Public debt (% GDP)	66.6	71.9	69.8	69.0	68.0

(f): Forecast. * Fiscal year 2024 : from 1st april 2024 to 31st march 2025.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

SOUTH AFRICA	24%
BOTSWANA	15%
CHINA	10%
ZAMBIA	6%
CONGO DR	4%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

SOUTH AFRICA	44%
CHINA	11%
EURO AREA	10%
INDIA	5%
UNITED STATES	4%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

NON METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES	22%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	13%
INORGANIC CHEMICALS	9%
FISH, CRUSTACEANS, MOLLUSCS & PREPS THEREOF	11%
GOLD, NON-MONETARY	8%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	13%
ROAD VEHICLES	8%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	5%
IRON AND STEEL	4%
MANUFACTURES OF METAL	4%



- Significant mineral (diamonds, gold, uranium, copper) and fishery resources
- Good transport infrastructure and long coastline
- A well-developed local financial market
- Stable democracy since 1990
- Tourism potential
- Discovery of offshore hydrocarbon deposits
- Prospects for green hydrogen production
- Namibian dollar pegged to the rand



- Dependence on the mining sector and on South Africa
- Large trade deficit linked to imports of capital goods and fuels
- Corruption
- High unemployment, persistent inequalities, tensions over land ownership
- Agricultural sector exposed to climatic hazards
- High public debt limits fiscal space

NEPAL

COUNTRY RISK **C**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **B**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **30.2**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **1,354**



2024 OUTLOOK

- After a marked slowdown, growth is set to accelerate amid large remittances and the recovery in tourism.
- Nevertheless, the economic rebound will be fragile as oil prices will remain elevated while global food prices may rise due to El Nino and protectionism measures.
- The current account will remain in deficit, but this will not be a major risk, given the size of the country's foreign exchange reserves.
- After PM Dohal won a confidence vote in March 2023, political uncertainty remains due to tensions between and within coalition parties.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-2.4	4.8	5.6	0.8	4.5
Inflation (yearly average, %)	6.2	3.6	6.3	7.8	6.2
Budget balance (% GDP)	-5.4	-4.0	-3.2	-5.9	-4.9
Current account balance (% GDP)	-1.0	-7.7	-12.7	-1.5	-2.6
Public debt (% GDP)	43.3	44.0	43.8	44.8	45.8

(f): Forecast. All data are for fiscal years. FY 2024: 16 July 2023- 15 July 2024.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

INDIA	67%
UNITED STATES	12%
EURO AREA	6%
TÜRKIYE	3%
UNITED KINGDOM	2%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

INDIA	64%
CHINA	15%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	3%
UNITED STATES	3%
EURO AREA	2%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

FIXED VEG. OILS & FATS, CRUDE, REFINED/FRACTIONATED	40%
TEXTILE YARN AND RELATED PRODUCTS	22%
COFFEE, TEA, COCOA, SPICES & MANUFACT. THEREOF	7%
ARTICLES OF APPAREL & CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	6%
VEGETABLES AND FRUITS	4%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	16%
IRON AND STEEL	10%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	5%
ROAD VEHICLES	5%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	4%



- Reliable remittance flows support consumption, the main driver of growth
- Tourism potential
- Financial and technical support from India and China
- Recipient of vast sums of regional and international aid
- Huge potential capacity in hydroelectricity



- Landlocked, poor accessibility
- Lack of infrastructure (education, transport, water), shortage of electricity and fuel, non-diversified export basket
- Large trade deficit due to the limited production of consumer and investment goods
- High dependence on the Indian economy through exports as well as a currency peg
- Exodus of active population
- Political instability
- Notable private sector indebtedness

NETHERLANDS

COUNTRY RISK **A2**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **A1**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **17.6**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **57,428**



2024 OUTLOOK

- After the modest recession in 2023, wage adaptations should foster private consumption again. Together with a slow comeback of foreign trade this should result in a moderate recovery the Dutch economy.
- Together with the landslide election victory of the far-right PVV-party, the coalition negotiations begin. Several combinations are possible, like a coalition together with the Conservatives (VVD) and a new Christian-democratic party (NSC) as well as a Grand-Coalition without the participation of the PVV. Overall, it is clear that finding a stable coalition will be difficult and time-consuming.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-3.9	6.2	4.3	0.1	0.4
Inflation (yearly average, %)	1.3	2.7	10.0	3.9	2.1
Budget balance (% GDP)	-3.7	-2.2	-0.1	-0.5	-1.9
Current account balance (% GDP)	5.1	12.1	9.3	10.1	10.8
Public debt (% GDP)	54.7	51.7	50.1	49.3	49.7

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

GERMANY	27%
BELGIUM	12%
FRANCE	9%
UNITED KINGDOM	5%
ITALY	4%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	16%
GERMANY	13%
BELGIUM	8%
UNITED STATES	8%
UNITED KINGDOM	5%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	14%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	5%
TELECOM. & SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	5%
SPECIALISED MACHINERY	5%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	4%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	15%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	6%
TELECOM. & SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	6%
OFFICE MACHINES & AUTO DATA PROCESS. MACHINES	5%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	4%



- Port activity (Rotterdam is Europe's number-one port and Top 10 of the world)
- Establishment of home-grown international companies working with a dense network of SMEs
- Diversified and flexible exports, external accounts in surplus
- Strong digitalization
- High quality infrastructure and good living standards



- Exposure to the European economy (Dutch export earnings were 33% of the nominal GDP in 2022, 13% of it were re-exports)
- High exposure to European gas prices that results in a higher volatility in inflation when gas prices fall or increase
- Debt of private households is very high (211% of disposable income in 2022)
- Ageing population, pension system under pressure

NEW ZEALAND

COUNTRY RISK **A3**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **A1**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **5.1**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **47,226**



2024 OUTLOOK

- Growth to remain muted in 2024 amid high interest rates and elevated household indebtedness, as well as sustained inflation.
- Private demand may also remain constrained by the slow recovery of the property market.
- The recovery in tourism, as well as robust demand for food exports, would support growth.
- The deficit of the current account is likely to remain sizable, which could pressure the level of international reserves.
- The formation of a coalition government led by the new PM Christopher Luxon in November 2023 may cool the relationship with China down.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	28%
AUSTRALIA	12%
UNITED STATES	11%
JAPAN	6%
EURO AREA	5%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	23%
EURO AREA	12%
AUSTRALIA	11%
UNITED STATES	9%
SOUTH KOREA	6%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

DAIRY PRODUCTS AND BIRDS' EGGS	29%
MEAT AND MEAT PREPARATIONS	14%
CORK AND WOOD	6%
VEGETABLES AND FRUITS	6%
MISCELLANEOUS EDIBLE PRODUCTS & PREPARATIONS	5%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

ROAD VEHICLES	13%
PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	11%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	5%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	5%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	4%



- Proximity to Asia and Australia
- Attractive tourist destination
- Large and competitive agricultural sector (world's leading exporter of dairy products)
- Contained public debt
- High quality of life
- Excellent business environment



- Island nation
- Reliance on foreign investment and capital
- High household and corporate debt levels (especially in agriculture)
- Shortage of skilled labour
- Lack of R&D and low labour productivity growth compared to other OECD countries
- Vulnerable to natural hazards, environmental issues linked to the importance of the intensive agriculture

NICARAGUA

COFACE ASSESSMENTS

COUNTRY RISK **D**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **C**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **6.6**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **2,372**



2024 OUTLOOK

- Growth will slow slightly, with weak credit expansion and falling real wages. It will be underpinned by private consumption, stimulated by more moderate remittances from the USA.
- Fiscal tightening will support reserve accumulation and financial stability. Corporate and social security deficits will remain high.
- Through a repressive spiral, the Sandinista party led by President Daniel Ortega and his inner circle should maintain its grip.
- Stricter US sanctions could fuel popular discontent and reinforce dependence on Chinese funding.

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-1.8	10.3	3.8	3.8	3.4
Inflation (yearly average, %)	3.7	4.9	10.5	8.5	4.9
Budget balance (% GDP)	-2.7	-1.6	0.3	0.6	0.7
Current account balance (% GDP)	3.6	-3.1	-1.3	4.0	2.5
Public debt* (% GDP)	56.8	54.9	52.0	50.8	49.6

(f): Forecast. * Assumes that conditions equivalent to those of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative have been applied to outstanding debt owed to non-Paris Club bilateral countries. Excludes Special Drawing Rights (SDR) allocations. Includes data on the domestic debt of state-owned enterprises and municipalities.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	47%
EL SALVADOR	10%
EURO AREA	8%
COSTA RICA	5%
MEXICO	5%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	27%
CHINA	13%
GUATEMALA	8%
MEXICO	7%
COSTA RICA	7%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

ARTICLES OF APPAREL & CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	29%
GOLD, NON-MONETARY	11%
COFFEE, TEA, COCOA, SPICES & MANUFACT. THEREOF	10%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	10%
MEAT AND MEAT PREPARATIONS	8%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	13%
TEXTILE YARN AND RELATED PRODUCTS	9%
ARTICLES OF APPAREL & CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	8%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	6%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	5%



- Fiscal rigor and pegging to the dollar
- Mineral (gold), agricultural (coffee, sugar, meat) and fishery (shellfish) resources
- Member of the Central America/USA and Central America/EU free trade zones
- Member of China's Belt and Road Initiative
- Expatriate remittances (28% of GDP in 2023)



- US and EU sanctions, mostly against senior officials
- Vulnerability to natural disasters
- Health and education shortcomings, poverty and repression encouraging emigration
- Inadequate infrastructure
- Repression of the opposition, corruption
- Departure from the Organization of American States in 2023
- Maritime border dispute with Colombia

NIGER

COFACE ASSESSMENTS

COUNTRY RISK **D**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **C**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **26.1**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **592**



2024 OUTLOOK

- Growth should rebound if the international economic sanctions, including an ECOWAS embargo, imposed following the coup, are lifted in early 2024.
- It would then be underpinned by the rise in oil production and exports, linked to the inauguration at the end of 2023 of an oil pipeline linking the country to Benin, and by the restart of uranium production.
- However, activity could be hampered by a drop in agricultural performance due to the risk of El Niño-induced drought.
- The jihadist threat will remain significant, even if the country is trying to deal with it by creating the New Sahel Alliance with Mali and Burkina Faso.

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	3.5	1.4	11.9	3.0	11.0
Inflation (yearly average, %)	2.9	3.8	4.2	4.5	4.0
Budget balance* (% GDP)	-4.8	-5.9	-6.8	-5.0	-4.0
Current account balance* (% GDP)	-13.2	-14.0	-15.6	-11.0	-6.0
Public debt (% GDP)	45.0	51.3	50.3	48.5	46.5

(f): Forecast. * including grants.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	34%
MALI	26%
NIGERIA	10%
TÜRKIYE	5%
CHAD	4%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	34%
EURO AREA	19%
THAILAND	15%
NIGERIA	4%
UNITED STATES	4%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

GOLD, NON-MONETARY	64%
OIL SEEDS AND OLEAGINOUS FRUITS	9%
PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	9%
INORGANIC CHEMICALS	4%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	4%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	16%
IRON AND STEEL	8%
OTHER TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	7%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	6%
ROAD VEHICLES	5%



- World's 7th largest producer of uranium (2021)
- Net exporter of gold and petroleum products
- Investment efforts in agriculture and infrastructure



- Vulnerability to climate shocks and fluctuations in commodity prices
- Dependence on subsistence agriculture and energy imports from Nigeria (70% of electricity supply)
- Suspension from WAEMU and ECOWAS following the coup in July 2023
- Landlocked
- Rapidly growing population, severe poverty (3rd lowest HDI in the world), chronic food crisis
- Defective system for collecting taxes and customs duties
- Endemic corruption and importance of the informal sector
- Terrorist attacks, particularly in the south-east

NIGERIA

COUNTRY RISK **C**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **D**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **216.7**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **2,202**



2024 OUTLOOK

- In June 2023, to reduce pressure on foreign exchange reserves, unify exchange rates and relieve public finances, the new president let the official exchange rate plunge and removed the fuel subsidy, triggering an inflationary escalation. Faced with discontent, he was forced to backtrack in part.
- This could be reversed by the end of 2024, when the Dangote mega-refinery is fully operational, reducing imports and generating additional foreign currency. An increase in multilateral aid should help to turn the corner.
- Growth will be driven by the oil sector, which will benefit from high prices and increased production.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-1.8	3.6	3.3	2.5	3.0
Inflation (yearly average, %)	13.2	17.0	18.8	25.0	23.0
Budget balance (% GDP)	-5.6	-6.0	-5.5	-5.0	-4.5
Current account balance (% GDP)	-3.7	-0.7	0.2	0.7	0.5
Public debt* (% GDP)	34.5	36.5	39.6	39.0	41.5

(f): Forecast. * including state, local authority and public enterprise debt, borrowing from central bank, and arrears.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	31%
INDIA	25%
INDONESIA	7%
UNITED STATES	6%
CHINA	4%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	22%
CHINA	21%
UNITED STATES	7%
INDIA	6%
RUSSIA	4%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	71%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	20%
FERTILIZERS, NOT CRUDE	2%
OTHER TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	1%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	1%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	23%
ROAD VEHICLES	7%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	6%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	5%
SPECIALISED MACHINERY	4%



- First African economy and population
- Significant hydrocarbon resources
- Large agricultural potential (5th world producer of cocoa) and mining (gold, barite, tin, zinc)
- Rapid development of fintech and film industry
- Low external public debt relative to GDP



- Dependence on oil (90% of exports, 50% of tax revenue)
- Oil production subject to theft and sabotage
- Inadequate oil refining and gas transportation
- Debt interests exceeding tax revenue
- Low foreign exchange reserves
- Widespread insecurity and terrorist threat in the North
- Reduced manufacturing activity (9% of GDP)
- Deficient electricity and transport infrastructure weighing on agriculture
- Unemployment, poverty, food insecurity, corruption

NORTH MACEDONIA

COUNTRY RISK **C**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **A4**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **2.1**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **6,714**



2024 OUTLOOK

- Modest growth is set to increase. Private consumption will bounce back with a marked reduction in inflation and an increase in real wages. Public investment, particularly in construction (freeway to Albania, railways, gas pipeline), will be sustained. The contribution of trade will remain negative, due to weak European demand and sustained imports.
- EU accession negotiations are boosting budgetary and governance reforms. A rise in public revenues is expected (lower tax exemptions), reducing the public deficit.
- The relationship with Bulgaria and minorities will influence the 2024 parliamentary elections.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	64%
BULGARIA	5%
SERBIA	5%
KOSOVO	5%
HUNGARY	3%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	32%
UNITED KINGDOM	16%
CHINA	8%
TÜRKIYE	6%
SERBIA	6%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

CHEMICAL MATERIALS AND PRODUCTS	30%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	15%
IRON AND STEEL	9%
ARTICLES OF APPAREL & CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	5%
ELECTRIC CURRENT	4%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

NON-FERROUS METALS	13%
PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	9%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	9%
IRON AND STEEL	6%
INORGANIC CHEMICALS	5%



- Association and Stabilisation Agreement with the EU, opening of accession negotiations in 2022
- Integration into the European manufacturing chain
- Wage competitiveness
- Support from European donors
- Transfers from expatriate workers (16% of GDP)
- Anchoring the denar to the euro



- Informal economy
- Sustained emigration of young people to the EU, with unemployment at 26%.
- Dependence on imported inputs and energy
- High degree of euroisation
- Inadequate infrastructures
- Polarized and unstable political landscape
- Insufficient progress in fighting corruption, organized crime and improving the rule of law

NORWAY

COUNTRY RISK **A1**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **A1**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **5.5**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **105,826**



2024 OUTLOOK

- Global slowdown is affecting the Norwegian economy with falling exports, not only hydrocarbon activity. Business activity and investments are slowing down, affected by the high interest rates. Hydrocarbon investments are however rising.
- High rates are lowering household consumption and housing investments. The housing market already has a large number of houses for sale, which is expected to feed into lower prices in 2024.
- The currency continues to be weak, especially compared to the dollar. This will be a key factor when Norges Bank decides to cut interest rates as a weaker rate differential could weaken the currency further.

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-1.8	4.0	3.0	0.5	1.2
Inflation (yearly average, %)	1.3	3.5	5.8	5.4	3.3
Budget balance (% GDP)	-2.6	10.3	25.4	21.7	19.1
Current account balance (% GDP)	1.1	14.9	30.3	16.7	16.3
Public debt (% GDP)	45.2	41.4	36.5	36.8	32.9

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	57%
UNITED KINGDOM	22%
SWEDEN	6%
DENMARK	2%
POLAND	2%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	32%
SWEDEN	13%
CHINA	12%
UNITED STATES	6%
DENMARK	5%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	53%
PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	24%
FIXED VEG. OILS & FATS, CRUDE, REFINED/FRACTIONATED	6%
NON-FERROUS METALS	4%
ELECTRIC CURRENT	2%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

ROAD VEHICLES	12%
PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	8%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	5%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	5%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	4%



- Huge oil and natural gas deposits, the energy sector accounts for 36% of GDP, 16% of investments and 64% of exports
- High standard of living
- Largest sovereign wealth fund in the world (around 341% of mainland GDP in 2022, the fund owns almost 1.5% of all shares in the world)
- Norway has a preferential access to the EU market and is a NATO- member state



- Structural budget deficit when excluding oil and gas revenues
- High private household debt
- Significant labour costs and shortage of skilled workers
- Exposure to climate risk (such as significant drought in 2022, which put at risk the hydroelectric power stations' operations, particularly in the south)

OMAN

COUNTRY RISK **C**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **A4**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **4.9**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **23,240**



2024 OUTLOOK

- Growth will edge up in 2024 on the back of elevated hydrocarbon revenues and mostly public investments in line with Vision 2040 program. Private consumption will benefit from tourism recovery.
- In line with expected higher energy prices and increase of around 3% of gas production, exports' growth will support the current account surplus. Coupled with the introduction of the income tax, this will support fiscal revenues as well.
- The regional instability presents for the country both an opportunity to mediate, and a source of risk, particularly with the war in Yemen which stands at Oman's west border.

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-3.2	2.9	4.3	1.5	2.5
Inflation (yearly average, %)	-0.9	1.5	2.8	1	2
Budget balance (% GDP)	-16.1	-3.2	6.3	0.3	0.9
Current account balance (% GDP)	-16.6	-4.9	3.2	2	2.5
Public debt (% GDP)	69.7	61.3	40	43	41

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	14%
UNITED STATES	11%
SAUDI ARABIA	10%
INDIA	8%
EURO AREA	5%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	28%
SAUDI ARABIA	13%
INDIA	9%
CHINA	8%
EURO AREA	6%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	35%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	21%
IRON AND STEEL	7%
ORGANIC CHEMICALS	5%
NON-FERROUS METALS	3%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	13%
ROAD VEHICLES	8%
IRON AND STEEL	8%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	5%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	5%



- Budget consolidation in progress
- Strong tourism potential
- Balanced relations with regional and global powers
- Small oil producer, but gas production offers a good potential
- Strategic location with focus on becoming a logistic hub



- Dependence on oil & gas and services sectors, vulnerability to global energy prices
- High level of debt, large external financial needs due to low financial buffers
- Lack of logistics such as ports and inland communication networks

PAKISTAN

COUNTRY RISK **D**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **C**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **227.0**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **1,650**



2024 OUTLOOK

- Growth to recover modestly in 2024, helped by a rise in agricultural production. Nevertheless, significant macroeconomic stability risks persist.
- Inflation to remain sharp, which will see policy interest rates kept at high levels.
- Reforms under the IMF programme will make it challenging for the government to keep inflation in check and prevent further currency depreciation.
- Smooth implementation of the economic adjustment programme and easing import controls to boost investment growth.
- Political instability to remain, with the delayed general election to be held in January 2024.

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP Growth (%)*	-0.9	5.8	6.1	-0.5	2.5
Inflation (yearly average, %)*	10.7	8.9	12.1	29.2	23.6
Budget balance (% GDP)*	-7.0	-6.0	-7.8	-6.8	-8.3
Current account (% GDP)*	-1.5	-0.8	-4.7	-0.7	-1.8
Public debt (% GDP)*	79.6	73.6	75.8	73.6	68.9

(e): Estimate. (f): Forecast * Fiscal year 2024: 1st July 2023- 30th June 2024.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	27%
UNITED STATES	20%
CHINA	8%
UNITED KINGDOM	7%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	5%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	23%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	11%
SAUDI ARABIA	7%
INDONESIA	7%
QATAR	6%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

TEXTILE YARN AND RELATED PRODUCTS	30%
ARTICLES OF APPAREL & CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	30%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	8%
VEGETABLES AND FRUITS	3%
NON-FERROUS METALS	2%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	21%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	11%
FIXED VEG. OILS & FATS, CRUDE, REFINED/FRACTIONATED	5%
ORGANIC CHEMICALS	5%
COAL, COKE AND BRIQUETTES	4%



- Large domestic market benefiting from remittance inflows
- Large and inexpensive labour force
- Development of economic corridors with China and Central Asia, door to the Indian Ocean
- A major player in Islamic finance
- Mineral potential



- Tense neighbourhood, political fragility and domestic insecurity
- Large informal sector and low tax revenues
- Large and inefficient SOE sector
- Inadequate education (40% illiterate), health, infrastructure and agriculture
- Delayed development of Balochistan, favouring separatism, and rural areas, conducive to the development of radical Islamism
- Energy dependency, deficient electricity production

PANAMA

COUNTRY RISK **B**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **A4**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **4.4**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **17,410**



2024 OUTLOOK

- Growth will slow in the wake of the crisis in mining activity, following the closure of the Cobre mine. While the logistics sector could benefit from the pick-up in world trade, the arid weather could further affect canal traffic.
- Business activity will be underpinned by investment in infrastructure and growth in consumption, buoyed by moderate inflation.
- The end of 2023 was marked by more than a month of disruption and even paralysis for the local economy, as a result of blockades and strikes linked to the cancelled mining contract. The elections in May 2024 will take place in a still fragile political and social climate.

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-17.7	15.8	10.8	5.0	2.5
Inflation (yearly average, %)	-1.6	1.6	2.9	2.0	2.0
Budget balance (% GDP)	-10.0	-6.4	-3.9	-4.0	-3.0
Current account balance (% GDP)	-0.3	-3.0	-3.9	-4.0	-4.5
Public debt (% GDP)	62.0	55.6	53.7	53.0	52.5

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	39%
EURO AREA	15%
JAPAN	15%
SOUTH KOREA	6%
INDIA	4%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	24%
CHINA	11%
EURO AREA	7%
MEXICO	4%
COSTA RICA	3%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	49%
OTHER TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	9%
FISH, CRUSTACEANS, MOLLUSCS & PREPS THEREOF	7%
VEGETABLES AND FRUITS	4%
PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	4%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	26%
OTHER TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	8%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	4%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	3%
ROAD VEHICLES	4%



- Inter-oceanic Canal (5% of world maritime traffic, 16% of world transport capacity)
- Colón free trade zone, the world's second largest import-export hub
- Dollarised monetary and financial system, facilitating access to capital markets
- Regional banking and financial centre served by an excellent telecommunications network
- Tourism potential



- Highly exposed to the economic situation in North and South America
- Vulnerable to climate change (risk of drought affecting canal traffic)
- Low tax revenues (17% of GDP)
- Gaps in education and vocational training
- Wide socio-economic disparities between the Canal Zone and the rest of the country
- Corruption, favouritism and clientelism
- Majority of jobs are informal

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	B
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	C

POPULATION
Millions of persons **12.0**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **2,622**



2024 OUTLOOK

- Economic growth should accelerate in 2024 thanks to the recovery of the mining sector with the reopening of the Porgera gold mine, which has been out of production for three years. In addition, sustained growth in services (driven by tourist arrivals) and in agriculture will support the economy.
- Inflationary pressures, FX shortages, and external shocks represent downside risks for the country.
- The fiscal deficit is projected to narrow, reaching pre-pandemic levels, on expected fiscal consolidation.
- The FDI announcement for the Papua LNG project led by TotalEnergies is scheduled for 2024, with production starting in early 2028.

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-3.5	1.2	4.5	2.5	3.8
Inflation (yearly average, %)	4.9	4.5	7.2	4.0	5.0
Budget balance (% GDP)	-8.6	-6.6	-5.5	-4.5	-3.8
Current account balance (% GDP)	20.2	22.9	24.0	18.5	16.5
Public debt (% GDP)	47.1	50.9	49.9	51.4	50.9

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

AUSTRALIA	25%
JAPAN	24%
SINGAPORE	23%
CHINA	22%
INDIA	7%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

AUSTRALIA	27%
CHINA	24%
SINGAPORE	15%
MALAYSIA	9%
TAIWAN	4%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	27%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	17%
PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	11%
GOLD, NON-MONETARY	11%
FIXED VEG. OILS & FATS, CRUDE, REFINED/FRACTIONATED	8%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	20%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	10%
ROAD VEHICLES	9%
SPECIALISED MACHINERY	7%
MANUFACTURES OF METAL	6%



- Abundant natural resources: ore, hydrocarbons, agricultural, seafood products, and timber
- Plans to develop new gas fields and build liquefied natural gas production units, as well as new mines
- 15% of the world's tropical rainforests
- Financial support from multilateral and bilateral partners
- Member of the Commonwealth and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum



- Highly exposed to natural and climatic Disasters
- Weak infrastructure network
- Weak budgetary resources
- Dependence on commodity exports
- Significant governance shortcomings

PARAGUAY

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	B
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	B

POPULATION
Millions of persons **7.5**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **5,598**



2024 OUTLOOK

- Growth will decelerate in 2024 as export activity slows down following its exceptional rebound in 2023. Export prospects to China will be clouded by strengthened ties with Taiwan.
- Private investment and consumption are expected to bounce back with moderated inflation and monetary easing, despite a reduction in public spending.
- Climate risk (El Niño) will remain high in 2024, as it has the potential to impact agricultural production (flooding).
- If Paraguay successfully asserts its claims, the renegotiation of the Itaipu Treaty (hydroelectric plant shared with Brazil) will increase derived income.

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-0.8	4.0	0.1	4.5	3.8
Inflation (yearly average, %)	1.8	4.8	9.8	4.7	4.0
Budget balance (% GDP)	-7.0	-6.0	-3.7	-4.2	-2.1
Current account balance (% GDP)	3.6	-0.8	-6.0	0.6	0.1
Public debt (% GDP)	36.9	37.5	40.8	40.9	43.0

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

BRAZIL	37%
ARGENTINA	21%
CHILE	11%
RUSSIA	4%
EURO AREA	3%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	30%
BRAZIL	23%
UNITED STATES	10%
ARGENTINA	8%
EURO AREA	7%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

MEAT AND MEAT PREPARATIONS	18%
ELECTRIC CURRENT	16%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	15%
OIL SEEDS AND OLEAGINOUS FRUITS	14%
FEEDSTUFF FOR ANIMALS (EXCL. UNMILLED CEREALS)	7%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	16%
TELECOM. & SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	10%
ROAD VEHICLES	7%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	5%
FERTILIZERS, NOT CRUDE	5%



- Developed agricultural sector (soy and beef)
- Abundant hydroelectric resources
- Prudent fiscal and monetary policies



- Dependence on the agricultural sector and a handful of trading partners, notably Brazil and Argentina
- Vulnerability to climatic conditions
- Low fiscal resources (17% of GDP)
- Weak governance (corruption and cronyism)
- Significant informal market (40% of GDP)
- Poor infrastructure (river transport, roads, power lines)
- Deficient healthcare and education services

PERU

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	B
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	A4

POPULATION	34.2
Millions of persons	
GDP PER CAPITA	7,159
US Dollars	



2024 OUTLOOK

- We expect a moderate resurgence in economic growth for 2024, supported by mineral exports. The El Niño phenomenon could slow down agricultural and fishery activities.
- Private investment and consumption will recover slightly, aided by reduced social risk, controlled inflation, and eased credit conditions. The «Con Puche Perú» plan and public-private partnerships (PPPs) will contribute to this recovery.
- Mining site expansion projects (Quellaveco, Toromochó) will strengthen the export sector.
- Political instability is anticipated to persist in 2024, fueled by ongoing disputes between Congress and the presidency, which could potentially lead to the ousting of President Boluarte.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-10.9	13.3	2.7	1.1	2.7
Inflation (yearly average, %)	1.8	4.0	7.8	6.5	2.9
Budget balance (% GDP)	-9.1	-2.5	-1.4	-2.2	-1.8
Current account balance (% GDP)	1.1	-2.2	-4.1	-1.9	-2.1
Public debt (% GDP)	35.0	36.3	34.3	33.9	34.0

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	32%
UNITED STATES	12%
EURO AREA	11%
INDIA	5%
JAPAN	5%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	23%
CHINA	16%
EURO AREA	9%
ARGENTINA	6%
BRAZIL	5%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	36%
GOLD, NON-MONETARY	14%
VEGETABLES AND FRUITS	9%
NON-FERROUS METALS	8%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	7%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	17%
ROAD VEHICLES	7%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	6%
IRON AND STEEL	5%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	4%



- Member of the Pacific Alliance, the Andean Community, and the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)
- Rich in mineral, energy, agricultural, and fishery resources (including copper, gold, zinc, mineral fuels, fish, coffee)
- Low level of public debt
- Independence of the central bank and strong foreign exchange reserves



- Dependency on raw materials and Chinese demand
- Inadequate infrastructure, healthcare, and education systems
- Large informal sector, tax evasion leading to low tax revenues
- Regional disparities (poverty in the Andean and Amazonian regions)
- Fragile political environment due to fragmentation, recurring disputes between the presidency and Congress, and a succession of impeachment proceedings

PHILIPPINES

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	A4
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	B

POPULATION	111.6
Millions of persons	
GDP PER CAPITA	3,624
US Dollars	



2024 OUTLOOK

- While the exports prospects slightly brighten for 2024, challenges remain.
- Inflation will slowdown but could remain more rapid than in the past due to higher food prices, linked notably to the impact of El Niño.
- The aggressive monetary tightening of the two preceding years may continue to weigh on domestic activity, even if a BSP pivot is expected during the year.
- Frictions with China in the disputed South China sea could be observed amid Marcos' rapprochement with Washington and US-China rivalry.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	16%
JAPAN	14%
CHINA	14%
HONG KONG	13%
EURO AREA	10%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	20%
INDONESIA	9%
JAPAN	9%
SOUTH KOREA	9%
UNITED STATES	6%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	51%
OFFICE MACHINES & AUTO DATA PROCESS. MACHINES	8%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	4%
VEGETABLES AND FRUITS	3%
TELECOM. & SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	3%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	19%
PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	13%
ROAD VEHICLES	6%
IRON AND STEEL	4%
COAL, COKE AND BRIQUETTES	4%



- Large and young population, qualified and with good fluency in English
- Diverse geographic and sectoral origins of expatriate workers' remittances
- Thriving Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) sector
- Dynamic tourism sector



- Inadequate infrastructure levels
- Low fiscal revenues
- Governance shortcomings and high corruption perception
- Dependence on imports of energy and capital goods, resulting in large trade deficits
- High levels of income inequality
- Underemployment leading to expatriation
- Terrorism in the South of the country
- Strict bank secrecy and casinos that facilitate money laundering
- Exposed to natural disasters

POLAND

COUNTRY RISK **A4**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **A2**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **37.7**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **18,343**



2024 OUTLOOK

- Poland's economy will gradually recover and is expected to accelerate in H2 2024.
- Household consumption brings an increasing contribution to economic activity thanks to a tight labour market, growing wages and lower inflation, while the external situation remains the biggest risk.
- Monetary easing started relatively early (September 2023), which could increase inflation in the course of 2024.
- Despite the right-wing party Law and Justice (PiS) getting the most votes in the latest parliamentary elections, the coalition of opposition parties was able to form a government that is more EU-oriented.

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-2.0	6.9	5.3	0.6	2.8
Inflation (yearly average, %)	3.7	5.2	14.3	11.4	3.8
Budget balance (% GDP)	-6.9	-1.8	-3.7	-5.6	-4.3
Current account balance (% GDP)	2.3	-1.3	-2.4	0.7	-1.2
Public debt (% GDP)	57.2	53.6	49.3	51.7	53.8

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

GERMANY	28%
CZECH REPUBLIC	7%
FRANCE	6%
UNITED KINGDOM	5%
NETHERLANDS	5%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

GERMANY	26%
CHINA	10%
NETHERLANDS	6%
ITALY	5%
RUSSIA	4%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	9%
ROAD VEHICLES	9%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	6%
MANUFACTURES OF METAL	5%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	4%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	7%
ROAD VEHICLES	7%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	6%
IRON AND STEEL	5%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	4%



- Market of 38 million people
- Proximity to Western European markets
- Price competitiveness; qualified and cheap labour force
- Integrated into the German production chain
- Diversified economy (agriculture, variety of industries, services)
- Resilient financial sector



- Inadequate level of investment; domestic savings rate too low
- Weakness in R&D; high content of imports in exports
- Developmental lag of Eastern regions
- Structural unemployment, low level of female employment

PORTUGAL

COUNTRY RISK **A3**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **A2**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **10.3**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **24,540**



2024 OUTLOOK

- Activity will slow markedly in 2024, due to a smaller contribution from tourism after an exceptional recovery in 2023.
- Domestic activity will also be impacted by the still restrictive monetary policy. 83% of business loans are at mixed or variable rates. Business insolvencies are therefore likely to rise again in 2024.
- The parliamentary elections in March 2024 look uncertain: at the end of 2023, the polls had the Socialist Party and the PSD (centre-right) neck and neck. A coalition will probably be needed to govern. This could include Chega (far right), which is in third place and rising sharply.

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-8.4	4.9	6.5	2.2	1.1
Inflation (yearly average, %)	-0.1	0.9	7.6	5.4	3.5
Budget balance (% GDP)	-5.8	-2.9	-0.4	0.5	-0.1
Current account balance (% GDP)	-1.2	-0.8	-0.2	3.0	2.5
Public debt (% GDP)	134.9	125.5	112.4	104.0	102.0

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

SPAIN	27%
FRANCE	13%
GERMANY	11%
UNITED STATES	7%
UNITED KINGDOM	5%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

SPAIN	32%
GERMANY	11%
FRANCE	6%
CHINA	5%
NETHERLANDS	5%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

ROAD VEHICLES	12%
PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	7%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	5%
ARTICLES OF APPAREL & CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	5%
MANUFACTURES OF METAL	4%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	10%
ROAD VEHICLES	9%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	5%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	4%
TELECOM. & SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	4%



- Potential in renewable energy (hydroelectric, wind and photovoltaic)
- Above-average absorption of European funds
- Low labour costs and nascent manufacturing industry (food products, electronics)
- Increasingly attractive to foreign talent
- Buoyant tourism industry



- Underdeveloped manufacturing sector with low-to-medium range added value
- Slow-functioning legal system
- Poor quality of bank portfolios, high non-performing loan ratio
- Deepening infrastructure gap

QATAR

COUNTRY RISK **A3**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **A3**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **2.8**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **83,521**



2024 OUTLOOK

- After the World Cup in 2023, Qatar's growth will inch up in 2024 helped by several international activities that will support international tourist arrivals and tourism-related sectors.
- In 2024, the budget surplus is expected to slightly inch down as elevated capital spending will partly offset higher hydrocarbon revenues.
- Higher energy prices will support export but a stronger increase in imports' bill mainly linked to capital good will drag down trade surplus.
- Political stability is expected to continue. Qatar's role as an international mediator will become more pronounced under current regional conflicts.

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-3.6	1.5	4.9	2.5	3
Inflation (yearly average, %)	-2.5	2.3	5	3	2
Budget balance (% GDP)	1.3	4.3	13.5	11	10
Current account balance (% GDP)	-2.1	14.6	26.7	17	15
Public debt (% GDP)	72.6	58	42	45	42

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	16%
EURO AREA	14%
INDIA	12%
SOUTH KOREA	11%
JAPAN	10%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	20%
CHINA	17%
UNITED STATES	15%
INDIA	6%
TÜRKIYE	4%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	56%
PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	28%
FERTILIZERS, NOT CRUDE	3%
PLASTICS IN PRIMARY FORMS	2%
NON-FERROUS METALS	2%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	11%
POWER GENERATING MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT	7%
ROAD VEHICLES	6%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	6%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	4%



- World's 3rd-largest natural gas reserves, sizeable oil reserves
- Low public debt, strong public accounts
- A richly-endowed sovereign wealth fund
- Social and domestic political stability
- High per-capita income
- Business friendly environment



- Small economy, mostly dependent on hydrocarbons for growth, fiscal and external balances
- Exposure to volatility in energy prices

ROMANIA

COUNTRY RISK **A4**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **A3**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **19.0**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **15,821**



2024 OUTLOOK

- Growth will improve modestly in 2024, but will maintain a solid rate.
- Economic activity will be supported by resilient household and public consumption, investments thanks to efficient use of EU funds, and growing disposable income.
- While the adopted fiscal package improves the tax policy and will (slightly) lower the budget deficit, it could also result in higher inflation, increased unemployment and less vivid economic growth.
- The risk of political instability is exacerbated by four rounds of elections planned for 2024: the EU, local, presidential and parliamentary ones.

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-3.7	5.7	4.6	2.4	3.1
Inflation (yearly average, %)	2.3	4.1	12.0	10.2	6.0
Budget balance (% GDP)	-9.3	-7.2	-6.3	-5.9	-4.8
Current account balance (% GDP)	-6.8	-7.5	-9.3	-7.0	-6.3
Public debt (% GDP)	46.8	48.5	47.2	47.8	48.6

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

GERMANY	20%
ITALY	10%
HUNGARY	7%
FRANCE	6%
BULGARIA	4%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

GERMANY	18%
ITALY	8%
BULGARIA	7%
HUNGARY	7%
POLAND	6%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	15%
ROAD VEHICLES	14%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	6%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	5%
IRON AND STEEL	4%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	9%
ROAD VEHICLES	8%
PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	7%
IRON AND STEEL	5%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	5%



- Important agricultural potential: wheat, barley, colza, etc.
- Limited energy dependence thanks to local coal, oil, gas and uranium, 57% of electricity from renewables
- Diversified and competitive industry thanks to cheap labour
- Well integrated within the Eurozone through trade and investment linkages, but not a member State



- Twin fiscal and current-account deficits
- Second lowest GDP per capita in the EU
- Large underground economy
- Slow administrative and legal processes, corruption, bureaucracy, poor management of the workforce and procurement

RUSSIA

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	D
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	B

POPULATION 143.4
Millions of persons

GDP PER CAPITA 15,646
US Dollars



2024 OUTLOOK

- The economy is expected to continue recovering but with milder growth this year.
- The improvement is attributed to strengthening domestic demand supported by growing consumption and a tight labour market with higher wages, as well as increasing military spending boosting industrial production and construction.
- The monetary tightening will be continued if the rouble depreciates further amid low oil prices and increasing imports.
- The next presidential election will be held in March 2024, however, that will be only a formality and Vladimir Putin is expected to secure another term until 2030.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-2.7	5.6	-2.1	2.4	1.5
Inflation (yearly average, %)	3.4	6.7	13.7	5.9	6.4
Budget balance (% GDP)	-3.8	0.4	-2.1	-2.9	-2.1
Current account balance (% GDP)	2.4	6.7	10.4	2.3	1.9
Public debt (% GDP)	17.7	15.1	13.6	16.5	18.3

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	32%
CHINA	12%
TÜRKIYE	6%
SOUTH KOREA	4%
POLAND	4%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	28%
EURO AREA	24%
UNITED STATES	6%
BELARUS	5%
SOUTH KOREA	4%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	45%
COAL, COKE AND BRIQUETTES	8%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	7%
IRON AND STEEL	6%
NON-FERROUS METALS	4%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

ROAD VEHICLES	8%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	7%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	6%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	5%
SPECIALISED MACHINERY	5%



- Abundant natural resources (oil, gas, wood, cereals and metals)
- Market size and skilled labour force
- Increasing cooperation links with neighbouring China
- Low debt level, but the macroeconomic stability is under pressure due to sanctions



- Harsh and numerous sanctions imposed on the country after it invaded Ukraine
- Dependence on hydrocarbon (39% of GDP) prices
- Declining demographics
- No trade agreements beyond the neighbourhood
- Dependence on foreign technology
- Institutional and governance weaknesses, weak investment climate

RWANDA

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	B
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	A4

POPULATION 13.2
Millions of persons

GDP PER CAPITA 1,005
US Dollars



2024 OUTLOOK

- Growth will be strong, driven by investment in manufacturing and infrastructure (post-flood reconstruction in 2023), a recovery in tourism and strong demand for export products.
- President Kagame is expected to win the legislative and presidential elections in August 2024. The prospect of this will keep up household and business subsidies, against a backdrop of high inflation fueled by the depreciation of the franc.
- Aid and security spending will exacerbate the public deficit, while the heavy current account deficit will persist due to structural dependence on imports of raw materials and capital goods, despite good export performance.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-3.4	10.9	8.2	6.0	7.0
Inflation* (yearly average, %)	7.7	0.8	13.9	14.5	6.0
Budget balance** (% GDP)	-9.5	-7.0	-5.8	-5.0	-7.5
Current account balance (% GDP)	-12.2	-11.2	-9.8	-12.5	-11.0
Public debt** (% GDP)	65.6	66.7	61.1	63.0	72.0

(f): Forecast. * Urban inflation main gauge of inflation. ** Fiscal year from 1st July to 30th June. 2024 data : FY23-24.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

CONGO DR	38%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	28%
TANZANIA	6%
EURO AREA	4%
UNITED KINGDOM	3%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	19%
TANZANIA	13%
EURO AREA	9%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	8%
INDIA	8%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

GOLD, NON-MONETARY	34%
COFFEE, TEA, COCOA, SPICES & MANUFACT. THEREOF	14%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	13%
PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	6%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	4%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	12%
GOLD, NON-MONETARY	9%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	6%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	4%
TELECOM. & SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	4%



- Mineral resources (gold, cement constituents) and agricultural resources (tea, coffee, dairy products)
- Growth of business tourism and development of leisure tourism
- Developing industrial and financial base
- One of the most favorable business environments on the African continent
- Significant progress in governance and relative political stability



- Agriculture exposed to climatic risks
- Large twin deficits and high public debt
- Highly dependent on imported energy prices and international aid
- Landlocked and exposed to geopolitical tensions in the Great Lakes region
- Mineral smuggling, especially from the DRC
- High demographic pressure, population density among the highest in Africa

SAUDI ARABIA

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	A4
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	B

POPULATION	32.2
Millions of persons	
GDP PER CAPITA	34,441
US Dollars	



2024 OUTLOOK

- Saudi growth will increase in 2024, mainly driven by investment and private consumption.
- Budget will remain in deficit in 2024 following the decline in oil production the year before.
- Slow export growth, due to the cuts in oil production compared with faster import demand linked to diversification efforts will continue to weigh on the current account surplus.
- Although Saudi Arabia's foreign policy is innovating, its strategic relation with the US is expected to remain solid. Rising economic competition between the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia to attract more foreign investments increase the risk of cracks in OPEC.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-4.3	3.9	8.7	0.8	3.5
Inflation (yearly average, %)	3.4	3.1	2.5	3	2.5
Budget balance (% GDP)	-10.7	-2.3	2.5	-2.5	-1.5
Current account balance (% GDP)	-3.1	5.1	13.8	6.5	8
Public debt (% GDP)	31	28.8	22.6	24	25

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	16%
INDIA	10%
JAPAN	10%
EURO AREA	9%
SOUTH KOREA	9%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	21%
EURO AREA	16%
UNITED STATES	9%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	6%
INDIA	6%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	72%
PLASTICS IN PRIMARY FORMS	8%
ORGANIC CHEMICALS	6%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	3%
FERTILIZERS, NOT CRUDE	1%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

ROAD VEHICLES	10%
TELECOM. & SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	6%
PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	6%
IRON AND STEEL	6%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	5%



- Key oil producer with over 15% of the world's proven reserves
- Strong financial buffers in the sovereign wealth fund
- Intensified economic diversification efforts within the Vision 2030
- Improving diplomatic relations with neighbouring countries
- Invitation to the BRICS membership



- Economy still driven by the oil sector
- Dependence on foreign workers
- Risk of tensions with Iran, despite recent restoration of relations

SENEGAL

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	B
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	B

POPULATION	17.7
Millions of persons	
GDP PER CAPITA	1,570
US Dollars	



2024 OUTLOOK

- Growth will accelerate with the recovery of tourism and the start-up of offshore oil and gas production. The country will remain dependent on energy imports due to a lack of oil refining capacity.
- Fiscal consolidation efforts under the aegis of the IMF, including higher tax revenues and the gradual elimination of energy subsidies, will reduce the public deficit.
- Regional instability due to the rise of militant groups in Mali will combine with growing political tensions ahead of the February 2024 presidential elections, mainly due to the dissolution of the main opposition party (Pastef).

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (p)	2024 (p)
GDP growth (%)	1.3	6.5	4.1	4.1	7.0
Inflation (yearly average, %)	2.5	2.2	9.6	6.5	3.5
Budget balance* (% GDP)	-6.4	-6.3	-6.6	-4.9	-3.9
Current account balance (% GDP)	-10.1	-11.2	-19.9	-14.2	-7.0
Public debt (% GDP)	69.2	73.3	76.6	81.0	72.1

(f): Forecast. * Grants included.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

MALI	16%
SWITZERLAND	13%
EURO AREA	13%
INDIA	7%
CHINA	6%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	33%
CHINA	10%
RUSSIA	9%
INDIA	5%
UNITED STATES	4%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	20%
GOLD, NON-MONETARY	17%
FISH, CRUSTACEANS, MOLLUSCS & PREPS THEREOF	11%
INORGANIC CHEMICALS	7%
VEGETABLES AND FRUITS	5%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	20%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	7%
ROAD VEHICLES	5%
IRON AND STEEL	4%
TEXTILE YARN AND RELATED PRODUCTS	4%



- Offshore hydrocarbon deposits to come on stream in the second half of 2024 at the earliest
- CFA franc pegged to the euro
- IMF-supported pro-business reforms and infrastructure investments (Plan Sénégal Emergent)
- Membership of the West African Monetary Union (UEMOA), providing relative monetary stability and a low exchange rate
- Solid track record of political stability



- Vulnerable to climatic hazards and fluctuations in commodity prices (peanuts, cotton, fish, gold, etc.)
- Food importer (~30% net self-sufficiency), despite agriculture providing 16% of GDP and employing 30% of the working population
- Ineffective state intervention, leading to bureaucracy and high indebtedness
- Large current account deficit

SERBIA 

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	C
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	A4
POPULATION	Millions of persons	6.7
GDP PER CAPITA	US Dollars	9,528



2024 OUTLOOK

- After suffering the impact of the war in Ukraine and the fall in European demand, growth should accelerate. Lower inflation will encourage consumption and investment.
- A two-year, €2.4 billion lending facility with the IMF was agreed at the end of 2022, along with fiscal consolidation, enabling a gradual reduction in the public debt and deficit.
- The early parliamentary elections at the end of 2023 consolidated the position of President Vučić's Serbian Progressive Party. Contested by the opposition and subject to allegations of fraud, the poll plunged the country into a political crisis, fuelled by popular anger.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-0.9	7.6	2.3	2.5	3.0
Inflation (yearly average, %)	1.6	4.1	12.0	12.5	5.5
Budget balance (% GDP)	-7.2	-3.3	-0.1	-3.0	-2.0
Current account balance (% GDP)	-4.1	-4.3	-6.9	-2.5	-3.5
Public debt (% GDP)	56.9	56.3	55.3	54.0	52.0

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	43%
BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA	7%
HUNGARY	5%
ROMANIA	4%
RUSSIA	4%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	37%
CHINA	12%
RUSSIA	7%
HUNGARY	6%
TÜRKIYE	5%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	11%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	7%
POWER GENERATING MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT	5%
IRON AND STEEL	4%
VEGETABLES AND FRUITS	4%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	8%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	6%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	4%
ELECTRIC CURRENT	4%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	4%



- Stabilisation and Association Agreement with the EU allowing 93% of Serbian products to enter duty-free
- Public sector reform in coordination with the IMF
- Potential for exploiting natural resources (coal, copper, zinc, lead, bauxite, gold, silver, lithium) significant production of cereals, fruit and vegetables
- booming automotive industry



- Energy dependence on Russia
- Progress on EU accession still limited by EU concerns over rule of law, status of Kosovo and links with Russia
- Lengthy judicial procedures, customs harassment, corruption, lack of government transparency
- Large informal sector

SIERRA LEONE 

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	D
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	D
POPULATION	Millions of persons	8.3
GDP PER CAPITA	US Dollars	480



2024 OUTLOOK

- In 2024, growth will continue to be underpinned by the agricultural and mining export sectors.
- The depreciation of the leone and higher rice imports from Asian countries, whose harvests are likely to be reduced by the El Niño phenomenon, will help to keep inflation high and weigh on consumption, while food insecurity affects ¾ of the population.
- Social and political tensions will persist in 2024, following an attempted coup in which former president Koroma (2007-2028) took part at the end of November 2023.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	2.0	4.1	3.5	3.0	3.5
Inflation (yearly average, %)	13.4	11.9	26.1	43	30
Budget balance (% GDP)	-5.8	-7.4	-10.9	-6.0	-3.0
Current account balance* (% GDP)	-6.8	-8.7	-9.2	-7.0	-6.5
Public debt (% GDP)	76.3	79.3	98.9	89.0	83.0

(f): Forecast. * Including grants.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	34%
NORTH MACEDONIA	33%
EURO AREA	7%
SOUTH KOREA	5%
SOMALIA	4%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	20%
EURO AREA	18%
TÜRKIYE	10%
INDIA	8%
NORTH MACEDONIA	7%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	56%
CORK AND WOOD	7%
NON METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES	7%
FISH, CRUSTACEANS, MOLLUSCS & PREPS THEREOF	4%
COFFEE, TEA, COCOA, SPICES & MANUFACT. THEREOF	4%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	16%
ROAD VEHICLES	8%
IRON AND STEEL	5%
SPECIALISED MACHINERY	5%
NON METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES	5%



- Significant mining resources: iron ore, titanium, aluminium diamonds, tantalite, rutile and gold
- Timber, coffee, rice, cocoa and palm oil production
- Financial support from international institutions
- Tourism potential
- Significant port activity that is set to expand
- Participation in AGOA



- Vulnerability to the weather conditions
- Highly dependent on commodity prices, both imported and exported
- Low public revenue (15% of GDP)
- Corruption, inadequate protection of property rights
- Hard for small and medium-sized enterprises to access credit
- Inadequate infrastructure, failing health system
- Extreme poverty, high unemployment

SINGAPORE

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	A2
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	A1

POPULATION Millions of persons	5.6
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars	82,808



2024 OUTLOOK

- Economy to see faster growth in 2024 but remain below trend. This mainly reflects the effect of sluggish global demand, weighing on transport services and manufacturing activity.
- The latter would, however, received some relief from the expected recovery in demand for electronics.
- Private consumption to remain robust amid fiscal supports toward lower-income households, low unemployment.
- Although slowing, inflation will stay higher than pre-pandemic times due to elevated and volatile commodity prices and GST rate hike.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-3.9	8.9	3.6	0.9	2.0
Inflation (yearly average, %)	-0.2	2.3	6.1	5.1	3.2
Budget balance* (% GDP)	-10.5	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.4
Current account balance (% GDP)	16.4	18.0	19.3	16.6	15.2
Public debt (% GDP)	146.6	136.6	167.8	167.9	168.2

(f): Forecast. * Fiscal year 2024: from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	12%
HONG KONG	11%
MALAYSIA	10%
UNITED STATES	9%
EURO AREA	7%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	13%
MALAYSIA	12%
TAIWAN	12%
UNITED STATES	11%
EURO AREA	8%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

TELECOM. & SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	25%
PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	14%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	8%
SPECIALISED MACHINERY	6%
OFFICE MACHINES & AUTO DATA PROCESS. MACHINES	4%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

TELECOM. & SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	23%
PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	21%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES	7%
GOLD, NON-MONETARY	4%
OFFICE MACHINES & AUTO DATA PROCESS. MACHINES	4%



- High non-price competitiveness
- High value-added industry (new technologies, finance, chemicals, pharmaceuticals)
- Major goods transport and trading hub (air and sea), financial center
- Large FDI inflows thanks to the advantageous tax regime, political stability, and excellent business climate
- Major Asian exporter of capital, mostly through its sovereign wealth funds



- Dependent on exports and imports (energy and food)
- Skilled labour and housing shortages
- Ageing population, relatively high old-age dependency ratio (27%)
- Vulnerable to the structural slowdown of the Chinese economy and U.S.-China geopolitical tensions

SLOVAKIA

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	A4
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	A2

POPULATION Millions of persons	5.4
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars	21,263



2024 OUTLOOK

- The moderate upturn in foreign demand will boost exports, particularly in the automotive sector. Private consumption will also increase, thanks to rising real wages and falling, albeit still high, inflation. Investment will continue to be supported by EU funds.
- The permanent budgetary measures of 2023, such as the reduction of the VAT rate in catering and sports, will limit the fall in the public deficit caused by the removal of energy subsidies.
- The new populist and pro-Russian Prime Minister, Robert Fico, will lead a coalition that also includes the nationalist far right, as well as the centre-left. The presidential election will be held in spring 2024.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

GERMANY	21%
CZECH REPUBLIC	12%
HUNGARY	9%
POLAND	8%
FRANCE	6%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CZECH REPUBLIC	18%
GERMANY	18%
POLAND	9%
AUSTRIA	7%
HUNGARY	7%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

ROAD VEHICLES	31%
TELECOM. & SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	9%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	7%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	6%
IRON AND STEEL	5%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

ROAD VEHICLES	15%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	10%
TELECOM. & SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	8%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	6%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	5%



- Member of the Eurozone and the NATO
- Production platform for the European automotive and electronics industries
- Satisfactory public debt level
- Robust financial system dominated by foreign groups



- Small and open economy dependent on European investment and markets
- Strong sectorial concentration of exports: automotive and consumer electronics
- Regional development inequalities: the east is lagging behind (infrastructure and training)
- Insufficient research and development, exports relying on assembly activities (low value-added)
- Shortage of skilled labour and high long-term unemployment
- Widespread corruption and organized crime

SLOVENIA 

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	A3
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	A1
POPULATION Millions of persons		2.1
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars		28,527



2024 OUTLOOK

- Growth is expected to accelerate in 2024. However, the worst in decades floods that hit Slovenia in August 2023 will require years of reconstruction.
- If weak foreign demand continues, it will limit Slovenia's economic activity as it is highly open to foreign trade and included in supply chains.
- Household consumption is expected to recover thanks to increasing employment, solid wage growth and progressing disinflation.
- The reconstruction after the 2023 flooding enhances government spending above planned levels both in 2023 and 2024, while some EU transfers will be redirected to support the recovery.



- Member of the NATO (since 2004), the Eurozone (2007) and the OECD (2010)
- Diversified economy (automotive, pharmaceuticals, electronics, tourism)
- Integrated in the European production chain



- Small domestic market, very open economy (exports of goods and services represented 94% of GDP in 2022)
- Ageing population and demographic growth at a standstill, resulting in labour shortage
- Inefficient state-owned companies
- Slow administrative and judicial procedures

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-4.2	8.2	2.5	1.6	2.1
Inflation (yearly average, %)	-0.3	2.0	9.3	7.3	3.8
Budget balance (% GDP)	-7.6	-4.6	-3.0	-4.0	-3.4
Current account balance (% GDP)	7.4	3.5	-0.8	3.5	1.7
Public debt (% GDP)	79.6	74.4	72.3	70.2	69.2

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

SWITZERLAND	17%
GERMANY	14%
ITALY	11%
CROATIA	7%
AUSTRIA	6%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

SWITZERLAND	13%
CHINA	12%
GERMANY	11%
ITALY	10%
AUSTRIA	8%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	24%
ROAD VEHICLES	10%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	8%
PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	5%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	4%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	13%
ORGANIC CHEMICALS	9%
PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	7%
ROAD VEHICLES	6%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	5%

SOUTH AFRICA 

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	C
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	A4
POPULATION Millions of persons		60.6
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars		6,684



2024 OUTLOOK

- The economy will recover thanks to reforms in the energy sector, which will support investment and the supply of electricity. Consumption will rebound on the back of disinflation.
- Exports under pressure, due to lower prices and transport issues, will weigh on the external accounts.
- Public accounts will continue to deteriorate. Revenues will be constrained by the economic climate, while spending pressures will intensify (wages, bailouts of public companies, debt servicing), especially in an election year.
- The ANC may not reach an absolute majority in the 2024 elections, which would be the first time in its history.



- A regional powerhouse with a large, young population
- Rich in natural resources (gold, coal, rare metals, etc.)
- Developed financial market
- Floating exchange rate, independence of central bank
- Robust banking system
- Public debt mainly in rand and with a long maturity
- Solid institutions and independent judiciary



- Energy and logistics crisis linked to mismanagement of Eskom and Transnet
- Poverty, growing inequality, high unemployment, social risks (crime, strikes)
- Inefficient public spending, corruption
- Insufficient FDI
- Weak accounts and public companies
- Ageing and inadequate infrastructure

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-6.0	4.7	1.9	0.7	1.2
Inflation (yearly average, %)	3.2	4.6	7.0	6.1	5.1
Budget balance* (% GDP)	-10.6	-5.5	-4.4	-5.3	-5.5
Current account balance (% GDP)	1.9	3.7	-0.5	-1.7	-2.6
Public debt*/** (% GDP)	70.7	67.8	70.9	73.7	75.0

(f): Forecast. * Fiscal year from 1st April to 31st March. Last fiscal year FY 24/25, ** Excluding state guarantees on public enterprise debt.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	20%
CHINA	9%
UNITED STATES	9%
JAPAN	7%
UNITED KINGDOM	5%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	20%
EURO AREA	18%
UNITED STATES	7%
INDIA	7%
SAUDI ARABIA	4%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

NON-FERROUS METALS	18%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	14%
COAL, COKE AND BRIQUETTES	10%
GOLD, NON-MONETARY	8%
ROAD VEHICLES	8%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	19%
ROAD VEHICLES	8%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES	5%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	4%
TELECOM. & SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	3%

SOUTH KOREA

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	A2
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	A1

POPULATION	51.6
Millions of persons	
GDP PER CAPITA	32,418
US Dollars	



2024 OUTLOOK

- The global recovery in electronics and info-comm technology products will be supportive for Korean exports (36% of GDP), bolstering GDP growth.
- Private consumption growth may be held back by weakened spending power and higher debt servicing rates.
- Further growth recovery could also be constrained by higher interest rates, housing downturn, elevated household debt levels.
- Recent rebound in household debts raised Bank of Korea's caution. Therefore, interest rates will remain restrictive as fighting inflation and bringing household debt level down are policy priorities.



- Diversified industrial base
- Leader in high-end electronics
- High private and public R&D spending
- Good educational system
- Diversified FDI in Asia



- Competition from China (steel, shipbuilding, electronics, automotive, domestic appliances)
- High level of household debt
- Ageing population
- High youth unemployment
- Net commodity importer
- Overrepresentation of chaebols in the economy
- Geopolitical tensions with North Korea and Japan

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP Growth (%)	-0.7	4.3	2.6	1.4	2.3
Inflation (yearly average, %)	0.5	2.5	5.1	3.8	3.4
Budget balance (% GDP)	-2.2	0.0	-1.6	-1.2	-0.9
Current account (% GDP)	4.6	4.7	1.8	1.3	2.0
Public debt (% GDP)	48.7	51.3	53.8	54.3	55.6

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	23%
UNITED STATES	16%
VIETNAM	9%
EURO AREA	7%
JAPAN	4%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	21%
UNITED STATES	11%
EURO AREA	8%
JAPAN	7%
AUSTRALIA	6%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

TELECOM. & SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	19%
ROAD VEHICLES	11%
PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	9%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	9%
IRON AND STEEL	5%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	18%
TELECOM. & SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	11%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	8%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	8%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	4%

SPAIN

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	A3
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	A1

POPULATION	47.6
Millions of persons	
GDP PER CAPITA	29,800
US Dollars	



2024 OUTLOOK

- Growth will slow in 2024 but remain above the EU average. Household consumption should be resilient thanks to lower inflationary pressures and continued wage growth.
- Activity will be held back by a gloomy external environment and high interest rates, but European funds will continue to support public investment as part of the recovery plan.
- The multi-party coalition formed by the outgoing Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez (PSOE), including pro-independence Catalan and Basque parties, could make governance difficult and increase the risk of political instability.



- Strong comparative advantage in renewable energy (solar, wind)
- Important reforms (labour market, banking sector, bankruptcy law, etc.)
- Increasing financial support from European institutions
- Important private-sector deleveraging (pre-pandemic)
- Manufacturing sector has shown reinvention capacity in recent times



- High private and public debt, highly negative international investment position
- Dual labour market, high structural unemployment
- Large quota of small, low-productivity companies
- High exposure to pandemic-sensitive sectors
- Fragmented and polarized political landscape, territorial unity threatened by the Catalan independence movement

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-11.2	6.4	5.8	2.3	1.3
Inflation (yearly average, %)	-0.3	3.0	8.3	3.6	3.5
Budget balance (% GDP)	-10.1	-6.8	-4.7	-3.9	-3.2
Current account balance (% GDP)	0.6	0.8	0.6	2.1	1.5
Public debt (% GDP)	120.3	116.8	111.6	107.3	104.7

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

FRANCE	16%
GERMANY	10%
PORTUGAL	9%
ITALY	8%
BELGIUM	6%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

GERMANY	11%
FRANCE	10%
CHINA	9%
ITALY	7%
UNITED STATES	6%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

ROAD VEHICLES	12%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	7%
PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	6%
VEGETABLES AND FRUITS	5%
ARTICLES OF APPAREL & CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	4%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	12%
ROAD VEHICLES	8%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	6%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	5%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	5%

SRI LANKA 

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	D
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	B

POPULATION
Millions of persons

22.4

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars

3,342



2024 OUTLOOK

- A modest GDP expansion in 2024 is expected after a contraction in 2023, driven by a recovery in private consumption and exports.
- Private consumption will be supported by improved real incomes (due to disinflation) and economic conditions.
- Inflation will fall, due to weak aggregate demand and falling commodity prices.
- The current account deficit is expected to narrow thanks to tourism, enhanced export earnings, and sustained remittance inflows.
- Persistent fiscal challenges with increased spending plans and the need for ongoing debt restructuring.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-4.6	3.5	-7.8	-2.5	2.8
Inflation (yearly average, %)	4.6	6.0	45.8	18.7	5.5
Budget balance (% GDP)	-12.1	-11.6	-10.2	-8.5	-9.3
Current account balance (% GDP)	-1.4	-3.7	-4.0	-1.0	-0.9
Public debt (% GDP)	95.7	115.0	123.4	111.2	108.5

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	25%
EURO AREA	21%
UNITED KINGDOM	7%
INDIA	7%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	3%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	24%
INDIA	22%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	7%
EURO AREA	7%
SINGAPORE	4%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

ARTICLES OF APPAREL & CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	45%
COFFEE, TEA, COCOA, SPICES & MANUFACT. THEREOF	13%
RUBBER MANUFACTURES	5%
NON METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES	4%
VEGETABLES AND FRUITS	4%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	19%
TEXTILE YARN AND RELATED PRODUCTS	17%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	4%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	4%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	3%



- Diversified agricultural production (tea, rice, coconuts, rubber)
- Strategically located at the centre of trade routes between Asia and the Middle East
- Successes in education, health and poverty reduction
- Attractive tourist destination



- External financing crisis, sovereign is in default on FX obligations
- Agricultural production vulnerable to climate disasters
- Vulnerable to external shocks due to its reliance on imports
- Low levels of public capital expenditure due to debt servicing burden
- Ethnic tensions between Sinhalese and Tamils

SUDAN 

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	E
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	E

POPULATION
Millions of persons

46.7

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars

723



2024 OUTLOOK

- On April 15, 2023, a bloody conflict for state control began between the armies of two generals, formerly allies in the 2021 coup. Fighting in the south and in the capital is causing malnutrition, epidemics, and population displacement.
- Infrastructure destruction, insecurity, looting, and hyperinflation are eroding production, trade, and consumption. In 2024, growth will depend on the evolution of the conflict. In the event of a lull, it will rely on agriculture, aid, and reconstruction.
- With the near disappearance of the State, budgetary capacities will be non-existent, while foreign aid could remain blocked.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-3.6	-1.0	-2.0	-16.0	-1.0
Inflation (yearly average, %)	163.3	359.1	138.8	256.0	150.0
Budget balance (% GDP)	-5.9	-0.3	-2.5	-3.5	-3.0
Current account balance (% GDP)	-16.9	-7.5	-11.0	-1.0	-7.0
Public debt (% GDP)	275.2	187.9	186.2	256.0	239.0

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	30%
MACAO	24%
SAUDI ARABIA	15%
EGYPT	10%
INDIA	5%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

MACAO	21%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	13%
INDIA	8%
EURO AREA	7%
EGYPT	6%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

GOLD, NON-MONETARY	27%
LIVE ANIMALS OTHER THAN FISH, CRUSTACEANS & MOLLUSCS	16%
VEGETABLES AND FRUITS	13%
OIL SEEDS AND OLEAGINOUS FRUITS	10%
PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	8%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	9%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	8%
PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	7%
MANUFACTURES OF METAL	7%
IRON AND STEEL	7%



- Gold and oil resources, Red Sea ports
- Geographical and economic proximity to the Gulf countries
- Agriculture and livestock breeding improve their productivity thanks to Gulf investors
- Renegotiation with South Sudan of fees paid for its oil through Sudanese pipelines



- Political instability since the overthrow of dictator el-Bechir in 2019, military coup in 2021, internal armed conflict since April 2023
- Clashes between ethnic and tribal militias in the west and south
- Poverty, high unemployment, risk of famine
- Unsustainable external debt, aggravated by suspension of international aid and low foreign exchange reserves
- Currency depreciation and hyperinflation
- Towards a partition of the country

SURINAME

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	D
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	C

POPULATION Millions of persons	0.6
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars	5,687



2024 OUTLOOK

- Gold exports and investment will support growth in 2024. The discovery of hydrocarbon deposits will attract foreign investment.
- The depreciation of the Surinamese dollar will keep inflation high. The fiscal consolidation measures demanded by the IMF (VAT, gold mining levies, timber taxation, elimination of subsidies, reduction in the wage bill) will also weigh on household consumption.
- Social discontent with the rising cost of living, persistently high inflation and tax reforms could force the government to call early elections (initially scheduled for 2025).

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-15.9	-2.7	1.0	2.3	3.0
Inflation (yearly average, %)	34.9	59.1	52.5	42.0	27.0
Budget balance (% GDP)	-12.1	-6.6	-3.1	-1.5	-1.0
Current account balance (% GDP)	9.1	5.9	2.2	1.5	1.0
Public debt (% GDP)	147.8	119.6	120.1	107.0	94.0

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	43%
SWITZERLAND	21%
EURO AREA	17%
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	5%
JAMAICA	3%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	33%
EURO AREA	17%
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	13%
CHINA	9%
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	3%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

GOLD, NON-MONETARY	75%
PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	8%
CORK AND WOOD	4%
FISH, CRUSTACEANS, MOLLUSCS & PREPS THEREOF	3%
SPECIALISED MACHINERY	2%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

SPECIALISED MACHINERY	12%
PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	10%
ROAD VEHICLES	7%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	6%
MANUFACTURES OF METAL	5%



- Mineral resources (gold) and potential (hydrocarbons, bauxite), production of wood, rice, bananas and hydroelectricity
- Ecuadorian forest covering 95% of the country, prospects for carbon credits
- Support from international donors and foreign investors
- Financial aid from the Netherlands, and expatriate remittances
- Active member of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)



- Poorly diversified economy: dependent on gold and oil
- Large informal economy (30% of GDP) with casinos, gold panning, smuggling and drug trafficking
- Inadequate transport infrastructure
- Difficult business climate, inefficient justice system
- Vulnerable banking sector: high proportion of bad loans and low profitability

SWEDEN

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	A3
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	A1

POPULATION Millions of persons	10.5
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars	56,188



2024 OUTLOOK

- Despite slower global trade, the Swedish export sector has so far fared relatively well, partly thanks to a weak currency, but is still expected to decline in 2024.
- Tight credit conditions, with variable interest rates frequently used, are leading households to lower consumption. Business investment is falling as well.
- The housing market is quickly declining as households and real estate companies adjust to higher rates.
- Sweden's accession into NATO is still ongoing with Türkiye and Hungary still not having approved it yet. The government is still struggling with a rising problem of gang violence.

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-2.3	5.9	3.0	-0.3	0.5
Inflation (yearly average, %)	0.5	2.2	8.4	8.6	3.8
Budget balance (% GDP)	-2.8	0.0	1.1	-0.2	-0.6
Current account balance (% GDP)	5.9	7.1	5.8	6.7	6.6
Public debt (% GDP)	39.9	36.5	32.9	29.7	30.0

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

NORWAY	11%
GERMANY	10%
UNITED STATES	9%
DENMARK	8%
FINLAND	7%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

GERMANY	15%
NORWAY	12%
NETHERLANDS	11%
CHINA	7%
DENMARK	6%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

ROAD VEHICLES	12%
PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	7%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	7%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	5%
PAPER AND PAPER MANUFACTURES	5%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	12%
ROAD VEHICLES	9%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	6%
TELECOM. & SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	5%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	4%



- Very favorable business climate
- Very diversified economy, specialized in high-tech products (automotive, aviation, telecommunications, nuclear power)
- Solid public and external accounts, low debt
- High standard of living
- Positive demographical development due to immigration



- Not a NATO member yet, membership progress is ongoing
- Highly dependent on global demand (exports of goods and services = 53% of GDP in 2022)
- Tensions on the real estate market due to elevated debt levels and sizeable overvaluation relative to incomes and rents
- Substantial household debt (83.4% of GDP in Q3 2023)

SWITZERLAND

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	A1
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	A1
POPULATION Millions of persons		8.7
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars		93,657



2024 OUTLOOK

- The Swiss economy is set for moderate growth, due to a pick-up of foreign demand and a recovery of the construction sector.
- The in European terms relatively low inflation pressure should decline further and will keep up the purchasing power of private households and private consumption.
- The national conservatives (SVP) won the general election in October 2023 with 28% of the votes ahead of the Socialist Party (18%), the Liberal Democrats (LDP, 14%) and the Christian-Democrats (Center, 14%). As all these parties participated in the cabinet, the government has not changed.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-2.1	5.4	2.6	0.7	1.1
Inflation (yearly average, %)	-0.7	0.6	2.8	2.1	1.4
Budget balance (% GDP)	-3.1	-0.3	1.2	0.7	0.9
Current account balance (% GDP)	0.5	6.9	9.4	8.2	8.6
Public debt (% GDP)	43.9	41.5	37.7	37.0	36.6

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	38%
UNITED STATES	16%
CHINA	11%
INDIA	4%
UNITED KINGDOM	3%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	47%
UNITED STATES	11%
CHINA	6%
UNITED KINGDOM	4%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	3%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

GOLD, NON-MONETARY	27%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	23%
ORGANIC CHEMICALS	7%
PHOTO APPARATUS, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES & CLOCKS	7%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	6%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

GOLD, NON-MONETARY	28%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	14%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	6%
ROAD VEHICLES	5%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	4%



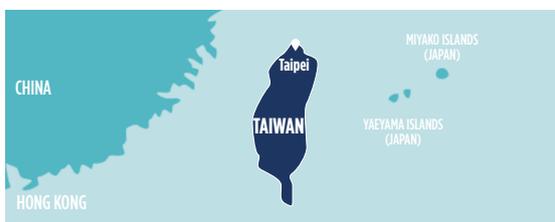
- Political, economic and social stability and consensus; role of direct democracy
- International financial centre, headquarters of international groups and organisations
- Limited sensitivity of exports to foreign exchange due to the emphasis on high technology, finance-services, pharmaceutical products and luxury goods
- Very strong public and external accounts



- Small, open economy and landlocked
- Swiss franc as a safe-haven currency
- High banking risks due to the merge of Credit Suisse and UBS (assets are twice the size of the Swiss GDP)
- Trade relationships between Switzerland and the EU are crumbling as existing trade-agreements were not updated in years

TAIWAN (REPUBLIC OF CHINA)

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	A2
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	A1
POPULATION Millions of persons		23.3
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars		32,687



2024 OUTLOOK

- The economy will recover gradually in 2024 driven by external demand.
- Taiwan's tech sector will recover thanks to increasing demand for IT products and a recovery in the semiconductor cycle.
- Public spending, low unemployment and a rise in the minimum wage will keep private consumption robust.
- Geopolitical tensions with Mainland China represent a significant risk; a confrontation would have a significant impact on a global scale.
- Manufacturing companies are likely to keep reshoring their production away from China.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	3.4	6.5	2.4	1.0	3.0
Inflation (yearly average, %)	-0.2	1.8	2.9	2.2	1.7
Budget balance (% GDP)	-1.0	-0.2	-1.4	-0.3	-0.5
Current account balance (% GDP)	14.1	14.7	13.3	11.5	12
Public debt (% GDP)	33.5	31.2	29.5	26.7	24

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	25%
UNITED STATES	16%
HONG KONG	13%
JAPAN	7%
EURO AREA	6%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	19%
JAPAN	12%
UNITED STATES	10%
EURO AREA	8%
SOUTH KOREA	8%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	41%
OFFICE MACHINES & AUTO DATA PROCESS. MACHINES	8%
PLASTICS IN PRIMARY FORMS	4%
ORGANIC CHEMICALS	4%
MANUFACTURES OF METAL	4%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	15%
PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	8%
SPECIALISED MACHINERY	7%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	5%
ROAD VEHICLES	5%



- Robust external financial position
- Fiscal Prudence allows vast potential for fiscal stimulus
- Support for R&D through public expenditure
- Among the largest electronics producers in the world
- Diversified FDI portfolio in Asia



- Strained cross-straits relations
- Concentration in technology sector and Chinese demand
- High dependence on external shocks due to the openness of its economy
- Infrastructure gap compared to other advanced Asian economies
- Ageing population
- Diplomatic isolation

TAJIKISTAN

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	D
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	D

POPULATION Millions of persons	9.8
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars	1,067



2024 OUTLOOK

- Growth is expected to moderate in 2024: the slowdown in expatriate remittances will have a negative impact on household consumption, net exports will deteriorate, while the fall in interest rates will support investment.
- The expected rise in inflation will hamper household consumption.
- The current account deficit will widen in 2024 due to a larger trade deficit (metal exports will not offset imports) and a fall in remittances, particularly from Russia (exacerbated by the depreciation of the rouble).
- The budget deficit will remain similar to 2023, with an expected increase in expenditure and revenues.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	4.4	9.4	8.0	6.5	5.0
Inflation (yearly average, %)	8.6	9.0	6.6	4.2	5.7
Budget balance (% GDP)	-4.3	-0.7	-0.2	-2.5	-2.7
Current account balance (% GDP)	4.1	8.2	15.6	-3.0	-3.5
Public debt (% GDP)	51.8	42.1	32.6	33.5	32.9

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

SWITZERLAND	32%
KAZAKHSTAN	18%
UZBEKISTAN	13%
TÜRKIYE	12%
EURO AREA	6%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

RUSSIA	31%
KAZAKHSTAN	22%
CHINA	16%
EURO AREA	5%
UZBEKISTAN	5%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

GOLD, NON-MONETARY	32%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	23%
NON-FERROUS METALS	15%
TEXTILES FIBRES AND THEIR WASTES	10%
ELECTRIC CURRENT	6%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	10%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	8%
ROAD VEHICLES	7%
IRON AND STEEL	6%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	6%



- Plentiful natural resources (mineral resources, cotton, hydroelectricity)
- Hydroelectric, agricultural and tourism potential
- Youthful population (50% under 25 years old)
- Financial support from multilateral and bilateral donors, including China
- Member of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)



- High dependence on Russia, to China and commodities
- Under diversified economy and limited role of private sector
- Weak and concentrated banking system; credit is dollarized
- High poverty
- Proximity of Afghanistan and conflict with Kirgizstan
- Poor governance

TANZANIA

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	B
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	C

POPULATION Millions of persons	61.5
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars	1,253



2024 OUTLOOK

- Growth should increase, driven by public and private investment in numerous infrastructure projects (mining, roads, manufacturing, railways), mineral exports and a rebound in tourism.
- The budget deficit is expected to fall below 3%, thanks to strong growth and a broader tax base following an improved business climate.
- The expected expansion in gold production and sustained world prices will boost export earnings, offsetting the rise in imports linked to the capital goods required for infrastructure projects, slightly reducing the current account deficit.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth* (%)	4.8	4.9	4.7	5.0	6.0
Inflation* (yearly average, %)	3.3	3.7	4.4	4.0	4.0
Budget balance** (% GDP)	-2.5	-3.4	-3.7	-3.5	-2.5
Current account balance* (% GDP)	-1.9	-3.4	-5.4	-5.0	-4.0
Public debt* (% GDP)	39.8	42.1	42.3	42.5	42.0

(f): Forecast. * Fiscal year from 1st July to 30th June. 2024 data : FY23-24. ** Grants included.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

INDIA	18%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	17%
SOUTH AFRICA	13%
KENYA	7%
SWITZERLAND	6%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	24%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	13%
INDIA	11%
EURO AREA	7%
SAUDI ARABIA	6%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

GOLD, NON-MONETARY	38%
NON-FERROUS METALS	11%
VEGETABLES AND FRUITS	7%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	4%
COFFEE, TEA, COCOA, SPICES & MANUFACT. THEREOF	4%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	23%
ROAD VEHICLES	8%
IRON AND STEEL	5%
SPECIALISED MACHINERY	4%
PLASTICS IN PRIMARY FORMS	4%



- Mining wealth (gold, copper)
- Gas potential thanks to offshore reserves discovered in 2010
- Tourism assets (national parks, coastline)
- Regional cooperation strategy, accelerated integration into the East African Community (EAC)
- International support in the form of concessional loans
- Development of monetary policy instruments



- High dependence on gold prices
- Vulnerability of agriculture (29% of GDP) to climatic conditions
- Inadequate infrastructure, particularly in the areas of electricity and transport
- Inconsistent industrial policy and poor business environment
- Religious tensions between the Zanzibar archipelago and the mainland
- Low level of human capital

THAILAND 

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	A4
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	A3

POPULATION
Millions of persons

70.1

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars

7,070



2024 OUTLOOK

- Private consumption will expand thanks to the introduction of support policy measures and the continued recovery in tourism, supporting growth in 2024.
- Nevertheless, risks rely on the high household indebtedness and possibly rising commodity prices (crude oil, food).
- Public deficit is likely to widen due to the introduction of populist measures pledged during the election campaign, impacting public debt sustainability.
- The new coalition government has secured a large majority in Parliament, but possible internal disagreement may weaken political stability.

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-6.1	1.5	2.6	2.4	3.6
Inflation (yearly average, %)	-0.8	1.2	6.1	1.4	1.8
Budget balance* (% GDP)	-4.5	-7.0	-4.6	-3.0	-3.8
Current account balance (% GDP)	4.2	-2.1	-3.0	-0.2	1.6
Public debt* (% GDP)	49.4	58.4	60.5	61.6	63.1

(f): Forecast. * Fiscal year 2023 from 1st October 2023 to 30th September 2024.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	17%
CHINA	12%
JAPAN	9%
EURO AREA	7%
VIETNAM	5%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	24%
JAPAN	11%
UNITED STATES	6%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	6%
EURO AREA	5%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

ROAD VEHICLES	11%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	10%
OFFICE MACHINES & AUTO DATA PROCESS. MACHINES	8%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	5%
PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	5%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	15%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	11%
IRON AND STEEL	6%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	5%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	4%



- Regional hub, long coastlines, proximity to fast-growing Asian markets
- Richly endowed in agricultural resources
- Diversified exports
- Well capitalized commercial banks with high level of loan loss provision



- Inadequate infrastructure
- Dependency on imports for energy
- Ageing population and shortage of skilled labour
- Uncertain political situation; antagonism between rural and urban populations
- Dependence on tourism, notably from China
- High corruption perception and large informal economy
- High household debt levels

TIMOR-LESTE 

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	D
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	C

POPULATION
Millions of persons

1.3

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars

3,682



2024 OUTLOOK

- The economy is expected to accelerate in 2024, driven by government spending and the non-oil sector expansion.
- The current account and budget balances, which are heavily dependent on the Oil Fund, are expected to remain in large deficit due to weak oil and gas revenues.
- Timor's aspirations to join the WTO and ASEAN by 2024, offer potential avenues for increased investment.
- A single-party majority government post-May 2023 elections may contribute to stability and implement long-term policies.
- The Petroleum fund faces structural challenges, emphasizing the urgency of economic diversification.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	60%
JAPAN	13%
SOUTH KOREA	10%
INDONESIA	8%
UNITED STATES	5%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

INDONESIA	44%
CHINA	13%
SINGAPORE	12%
MALAYSIA	6%
HONG KONG	4%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	33%
COFFEE, TEA, COCOA, SPICES & MANUFACT. THEREOF	21%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	16%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	4%
VEGETABLES AND FRUITS	3%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	12%
ROAD VEHICLES	9%
PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	8%
IRON AND STEEL	4%
NON METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES	4%



- Rich oil and gas reserves
- Total dollarisation limiting the inflationary risk
- Attractive tourist destination
- Potential hub for regional trade thanks to its strategic location in Southeast Asia
- Political stability thanks to a single-party majority government
- Commitment to global economic integration (WTO and ASEAN)



- High dependence on oil and gas exports revenues making it vulnerable to external shocks
- Vulnerability to natural disasters
- Lack of economic diversification
- Deficit in human capital
- High poverty rate
- High youth unemployment rate
- Weak banking intermediation
- Infrastructure and Development Gaps (transport, energy etc.)

TOGO

COFACE ASSESSMENTS

COUNTRY RISK **C**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **B**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **8.9**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **920**



2024 OUTLOOK

- In 2024, growth will be underpinned by household consumption, bolstered by falling inflation, as well as by public and private investment in the local processing of agricultural products, and in health and military infrastructure.
- Port re-export activity will be penalised by the sanctions imposed on Burkina Faso and Mali, users of the Togolese port, and with whom relations have become strained.
- The public deficit will be reduced, with the easing of inflationary pressures enabling a gradual reduction in subsidies and further fiscal consolidation.
- The state of emergency will be extended because of the terrorist threat in the north.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	1.7	5.9	5.8	5.5	5.5
Inflation (yearly average, %)	1.8	4.3	7.6	5.0	3.0
Budget balance (% GDP)	-6.9	-4.7	-8.3	-6.5	-4.5
Current account balance (% GDP)	-0.3	-0.9	-3.2	-3.0	-2.5
Public debt (% GDP)	61.8	64.5	66.3	67.0	67.5

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

BURKINA FASO	16%
MALI	12%
BENIN	10%
EURO AREA	9%
GHANA	8%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	25%
CHINA	20%
INDIA	6%
GHANA	4%
MALAYSIA	4%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	21%
OIL SEEDS AND OLEAGINOUS FRUITS	18%
CRUDE FERTILIZERS AND CRUDE MINERALS	11%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	8%
ESSENTIAL OILS FOR PERFUME MATERIALS & CLEANING PREPS	5%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	46%
PLASTICS IN PRIMARY FORMS	6%
TEXTILE YARN AND RELATED PRODUCTS	5%
ROAD VEHICLES	5%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	3%



- Mineral resources (phosphate, clinker) and agricultural resources (coffee, cocoa, cotton)
- Potential for Lomé, the only deepwater port in West Africa, to become a regional hub
- Public and private investment in infrastructure and agribusiness
- Ongoing structural reforms (public finance, banking system, agriculture, phosphates and cotton sectors)
- Member of WAEMU and ECOWAS
- Mostly concessional external debt



- High socio-political tensions
- Poor business environment
- Deficient infrastructure: agriculture, education, public health, transport
- High poverty rate (30% of the population)
- Weak banking sector; high level of bad debts (especially in state-owned banks)
- Jihadist incursions in the north

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

COFACE ASSESSMENTS

COUNTRY RISK **B**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **A4**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **1.4**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **21,253**



2024 OUTLOOK

- The moderate economic slowdown will be influenced by lower exports of gas and petrochemical products, and slower activity in the United States. The gradual recovery in private consumption and ongoing privatization programs will stimulate investment.
- The gradual recovery of tourism and energy revenues will sustain the current account surplus.
- Until the 2025 elections, the current balance of power will hold, despite tensions between the Rowley Administration and Tobago's House of Assembly and divisive rhetoric undermining voter confidence. Persistent criminality could strongly influence the next elections.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-9.1	-1.0	1.5	2.4	2.2
Inflation (yearly average, %)	0.8	3.4	8.7	4.3	3.0
Budget balance* (% GDP)	-12.2	-8.5	0.3	-1.9	-1.7
Current account balance (% GDP)	-6.7	11.3	17.9	5.7	7.1
Public debt*** (% GDP)	62.3	61.6	51.0	52.5	52.9

(f): Forecast. * Fiscal year 2024 from October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025. ** Central government debt, excluding debt issued for sterilization purposes, the debt of public bodies and borrowings from the Central Bank.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	39%
EURO AREA	19%
MOROCCO	6%
GUYANA	5%
MEXICO	3%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	39%
CHINA	12%
EURO AREA	9%
BRAZIL	6%
CANADA	4%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	39%
PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	18%
INORGANIC CHEMICALS	15%
ORGANIC CHEMICALS	11%
IRON AND STEEL	5%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	15%
ROAD VEHICLES	6%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	6%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	5%
IRON AND STEEL	5%



- Large oil and gas reserves; world's 11th largest exporter of liquefied natural gas (2022)
- Petrochemical industry (3rd world exporter of methanol in 2022, 1st of ammonia) supported by gas production
- Attractive tourist destination
- Large sovereign wealth fund (19% of GDP) and foreign exchange reserves (7.2 months of imports)
- Leading country in Caricom (Caribbean Community)



- On the European list of «non-cooperative tax jurisdictions» since 2021
- Poorly diversified economy due to dependence on gas and petrochemical revenues
- Public action not very effective
- Crime amplified by drug trafficking
- Unequal distribution of hydrocarbon revenues (20% of the population lives below the poverty line)

TUNISIA 

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	C
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	B

POPULATION Millions of persons	12.1
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars	3,822



2024 OUTLOOK

- Public finances will remain precarious due to President Saïed's refusal to adopt the fiscal consolidation measures recommended by the IMF. A tax increase should nevertheless reduce the deficit.
- The lack of external financing will lead the authorities to turn to local banks and foreign exchange reserves, which have been weakened. The shortage of foreign currency, by restricting imports, will fuel inflation.
- This context will discourage investment. Inflation and unemployment will dampen consumption. Tourism and textiles could suffer from European reform, and agriculture from drought.
- Unrest is possible in the run-up to the presidential elections in autumn 2024.

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-8.8	4.4	2.5	1.0	1.5
Inflation (yearly average, %)	5.6	5.7	8.3	9.0	9.0
Budget balance (% GDP)	-9.0	-7.6	-6.6	-7.0	-6.5
Current account balance (% GDP)	-5.9	-6.0	-8.6	-5.0	-5.0
Public debt (% GDP)	77.6	79.9	79.8	80.0	79.0

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	64%
LIBYA	4%
UNITED KINGDOM	3%
UNITED STATES	2%
TÜRKIYE	2%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	41%
CHINA	11%
TÜRKIYE	6%
ALGERIA	6%
RUSSIA	3%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES	20%
ARTICLES OF APPAREL & CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	13%
PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	10%
FIXED VEG. OILS & FATS, CRUDE, REFINED/FRACTIONATED	6%
PROFESSIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS	4%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	13%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	10%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	7%
TEXTILE YARN AND RELATED PRODUCTS	7%
ROAD VEHICLES	5%



- Relatively well diversified economy
- Tourist activity
- Natural resources (olives, phosphates and hydrocarbons), but subject to weather and strikes
- Competitiveness of automotive, aeronautical and medical equipment
- Proximity to the European market



- Society under stress: youth unemployment (~39%), regional gap between seafont and interior, brain drain and clandestine emigration, strikes and demonstrations
- Concentration of power in the presidency, weak popular support for the new institutions created by the constitution adopted in 2022
- Growing informal economy detrimental to public finances
- Public sector difficult to reform and wage bill weighing heavily on the state budget
- Declining competitive advantage (textiles, tourism)
- Energy dependence

TÜRKIYE 

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	C
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	A4

POPULATION Millions of persons	85.3
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars	10,622



2024 OUTLOOK

- Slowdown in domestic demand due to tighter monetary and fiscal policies will weigh on growth. Contribution of net exports and investments will remain more supportive than in 2023.
- Despite higher taxes, budget deficit will remain wide mainly due to earthquakes-related expenditures. Current account deficit will narrow in line with slower growth and lower oil imports.
- Until there is confidence that regulations will persist, and macroeconomic stability will be achieved, foreign investors' share in Turkish assets will remain low. There can be some political turmoil ahead of local elections in March 2024.

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	1.9	11.4	5.6	4	3
Inflation (yearly average, %)	12.3	19.6	72.3	54	60
Budget balance (% GDP)	-3.5	-2.8	-1	-6.5	-6.5
Current account balance (% GDP)	-4.4	-0.9	-5.4	-5	-3.5
Public debt (% GDP)	39.7	41.8	31.7	35	36

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	31%
UNITED STATES	7%
IRAQ	6%
UNITED KINGDOM	5%
RUSSIA	3%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	21%
RUSSIA	16%
CHINA	11%
SWITZERLAND	4%
UNITED STATES	4%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

ROAD VEHICLES	10%
ARTICLES OF APPAREL & CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	8%
IRON AND STEEL	7%
PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	6%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	6%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

GOLD, NON-MONETARY	6%
IRON AND STEEL	6%
PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	5%
ROAD VEHICLES	5%
NON-FERROUS METALS	4%



- Strategic geographic location, proximity to key export markets
- Very diversified manufacturing tissue, strong production knowledge
- Young population, educated workforce
- Discovery of gas field off on Black sea shore
- Return to economic policies convenient with macro imbalances



- Dependence on imported energy and intermediate goods
- High inflation, local currency hitting record weak levels
- Vulnerability resulting from high level of short-term private external debt
- Credit-driven growth performance causing a high level of private debt

TURKMENISTAN

COUNTRY RISK **D**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **E**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **6.2**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **12,380**



Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-2.9	4.6	1.6	2.5	2.1
Inflation (yearly average, %)	6.1	19.5	11.2	5.9	10.5
Budget balance (% GDP)	-0.1	0.4	2.4	0.9	0.4
Current account balance (% GDP)	2.6	6.5	7.1	3.4	1.8
Public debt (% GDP)	13.1	10.1	5.8	5.1	4.4

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	74%
TÜRKIYE	7%
UZBEKISTAN	5%
AZERBAIJAN	4%
EURO AREA	2%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

TÜRKIYE	36%
CHINA	28%
EURO AREA	19%
UZBEKISTAN	3%
INDIA	3%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	77%
PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	10%
FERTILIZERS, NOT CRUDE	3%
TEXTILES FIBRES AND THEIR WASTES	2%
TEXTILE YARN AND RELATED PRODUCTS	2%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

SPECIALISED MACHINERY	9%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	8%
IRON AND STEEL	7%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	7%
MANUFACTURES OF METAL	6%

2024 OUTLOOK

- Growth will slow slightly in 2024, supported by investment in hydrocarbons and net exports.
- Inflation will rise in 2024, after temporary disinflation factors (base effect and fall in world prices) fade away and goods shortages persist, which will penalise private consumption.
- Lower energy prices will reduce the current account surplus.
- The budget balance will remain positive, thanks to energy revenues, despite an increase in spending on the population (wages and social benefits) and investment in infrastructure.



- Fourth-largest natural gas reserves in the world (nearly 10% of the total)
- Strategic position in Central Asia and between China on the one hand, and Russia and Europe, via the Caspian Sea, on the other
- Healthy public accounts and a moderate level of debt
- Observer status at the World Trade Organisation (WTO)



- High dependence on hydrocarbons (90% of exports) and on China, which receives nearly 75% of gas exports
- Small private sector, anticompetitive market structures, no access to external financing
- Poor infrastructure
- Weak governance (corruption, authoritarianism, repression, politicised judiciary, opaque statistical system)
- Porous border with Afghanistan and weak military resources

UGANDA

COUNTRY RISK **C**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **C**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **43.7**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **1,103**



Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	3.0	3.5	4.7	5.0	6.0
Inflation (yearly average, %)	2.7	2.2	7.2	6.0	5.0
Budget balance** (% GDP)	-7.2	-8.0	-7.4	-5.0	-3.5
Current account balance* (% GDP)	-9.3	-10.0	-8.0	-7.0	-8.0
Public debt (% GDP)	46.4	50.6	48.4	48.3	47.5

(f): Forecast. * Grants included. ** Fiscal year from July 1st to June 30th. 2024 Data: FY2023/24. GDP growth calculated on Fiscal Year.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	19%
SOUTH SUDAN	17%
KENYA	17%
CONGO DR	12%
TANZANIA	4%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	19%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	14%
INDIA	11%
KENYA	7%
EURO AREA	7%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

GOLD, NON-MONETARY	44%
COFFEE, TEA, COCOA, SPICES & MANUFACT. THEREOF	17%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	4%
FISH, CRUSTACEANS, MOLLUSCS & PREPS THEREOF	3%
DAIRY PRODUCTS AND BIRDS' EGGS	2%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

GOLD, NON-MONETARY	18%
PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	9%
ROAD VEHICLES	7%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	6%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	4%

2024 OUTLOOK

- Private investment to develop the oil sector will drive growth, as will trade and tourism, boosting consumption. Nevertheless, agriculture will remain the country's leading employer.
- The start-up of the Busia mine will increase local gold extraction, which will be refined and exported legally.
- Fiscal consolidation will continue, guided by the IMF. The twin deficits will continue to be financed by external borrowing and FDI in the oil sector. Aid is likely to decrease after the anti-homosexuality law of May 2023.
- Faced with rebel groups based in the DRC, the security risk will remain high at the border and in the capital.



- Natural resources: fertile soil, oil deposits, hydroelectric potential
- Second coffee exporter on the continent after Ethiopia
- Development of the oil sector (infrastructure investments, cross-border pipeline project with Tanzania)



- Insecurity near the Democratic Republic of Congo border, where the army is engaged in fighting rebel groups
- Structural trade deficit (dependence on oil imports)
- Vulnerability of the agricultural sector to climate change (dependence on rainfall)
- Inadequate public services and infrastructure (road, water, energy)
- Lack of transparency in the gold industry
- Poor progress in governance and small political landscape

UKRAINE

COUNTRY RISK **D**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **C**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **34.8**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **4,607**



2024 OUTLOOK

- The economic activity is subject to developments of war, the inflow of foreign funds and dynamics of exports.
- Further escalation of war would cause a deeper humanitarian crisis, supply chain disruptions and losses in the production capacity.
- Exports of agricultural and food products have been growing thanks to good harvests and despite Russia pulling out of the Black Sea Grain Initiative and should support further growth of Ukraine economy.
- Household consumption should bring a higher contribution to growth thanks to slowing inflation and already started interest rate decreases.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-3.8	3.4	-29.1	3.7	4.0
Inflation (yearly average, %)	2.7	9.4	20.2	13.8	7.9
Budget balance (% GDP)	-5.2	-3.4	-16.3	-19.2	-5.6
Current account balance (% GDP)	3.3	-1.9	4.1	-23.0	-18.1
Public debt (% GDP)	60.6	47.7	77.4	88.0	93.2

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	27%
POLAND	15%
ROMANIA	9%
TÜRKIYE	7%
CHINA	6%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	26%
CHINA	16%
POLAND	10%
TÜRKIYE	6%
UNITED STATES	4%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	21%
FIXED VEG. OILS & FATS, CRUDE, REFINED/FRACTIONATED	13%
IRON AND STEEL	12%
OIL SEEDS AND OLEAGINOUS FRUITS	8%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	7%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	17%
ROAD VEHICLES	9%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	6%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	4%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	4%



- Strategic position in Europe
- Association and Free Trade Agreement with the European Union, granted the EU candidate status based on an accelerated procedure
- Significant potential in agriculture, with 55% of arable land (cereals, oilseeds, etc.), and in metallurgy (iron), but which have suffered from war damages
- Skilled and low-cost labour force
- International financial support



- Ongoing Russian invasion
- High fiscal financing needs with low domestic revenues possibilities
- Weak external position
- Low economic diversification, sensitivity to weather and commodity prices
- Declining demographics escalated by the population outflow due to the war, regional inequalities

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

COUNTRY RISK **A3**

BUSINESS CLIMATE **A2**

POPULATION
Millions of persons **9.9**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **51,400**



2024 OUTLOOK

- Higher global oil demand and higher oil prices should sustain growth in 2024. However, the OPEC+ extension of oil production cuts until the end of 2024 will remain a drag. Meanwhile, non-oil sector activity will remain robust.
- Flat oil production will weigh on budget and current account surpluses. Non-oil fiscal revenues will rise thanks to the introduction of the corporate tax and resilient private consumption.
- Political stability will reinforce the country's - global and regional - shipment and trade hub position. However, the level of transparency and democracy will remain challenging.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-5	3.9	7.4	3	4
Inflation (yearly average, %)	-2.1	-0.1	4.8	3.5	2
Budget balance (% GDP)	-2.5	4	9	5	4.5
Current account balance (% GDP)	6	11.6	11.7	9.5	9
Public debt (% GDP)	41.1	35.9	30	31	29

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

INDIA	14%
JAPAN	11%
CHINA	11%
THAILAND	4%
SINGAPORE	4%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	17%
EURO AREA	10%
INDIA	7%
UNITED STATES	6%
JAPAN	3%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	43%
GOLD, NON-MONETARY	9%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	6%
NON METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES	5%
TELECOM. & SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	4%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

GOLD, NON-MONETARY	13%
TELECOM. & SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	9%
PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	9%
ROAD VEHICLES	6%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	6%



- Higher degree of economic diversification
- Commercial and air hub of the region
- Significant financial buffers
- Political stability



- Growing regional challenges to trade hub position
- High dependence of fiscal and external revenues on hydrocarbons
- Dependence on foreign labour
- Limited natural resources and low level of infrastructure quality in Emirates other than Dubai and Abu Dhabi

UNITED KINGDOM

COFACE ASSESSMENTS

COUNTRY RISK A4

BUSINESS CLIMATE A1

POPULATION
Millions of persons **67.8**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **45,461**



2024 OUTLOOK

- Household consumption is expected to somewhat improve in 2024 with real income rising, partly thanks to high wage expectations and a large rise in the minimum wage.
- Labour market is weakening somewhat, and inflation is persistently high, upheld by wage dynamics. This will complicate Bank of England's decision to cut rates.
- Insolvencies are at historically high levels and are expected to rise further in 2024 as businesses struggle with credit conditions.
- An election is expected in 2024 with the opposition, Labour Party, currently solidly ahead in the polls and the sitting government is not helped by continued infighting within the Conservative Party.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-10.4	8.7	4.3	0.5	0.5
Inflation (yearly average, %)	0.9	2.6	9.1	7.4	3.4
Budget balance* (% GDP)	-15.0	-5.2	-5.0	-4.6	-4.4
Current account balance (% GDP)	-2.9	-0.5	-3.1	-2.7	-2.8
Public debt (% GDP)	107.4	101.4	99.3	99.1	101.3

(f): Forecast. * Fiscal year is 1st April to 31st March. Year 2023: 2023/24.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	12%
NETHERLANDS	8%
GERMANY	8%
CHINA	7%
SWITZERLAND	7%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	14%
UNITED STATES	12%
GERMANY	9%
NORWAY	7%
FRANCE	4%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

GOLD, NON-MONETARY	14%
PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	9%
ROAD VEHICLES	7%
POWER GENERATING MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT	7%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	6%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

ROAD VEHICLES	9%
PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	9%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	7%
GOLD, NON-MONETARY	5%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	4%



- Production of hydrocarbons covers three-quarters of energy needs
- Cutting-edge sectors (aeronautics, pharmaceuticals, automotive)
- Strong financial services sector
- Competitive and attractive tax regime



- High public and household debt, with the latter being 78.5% of GDP in Q3 2023
- Low productivity and training deficit not conducive to innovation
- Regional disparities between the South-East (especially London) and the rest of the country, particularly in terms of transport and energy infrastructure

UNITED STATES

COFACE ASSESSMENTS

COUNTRY RISK A2

BUSINESS CLIMATE A1

POPULATION
Millions of persons **333.5**

GDP PER CAPITA
US Dollars **76,343**



2024 OUTLOOK

- Activity is expected to slow, as the lagged impact of interest rate hikes strain household and corporate balance sheets.
- Moderating inflation should allow the Federal Reserve to start cutting rates.
- Given a divided Congress and in an election year, public spending should be contained, contributing to a lower deficit. However, debt servicing and the execution of public investment programs will keep it high.
- The 2024 elections, which promise a rematch between Trump and Biden, will confirm the polarization of the political landscape. Congress could remain divided, hindering policymaking.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-2.2	5.8	1.9	2.4	1.2
Inflation (yearly average, %)	1.2	4.7	8.0	4.1	3.0
Budget balance* (% GDP)	-14.7	-12.1	-5.4	-6.3	-5.8
Current account balance (% GDP)	-2.7	-3.4	-3.7	-3.1	-3.0
Public debt (% GDP)	130.1	125.5	122.0	122.9	123.8

(f): Forecast. * Federal government. Fiscal year from October 1st to September 30th. 2024 data: 2023/24.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

CANADA	17%
MEXICO	16%
EURO AREA	15%
CHINA	7%
JAPAN	4%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	17%
EURO AREA	15%
MEXICO	14%
CANADA	13%
JAPAN	5%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	13%
ROAD VEHICLES	6%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	5%
TELECOM. & SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	5%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	5%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

ROAD VEHICLES	10%
PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	9%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	7%
TELECOM. & SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	7%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	6%



- Flexible labour market
- Full employment is one of the Federal Reserve's objectives
- The dollar's predominant role in the global economy
- 70% of public debt held by residents
- Strong attractiveness: leader in research & innovation, huge market, two ocean fronts and privileged tourist destination
- Favourable corporate taxation
- Resource-rich: oil and gas, agriculture, minerals



- Low labour market participation
- High household debt
- Polarised political landscape
- Decrease in fertility rate
- Outdated infrastructure
- Growing income and wealth inequalities overlapping with territorial and racial inequalities
- Trade conflict and technological competition with China

URUGUAY 

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	A4
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	A3
POPULATION Millions of persons		3.6
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars		20,022



2024 OUTLOOK

- We expect an economic rebound in 2024, supported by cellulose exports (UPM plant), agricultural exports, hydroelectric resources, and the recovery of tourism. The return of precipitation, influenced by El Niño, will contribute to this improvement.
- The depreciation of the peso against the dollar will raise the level of imported inflation. The 3-6% target will be narrowly achieved through monetary tightening.
- Domestic household consumption will increase as Argentine prices become less attractive.
- Government stability will be threatened by tensions within coalition parties before elections reshuffle the political landscape in October 2024.

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-6.3	5.8	4.9	1.0	3.2
Inflation (yearly average, %)	9.7	7.7	9.1	-6.0	6.0
Budget balance (% GDP)	-4.7	-2.6	-2.5	-3.5	-2.5
Current account balance (% GDP)	-0.8	-2.5	-3.5	-4.0	-3.0
Public debt (% GDP)	68.1	63.4	59.3	62.0	61.0

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	21%
BRAZIL	15%
ARGENTINA	8%
EURO AREA	7%
UNITED STATES	6%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	21%
BRAZIL	16%
ARGENTINA	9%
UNITED STATES	8%
EURO AREA	8%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

MEAT AND MEAT PREPARATIONS	26%
OIL SEEDS AND OLEAGINOUS FRUITS	19%
CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS	10%
CORK AND WOOD	9%
DAIRY PRODUCTS AND BIRDS' EGGS	8%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	16%
ROAD VEHICLES	10%
FERTILIZERS, NOT CRUDE	5%
SPECIALISED MACHINERY	4%
CHEMICAL MATERIALS AND PRODUCTS	4%



- Abundant agricultural and forestry resources.
- Strong social homogeneity (universal healthcare coverage, free education), and institutional strength
- Active reform policies (business environment, public finances, social coverage)
- Significant foreign direct investments
- Member of Mercosur, enjoying preferential trade relations with the EU and the United States



- Vulnerability to commodity prices (soy, beef, dairy products, wood, rice)
- Dependency on economic conditions in Argentina, Brazil (tourism), and China (raw materials)
- Inadequate transportation infrastructure.
- Public debt (mitigated by extended maturity and declining denomination in dollars)

UZBEKISTAN 

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	B
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	B
POPULATION Millions of persons		35.3
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars		2,280



2024 OUTLOOK

- GDP growth will continue in 2024, driven by household consumption and investment.
- Slower growth in Russia could have a negative impact on transfers received by households and therefore on their consumption, as could persistent inflation.
- The rise in world gold prices will support exports, but will not be enough to make up the trade deficit, which will worsen the current account balance. The current account balance could also deteriorate because of lower transfers.
- The revision and abolition of tax and customs concessions will increase tax revenues, which will reduce the budget deficit.

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	2.0	7.4	5.7	5.6	5.7
Inflation (yearly average, %)	12.9	10.8	11.4	10.0	9.7
Budget balance (% GDP)	-3.3	-4.6	-4.2	-5.0	-4.0
Current account balance (% GDP)	-5.0	-7.0	-0.8	-4.3	-4.6
Public debt (% GDP)	37.4	36.6	34.9	35.1	34.8

(f): Forecast.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

RUSSIA	13%
CHINA	10%
TÜRKIYE	9%
KAZAKHSTAN	6%
KYRGYZSTAN	5%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	23%
RUSSIA	21%
KAZAKHSTAN	11%
EURO AREA	10%
SOUTH KOREA	9%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

GOLD, NON-MONETARY	25%
TEXTILE YARN AND RELATED PRODUCTS	13%
NON-FERROUS METALS	12%
GAS, NATURAL AND MANUFACTURED	10%
VEGETABLES AND FRUITS	7%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

ROAD VEHICLES	10%
IRON AND STEEL	8%
SPECIALISED MACHINERY	7%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	6%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	5%



- Abundant natural resources (gas, gold, copper, hydroelectric potential)
- Economic reforms, public investment and international financial support encouraging FDI
- Negotiation process to join the World Trade Organization and observer member of the Eurasian Economic Union
- Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement with the European Union and various bilateral agreements



- Dependence on Russia and China
- Dependence on commodities, weather conditions for agriculture and expatriate remittances
- Weakly competitive markets and low share of the private sector in the economy
- High unemployment, low standard of living, large rural population and informal economy
- Low financial intermediation, high dollarization

VENEZUELA

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	E
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	E

POPULATION <small>Millions of persons</small>	26.9
GDP PER CAPITA <small>US Dollars</small>	3,422



2024 OUTLOOK

- Activity will pick up, driven by a further increase in oil production, following the easing of US and European sanctions. However, the impact will remain limited by obsolete infrastructure and under-investment, due to limited access to capital markets.
- While a change of government remains unlikely, the political situation could improve. The temporary lifting of some US restrictions on several sectors is conditional on compliance with the electoral roadmap agreed between President Maduro and the opposition, which would encourage the government to continue along the road to democratisation.

Main Economic Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-30.0	1.0	8.0	2.0	3.5
Inflation (yearly average, %)	2355.1	1588.5	186.5	360.0	200.0
Budget balance (% GDP)	-5.0	-4.6	-6.0	-4.5	-4.0
Current account balance (% GDP)	-3.5	-1.2	3.6	2.0	3.5
Public debt* (% GDP)	327.7	248.4	159.5	n.d.	n.d.

(f): Forecast. * Non-financial public sector (PDVSA) included.



- World's largest oil reserves and offshore gas potential

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

EURO AREA	20%
CHINA	15%
UNITED STATES	10%
ARUBA	9%
BRAZIL	7%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	25%
UNITED STATES	13%
BRAZIL	10%
COLOMBIA	6%
EURO AREA	4%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	76%
IRON AND STEEL	3%
VEGETABLES AND FRUITS	2%
ORGANIC CHEMICALS	2%
ROAD VEHICLES	2%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	8%
MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	6%
ROAD VEHICLES	5%
SPECIALISED MACHINERY	5%
ORGANIC CHEMICALS	5%



- GDP remains well below 2013 levels
- Economy heavily dependent on hydrocarbons, loans from China and Russia, and energy cooperation with Iran
- The lifting of certain US sanctions on the oil sector in October 2023 will be re-examined in April 2024
- Defaulting on its sovereign and quasi-sovereign debt (PDVSA), delays in payments for current trade
- Shortage of foreign currency and commodities
- Non-transparent and discretionary management of oil revenues, which could be further eroded by rebates if sanctions are reinstated
- Very high inflation, poverty and inequality
- Crime, corruption

VIETNAM

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	B
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	B

POPULATION <small>Millions of persons</small>	99.5
GDP PER CAPITA <small>US Dollars</small>	4,087



2024 OUTLOOK

- Supportive fiscal and monetary policies, as well as improved export prospects would support economic growth in 2024.
- Foreign direct investment inflows could, nonetheless, slow due to the adoption of the global minimum corporate tax. In addition, the property market is expected to remain weak amid policy-driven crackdown.
- The current account is set to turn into a surplus, contributing to the limited foreign exchange reserves (2.9 months of imports at the end of 2022).
- The anti-corruption campaign enacted by the authorities has consolidated further Prime Minister Trong's power.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

UNITED STATES	30%
CHINA	16%
EURO AREA	11%
SOUTH KOREA	7%
JAPAN	7%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

CHINA	34%
SOUTH KOREA	18%
JAPAN	7%
TAIWAN	6%
UNITED STATES	4%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

TELECOM. & SOUND RECORDING APPARATUS	17%
OFFICE MACHINES & AUTO DATA PROCESS. MACHINES	12%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	11%
ARTICLES OF APPAREL & CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	10%
FOOTWEAR	6%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS & APPLIANCES	22%
OFFICE MACHINES & AUTO DATA PROCESS. MACHINES	9%
TEXTILE YARN AND RELATED PRODUCTS	6%
PETROLEUM, PETROL.PROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	5%
IRON AND STEEL	5%



- One of the fastest growing economies in the region
- Beneficiary of the U.S.-China trade war and 'de-risking' strategies
- Large labour pool and low labour costs
- Development strategy based upon production upscaling and diversification
- Strong agricultural potential
- Good endowment of natural resources (metals and energy)
- Highly integrated into global trade (18 FTAs)



- Shortcomings in the business climate (data transparency and corruption)
- Dependent on China's supply chains
- Incomplete reforms of the public sector, elevated indebtedness amongst SOEs
- Inadequate infrastructure levels
- Fragile banking system

ZAMBIA 

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	D
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	C

POPULATION Millions of persons	20.0
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars	1,486



2024 OUTLOOK

- The improvement in the business climate and governance, and the privatization of two mines, will encourage extractive investments. Private consumption will remain constrained by inflation, which will motivate further monetary tightening.
- Fiscal consolidation, guided by the IMF's Extended Credit Facility program, will reduce the public deficit, despite rising social spending.
- Mining activity will gradually improve with rising global demand for copper and its price.
- After a setback in November 2023, the country will continue debt restructuring negotiations with private and official bilateral creditors, including China.



- Mining production (copper, sulfur, cobalt, nickel) and potential (uranium, gold, diamonds, manganese)
- Agricultural wealth (corn, tobacco, sugar cane)
- Major hydroelectric potential



- Dependence on copper, accentuated by the dependence on China, the main ore importer
- Sovereign default in 2020 and unsustainable external debt
- Landlocked and dependent on the transport routes of neighbouring countries
- Electricity production is based almost exclusively on hydropower; transport networks are unreliable
- High levels of inequality; healthcare, educational and administrative deficiencies
- Vulnerability to climate change

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-2.8	4.6	4.7	4.0	4.5
Inflation (yearly average, %)	15.7	22.0	11.0	11.0	11.5
Budget balance* (% GDP)	-13.8	-8.1	-7.7	-7.0	-6.0
Current account balance (% GDP)	10.6	11.7	3.6	-2.0	0.0
Public debt (% GDP)	150.0	112.0	111.0	119.5	n/a

(f): Forecast. * Grants included.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

SWITZERLAND	38%
CHINA	21%
CONGO DR	14%
SINGAPORE	11%
SOUTH AFRICA	2%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

SOUTH AFRICA	30%
CHINA	16%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	8%
CONGO DR	7%
INDIA	7%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

NON-FERROUS METALS	69%
NON METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES	5%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	4%
ELECTRIC CURRENT	3%
INORGANIC CHEMICALS	2%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	10%
ROAD VEHICLES	9%
SPECIALISED MACHINERY	6%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	5%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	5%

ZIMBABWE 

COFACE ASSESSMENTS	COUNTRY RISK	E
	BUSINESS CLIMATE	E

POPULATION Millions of persons	15.8
GDP PER CAPITA US Dollars	1,991



2024 OUTLOOK

- In 2024, growth will be sustained by mineral exports, thanks to high gold and nickel prices and the exploitation of new platinum and lithium deposits.
- The compression of imports due to low foreign exchange reserves and the limited effectiveness of monetary policy due to high dollarisation and the monetisation of the public deficit will contribute to maintain high inflation.
- Persistent post-election tensions between the ruling party (Zanu-PF), winner of the controversial August 2023 elections, and the Coalition of Citizens for Change (CCC) will disrupt the country's debt restructuring negotiations.



- Plentiful mineral resources (platinum, gold, diamonds, copper, nickel, rare earths)
- Agricultural assets (maize, tobacco, cotton)
- Tourism development potential



- Economy devastated by hyperinflation and depreciation of the local currency, caused by the monetisation of the deficit and foreign currency shortages, themselves aggravated by corruption and smuggling at the borders
- Rain-fed agriculture exposed to climate hazards, to the lack of inputs and to poor planning, and suffering from low productivity
- Precarious food and health situations, dependence on humanitarian aid
- Dependence on volatile commodity prices, some of which are smuggled out of the country
- Under-investment in infrastructure (particularly energy and transport)

Main Economic Indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
GDP growth (%)	-5.2	7.2	3.0	4.0	3.5
Inflation (yearly average, %)	557.0	98.0	104.0	32.0*	30.0*
Budget balance (% GDP)	0.8	-1.7	-1.5	-3.5	-2.5
Current account balance (% GDP)	2.9	1.5	1.0	0.5	0.5
Public debt (% GDP)	102.5	66.9	99.6	102	110

(f): Forecast. * The figures reflect a change in the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe's method of calculation, which takes into account the partial dollarisation of the economy.

TRADE EXCHANGES

Exports of goods by country as a % of total

SOUTH AFRICA	42%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	32%
CHINA	9%
EURO AREA	6%
MOZAMBIQUE	3%

Imports of goods by country as a % of total

SOUTH AFRICA	40%
CHINA	14%
SINGAPORE	13%
MOZAMBIQUE	4%
MAURITIUS	4%

Exports of goods by product as a % of total

GOLD, NON-MONETARY	39%
METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP	19%
TOBACCO AND TOBACCO MANUFACTURES	17%
IRON AND STEEL	7%
CRUDE FERTILIZERS AND CRUDE MINERALS	5%

Imports of goods by product as a % of total

PETROLEUM, PETROLPROD. & RELATED MATERIALS	11%
SPECIALISED MACHINERY	8%
ROAD VEHICLES	7%
OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND PARTS	5%
FERTILIZERS, NOT CRUDE	4%

A

ACA: Affordable Care Act (also known as Obamacare)

ADB: Asian Development Bank

AFD: Agence française de développement (French Development Agency)

AfDB: African Development Bank

Afreximbank: African Import-Export Bank

AFTA: ASEAN Free Trade Area

AGOA: African Growth and Opportunity Act - allows sub-Saharan African Country that are part of the scheme to export duty-free on the American market.

AIIB: Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank - multilateral financial institution created in 2014 to address infrastructure needs in Asia, which has since expanded to include members on all continents.

AMISOM: African Union Mission in Somalia

AML/CFT: These are international standards recommended by the FATF for the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental policymaking body whose purpose is to establish international standards

APEC: Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

AQIM: Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb

ASEAN: Association of Southeast Asian Nations

AU: African Union

B

B2B: Business-to-Business

BCEAO: Banque Centrale des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (Central Bank of West African States)

BDI: Baltic Exchange Dry Index - Maritime transport price index that takes into account 3/4 of ore and 1/4 of loose agricultural products flow

BEAC: Banque des États de l'Afrique Centrale (Bank of Central African States)

C

CABEI: Central American Bank for Economic Integration (in Spanish, *Banco Centroamericano de Integración Económica*)

CAFTA-DR: Dominican Republic-Central America FTA

CAR: Central African Republic

CARICOM: Caribbean Community and Common Market - Organisation bringing together 15 Caribbean states or dependencies with the aim of economic integration

CARIFORUM: Caribbean Forum of African, Caribbean and Pacific states (ACP) linked to the European Union

CBO: Congressional Budget Office

CDF: Cancer Drug Fund

CEMAC: Central Africa Economic and Monetary Community

CETA: Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (EU-Canada)

Chaebols: Large industrial conglomerates that are run and controlled by a South Korean owner (typically families)

CICE: Crédit d'impôt pour la compétitivité et l'emploi (Competitiveness and Employment Tax Credit)

CIS: Commonwealth of Independent States

CLS: Continuous Linked Settlement System

COFFI: Committee on Forests and the Forestry Industry

COLA: Cost of Living Allowance

COVAX: COVAX is the vaccine pillar of the Accelerating Access to Vaccines for COVID-19, or ACT Accelerator, a global collaboration to accelerate the production of and equal access to COVID-19 diagnostics, treatments and vaccines, including for the poorest countries. The COVAX facility was established in 2020 under the leadership of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, the World Health Organization (WHO), Unicef and others

CPEC: China-Pakistan Economic Corridor

CPTPP: Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership involving 11 countries in the Pacific area

CSG: Contribution Sociale Généralisée (Generalised Social Contribution)

D

DSSI: G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative

DRC: Democratic Republic of Congo

E

EAC: East African Community

EBRD: European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

ECB: European Central Bank

ECF: Extended Credit Facility - IMF programme that provides financial assistance to countries with protracted balance of payments problems. The IMF's main tool for providing support to low-income countries, created under the PRGT.

ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States

EEU (or EAEU): Eurasian Economic Union

EFSD: Eurasian Fund for Stabilization and Development

EFTPOS: Electronic Funds Transfer at Point of Sale

EIA: US Energy Information Administration

EIB: European Investment Bank

EITO: European IT Observatory

EMU: Economic and Monetary Union

ERM II: European Exchange Rate Mechanism

EU: European Union

F

FAO: United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization

FARC: Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia)

FDA: US Federal Drug Agency

FDI: Foreign Direct Investment

Fed: Federal Reserve of the United States

FIFA: Fédération Internationale de Football Association

FOMC: Federal Open Market Committee

FTA: Free Trade Agreement

FY: Financial Year

G

G20: A group of the heads of state or of government, finance ministers and central bank governors of 19 countries: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Türkiye, United Kingdom, United States of America and the European Union.

G5 Sahel: Institutional framework for development and security cooperation regrouping Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Chad.

GAFTA: Greater Arab Free Trade Area

GCC: Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, known as the Gulf Cooperation Council

GDP: Gross Domestic Product

GNP: Gross National Product

GRAINE: Gabonaise des Réalisations Agricoles et des Initiatives des Nationaux Engagés (Gabonese Initiative for Achieving Agricultural Outcomes with Engaged Citizenry)

GST: Goods and Services Tax

H

HDI: Human Development Index created by the UN

HIPC: Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (Initiative)

HOPE (act): Hemispheric Opportunity Through Partnership Encouragement

I

IATA: International Air Transport Association

ICC: International Criminal Court

ICJ: International Court of Justice

ICSID: International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes

ICT: Information and Communication Technology

IMF: International Monetary Fund

IOC: International Olympic Committee

J

JICA: Japan International Cooperation Agency

L

LNG: Liquefied Natural Gas

London Club: Informal group of private bank creditors that deals with public sector debt

M

MDRI: Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative

MENA: Middle East and North Africa

MERCOSUR (or MERCOSUL): South American Common Market - includes Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay and Venezuela

MSR: Maritime Silk Road

N

NAFTA: North American Free Trade Area

NAHB HMI: National Association of Home Builders Housing Market Index

NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

NDP: Net Domestic Product measures the aggregate output of resident economic agents over the period (GDP), net of the consumption of fixed capital (CFC), which corresponds to the cost of wearing out capital over the same period

NGEU: NextGenerationEU, a temporary EU instrument to support recovery through the Recovery and Resilience Facility (see definition above)

O

ODA: Official Development Assistance

OECD: Organisation for Economic Cooperation & Development

OPEC: Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries

OSCE: Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe

P

Pacific Alliance (Alianza del Pacífico): Trade agreement including Chile, Colombia, Peru and Mexico

Paris Club: Official creditor's informal grouping

PDVSA: Petróleos de Venezuela, S.A. (Petroleum of Venezuela) - Venezuelan state-owned oil and natural gas company

Petrocaribe: Energy cooperation agreement between Caribbean countries and Venezuela enabling the former to buy oil on preferential terms

PPP: Public-Private Partnership

PRGT: Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust - IMF's special low-interest lending programme for poor countries with structural balance of payments difficulties

PSUV: United Socialist Party of Venezuela

PVC: Polyvinyl Chloride

R

RCEP: Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership involving 15 countries in the Asia-Pacific region

R&D: Research and Development

RRF: The EU Recovery and Resilience Facility is the budget associated with NextGenerationEU (NGEU) (see definition below)

S

SACU: South African Customs Union of five southern African countries (South Africa, Lesotho, Botswana, Namibia, Eswatini), created in 1969

SADC: Southern African Development Community

SAR: Special administrative region

SCFI: The Shanghai Shipping Freight Index reflects the export rate of the containers transportation. It includes freight rate (Shanghai) indices of 15 maritime roads and a composite index (Freight indices reflect the maritime freight and other maritime road tax)

SDR: Special Drawing Right

SEPA: Single Euro Payments Area

SMEs: Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises

SOCAR: State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic

SOE: State-Owned Enterprises

SOFAZ: State Oil Fund of Azerbaijan

SWF: Sovereign Wealth Fund

SWIFT: Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Communication - an organisation with a system for the electronic transfers of funds between member banks in Europe and North America

T

TANAP: Trans-Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline

TAP: Trans Adriatic Pipeline

TPP: Trans-Pacific Partnership

TTIP: Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership

GLOSSARY

U

UK: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

UN: United Nations

UNASUR: Union of South American Nations

UNECE: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

UNMIL: United Nations Mission in Liberia

UNSMIL: United Nations Support Mission in Libya

US(A): United States (of America)

USDA: United States Department of Agriculture

USMCA: United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement

V

VAT: Value Added Tax

W

WAEMU: West African Economic and Monetary Union

WB: World Bank

WHO: World Health Organisation

WTO: World Trade Organization

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