

# CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC



GENERAL ECONOMIC DATA	
Population - 2005	4 million
Area	623 000 Km <sup>2</sup>
GDP - 2005	USD 1.4 milliard
GDP per inhabitant - 2005	USD 353
Growth rate - 2005	2.2%
Inflation - 2005	3%
Trade balance (% of GDP) - 2005	-1.4%
Budget balance (%of GDP) - 2005	-2.5%
Investment (%of GDP) - 2005	7.2%
Domestic savings (%of GDP) - 2005	0.6%
Total debt (%of GDP) - 2005	82.5%
COFACE Country risk rating	D

Sources: World Bank, World Development Indicators database, April 2006  
Banque de France, Rapport annuel de la Zone Franc, 2006  
FMI, Perspectives Economiques Régionales, Mai 2006  
Missions Economiques, MINEFI - DGPTÉ  
CIA, The World Factbook - COFACE Rating

## ECONOMY STRUCTURE

The Central African Republic (CAR) is recovering from a period of social and political unrest. Reinstatement of economic activity is a slow process in spite of the post-conflict agreement and presidential elections in 2005. The economy is dominated by the agricultural sector and diamond mining (38% of exports).

The European Union is the most important donor with an allowance of MEUR 85.8 based on the 9<sup>th</sup> EDF. This aid is mainly focused on the development of infrastructures, especially transport, in order to open up the country. IMF granted a post conflict aid amounting to EUR 10 million in 2005.

**Sectorial distribution:**

- Primary industry (53.8% of GDP) : coffee, cotton, sugar, cassava, foxtail, sesame, rice, sorghum, breeding, wood
- Manufacturing industry (21,4% of GDP) : mines (gold, diamond), agro-food, tobacco, aluminium, **Construction & Civil Engineering**
- Service industry (24,8% of GDP) : transport, telecommunications, trade, banking

**CONSTRUCTION & CIVIL ENGINEERING SECTOR**

The Construction and public works sector grew in 2005 after two years of stagnation. Supported by the revival of external funding and by some infrastructure works, SMEs took advantage of this to develop their business. However, the State has not sufficient funds, to carry out the necessary major infrastructure projects and the support of the international donor community in this field is still low for the moment. The main projects refer to the development of road infrastructures in order to open up the country whose access to the seaside is possible only through two ways: the road, via the Trans-Cameroon from Bangui to Douala (1500 km), and the river-borne transport, to reach the Republic of Congo.

**PLAYERS**

Local conflicts over the past years having led to the suspension of international aid, the European companies were less present due to the lack of important projects. Few of them have subsidiaries in the CAR. The local pattern mainly consists of SMEs and informal contractors. There is only one professional organisation in Construction & Civil Engineering represented by the Construction and Public Works National Trade Union.

**INFRASTRUCTURES**

- **Roads:** 23.810 km, of which only 458 km are asphalt coated. The country counts approximately 5.000 km of regional roads and 4.000 km of national roads. EU has programmed funding for a rehabilitation project by asphaltting the Bouar-Garoua Boulaï (150 km) road segment in view of improving access to Cameroon (MEUR 55). EU has also earmarked an allowance of MEUR 6.5 for road rehabilitation in Bangui. Japanese cooperation is also present in this sub-sector.
- **Airports:** there is an international airport (Bangui) and 40 internal aerodromes out of which only 3 are asphalt coated.
- **Waterways:** 2.800 km of waterways on the Oubangui, Sangha and M'Poko rivers. These waterways allow transport of logs and cotton as well as exchange of food products with neighbour countries. A rehabilitation project for the harbour installations and a modernisation project of the fleet operated by SOCATRAF (Société Centrafricaine de Transport Fluvial) are to be implemented (EU - MEUR 4.5).
- **Water:** only 20% of houses have access to drinking water in urban areas and 35% in rural areas, despite the CAR's fluvial resources. The urban distribution network is obsolete and about one thousand water sources in rural areas have been damaged during successive conflicts. Water distribution is provided by Sodeca whose financial status is quite alarming and which should be subject to privatisation.
- **Energy:** only 3% of the population has access to electricity. The public company Energie de Centrafrique (Enerca) ensures the production, transport and distribution of electricity. Production is mainly implemented by the two hydroelectric units with a capacity of 18.75 MW. Equipment is obsolete and causes frequent load shedding. In the rural areas, secondary centres are powered by diesel thermal groups.

## HOUSING AND FUNCTIONAL BUILDINGS

- **Housing:** in spite of the increase of urban population, housing construction programmes are rare. Dwelling constructions are frequently precarious, built in semi-hard, in a non-formal urban environment lacking basic infrastructures. Some rehabilitation projects for certain areas of the capital have received support from AFD (Thimo III).
- **Functional buildings:** the rare major construction work projects have been executed through grants such as the stadium of 20,000 places financed by China. Rehabilitation and development needs for sanitary and educational infrastructures are very high, but are hindered by the lack of budgetary resources.

## BUILDING MATERIALS

- **Cement:** all cement is imported, mainly from Cameroon. Average annual consumption amounts to 25,000 T. However, China has provided funds for carrying out a feasibility study for a cement plant.
- **Other building materials:** the country's potential is not fully used. CAR depends on the imports of building materials, but the country's land-locked situation triggers costs higher than those of bordering countries.

## KEY PLAYERS

### Institutions

#### **Ministry of Transport and Equipment**

Tel : +236 61 70 49 - Fax : +236 61 46 28

- General Directorate of Equipment - Tel : +236 61 41 24
- General Directorate of Transports - Tel : +236 61 28 11
- General Directorate of Research, Planning and Control - Tel : +236 61 62 85
- General Directorate of Civil Aviation - Tel : +236 61 06 36
- General Directorate of Surface Transports - Tel : +236 61 28 11

#### **Ministry of Energy, Mines and Hydraulic**

Tel : +236 61 06 46 /61 29 44

- General Directorate of Mines and Geology - Tel : +236 61 20 54
- General Directorate of Hydraulic - Tel : +236 61 33 41

#### **Ministry of Public Building Reconstruction, Country Planning and Housing**

Tel : +236 61 69 54

- General Directorate of Country Planning - Tel : +236 61 35 00
- General Directorate of Public Building Reconstruction and Dwelling - Tel : +236 61 35 84
- General Directorate of Land Use Planning - Tel : +236 61 42 66

### Construction & Civil Engineering Contractors

#### **Alize Construction**

BP 2056, Bangui - Tel : +236 61 58 06 - - Email : [alize@intnet.cf](mailto:alize@intnet.cf)

#### **Atracom**

BP 895, Bangui - Tel : +236 61 82 95 - Fax : +236 61 51 77 - Email : [atracom@intnet.cf](mailto:atracom@intnet.cf)

#### **Bamelec**

BP 2583, Bangui - Tel : +236 61 12 99 - Fax : 236 61 37 48 - Email : [cyberbamelec@hotmail.com](mailto:cyberbamelec@hotmail.com)

#### **Batir**

BP 391, Bangui - Tel : +236 61 46 61 - Fax : +236 61 08 36 - Email : [sefcasa@hotmail.com](mailto:sefcasa@hotmail.com)

#### **Gebo**

BP 1605, Bangui - Tel : +236 61 31 05 - Fax : +236 61 21 71

**Ger**

BP 811, Bangui - Tel : +236 61 14 61 - Fax : +236 61 08 16 - Email : [ger@intent.cf](mailto:ger@intent.cf)

**LGTD (La Générale Des Travaux)**

Av. B. Boganga BP 93 Bangui - Tel / Fax : +236 61 14 75 - Email : [lgdt@hotmail.com](mailto:lgdt@hotmail.com)

**SOCCOBA**

BP 949, Bangui - Tel : +236 61 17 33 - Fax : +236 61 38 67

**Sofia TP**

Gr Abdoul Karim - Tel : +236 61 37 27 - Fax : +236 61 23 27

**Control****Bivac (Bureau Veritas)**

BP 2716 Bangui - Tel : +236 61 39 15 - Fax : +236 61 39 18

**SGS**

BP 2420 Bangui - Tel : +236 61 84 42 - Fax : +236 61 83 72 - Email : [solutions@sgs.com](mailto:solutions@sgs.com)

Web : [www.sgsgroup.com](http://www.sgsgroup.com)

**Intermediary Organisations****SNBTP – Construction and Public Works National Trade Union**

Av. du Président Valéry Giscard d'ESTAING - Immeuble Tropicana - BP 2180, Bangui  
Tel : +236 61 42 10 - Fax : +236 61 42 10 - E-mail : [unpc-rca@intnet.cf](mailto:unpc-rca@intnet.cf)

**Water / Energy / Transport****ENERCA - Energie Centrafricaine**

Avenue de l'indépendance, BP. 880 - Tel : +236 61 20 22 - Email : [enerca@intnet.cf](mailto:enerca@intnet.cf)

**Fonds Routier**

BP. 962, Bangui - Tel : +236 61 62 95 - Fax : +236 61 68 63 - Email : [fondsroutier@adm.nf](mailto:fondsroutier@adm.nf)

**SOCATRAF - (Société Centrafricaine de Transport Fluvial)**

BP 1445, Bangui - Tel : +236 61 43 15 - Fax : +236 61 88 99 - Email : [socatraf@intnet.cf](mailto:socatraf@intnet.cf)

**SODECA**

BP 1838, Bangui - Tel : +236 61 59 66 - Fax : +236 61 25 49

**Banks****Banque Internationale pour la Centrafrique (BICA - Fortis Group)**

BP 910, Bangui - Tel : +236 61 00 42 - Fax : +236 61 34 38 - Email : [bica@intnet.cf](mailto:bica@intnet.cf)

**Banque Populaire Maroc-Centrafricaine (BPMC)**

BP 844 Bangui - Tel : +236 61 30 90 - Fax : +236 61 62 30 - Email : [bpmc@intnet.cf](mailto:bpmc@intnet.cf)

**Commercial Bank Centrafrique (CBCA - Fotso Group)**

BP 59, Bangui - Tel : +236 61 29 90 - Fax : +236 61 34 54 - Email : [cbca@intnet.cf](mailto:cbca@intnet.cf)

**Crédit Mutuel de Centrafrique (CMCA)**

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