

MAURITANIA



GENERAL ECONOMIC DATA	
Population - 2005	3.1 millions
Area	1.030.700 Km ²
GDP - 2005	USD 1.9 billion
GDP per inhabitant - 2005	USD 560
Growth rate - 2005	5.4%
Inflation - 2005	12.1%
Trade balance - 2005	- USD 270 million
Budget balance (% of GDP) - 2005	-12.7 %
Domestic savings (% of GDP) - 2005	29%
Total debt (% of GDP) - 2005	109.1%
COFACE Country risk rating	C

Sources : World Bank, World Development Indicators database, April 2006
BAfD/OCDE (2005), Perspectives économiques en Afrique
FMI, Perspectives Economiques Régionales, May 2006
CIA, The World Factbook - COFACE Rating

ECONOMY STRUCTURE

Mauritania faces a change in relation to its economic development. After having initiated different structural adjustment reforms since 1992, with the support of the World Bank and IMF, Mauritania's economic growth rate has exceeded 5% per annum for many years. Currently, **a new growth opportunity is offered by the oil sector**, the off-shore exploitation of which started in 2006. However, the public debt, caused by the accumulation of budget deficits, remains a drawback and impacts negatively on the economy.

Sectorial distribution:

- Primary industry (19% of GDP) : dates, millet, sorghum, rice, grain (corn), breeding
- Manufacturing industry (30% of GDP) : iron ores (10% of GDP), **Construction & Civil Engineering (6% of GDP)**, fishing industry (5% of GDP), agro-food
- Services (51% of GDP) : trade, telecommunications, transport, banks,

CONSTRUCTION & CIVIL ENGINEERING SECTOR

Since 1985, when the first economic liberalisation reforms took place, the Construction & Civil engineering sector has experienced a significant change. Executing agencies have been set up, with the objective to foster the emergence of SMEs in this sector and to liberalise the civil engineering market. This initiative was reinforced by a financial support and the simplification of administrative formalities. Thus, the contribution of this sector to GDP growth increased from 5% in 1998 to 13% in 2005. However, the informal sector is still predominant, the construction sector is not structured and there is no national standards institution.

An other important factor to take into consideration is the increasing urbanisation due to sedentarisation. There will be many opportunities for new infrastructures thanks to the future oil income which will increase Government resources (roads, ports and airports).

PLAYERS

The Construction & Civil Engineering and building material sectors in Mauritania comprises over 80 formal companies. The number of workshops and jobber organisations, carrying out their activity outside the legal and fiscal framework, is estimated at 350 entities. The sector employs around 16,000 persons in Mauritania.

As regards the major international companies in this field, few of them have a local structure except for Razel (Bilinger Berger - All Group). In fact, most of these companies are present in the neighbour country Senegal. They are punctually involved in the major infrastructure projects mostly for roads, within the framework of international tenders. On the other hand, Chinese companies are ever more present in Mauritania and have constructed many buildings (International Conference Centre, several Law Courts, the Nouakchott Museum and, most recently, the new Nouakchott airport).

While Chinese companies compete with European contractors on major projects, the local companies compete with similar companies from Tunisia and Morocco operating in the construction field.

There is no federation or professional organisation representing the companies in the Construction & Civil Engineering sector in Mauritania.

INFRASTRUCTURES

- **Roads:** the network covered 10,297 km in 2005, of which 2833 km are asphalt coated. The Nouadhibou-Nouakchott road (480 km) was inaugurated in 2006. Some construction sites are currently being completed, such as the Rosso road; others are to be launched or under consideration on the North-South segments and to the East of the country towards Mali. 2006 also marks the end of the monopoly of the National Federation of Transports. Financial support is mainly offered by international donors (mostly the European Union and the African Development Bank).
- **Railways:** there is only one line belonging to the National Industrial and Mining Company (SNIM) connecting Nouadhibou to Zouerate, for the transport of iron stone.
- **Airports:** aviation facilities consist of three international airports (Nouakchott, Nouadhibou, Atar), 7 secondary airports and several aviation strips. The construction studies for the new international airport of Nouakchott are in progress (USD 170 million financed by the Mauritanian government).

- **Harbours:** with a straight coast of over 600 km, Mauritania has harbour facilities relatively well distributed for reasonably servicing the whole country. The Autonomous Port of Nouakchott or the “Friendship Port” (PAMPA) is in overcapacity with 1.5 million tons per year (designed for 900,000 T) and a growth rate of 8% per year. The Nouadhibou port complex traffic amounts to 500,000 tons for goods and 11.5 million tons for iron. The main objective of the sub-sector for the period 2006 – 2010 is to increase the development capacities and to improve the competitiveness of the Autonomous Port of Nouakchott, where the main commercial activities of the country are concentrated. In view of achieving this objective several projects are envisaged, among which the extension of the port.
- **Energy:** the electric power distribution is provided by SOMELEC (Mauritanian Electricity Company). This network, which has no interconnections between different production sites is 1,500 km long. A World Bank, program amounting to USD 100 million, aims at restoring the networks of Nouakchott and Nouadhibou as well as extending the network to the secondary cities. The SOMELEC production (mainly thermal) is of 80 GWh/year, equivalent to two thirds of the country’s needs. As to ADER, it is responsible for planning the development of the rural electrification (of solar, thermal and wind origin). Two hydroelectric dams construction projects in Félou and Gounia are under consideration with the support of the AfDB.
- **Water:** the operation and distribution of drinking water in the urban area by the National Water Company (SNDE) and in the semi-urban and rural areas by the ANEPA (Drinking Water and Sanitation National Agency). Various projects are envisaged to improve access to drinking water (less than 40%) within the framework of the Millenary Development Objectives.

HOUSING AND FUNCTIONAL BUILDINGS

Mauritania has undergone a spectacular urban development during the last three decades. Nouakchott’s population has been multiplied by 30 in 30 years (20,000 inhabitants in 1960, over 600,000 today). This accelerated urbanisation was not accompanied by an extension of planning and urban planning administrative capacities. It has been performed, for the most part, spontaneously, irrespective of any Government planning or control. In Nouakchott, for instance, some 38% of households live in the outskirts, sub-equipped and lacking essential urban services.

Moreover, the institutional weaknesses, such as the legal framework regulating land and urban issues, hinders private initiatives involving town planning and real estate promotion.

In order to improve this situation, the Government has launched a large Urban Development Program partly financed by the World Bank (USD 70 Ms) and the German Cooperation. This program will include creating basic infrastructures in Nouakchott and in the regional capitals as well as sanitation and land improvement in Nouakchott.

- **Housing:** the Construction and Real Estate Management Company (SOCOGIM) is responsible for the promotion of social housing. However, SOCOGIM suffers from the lack of funding. Nevertheless, SOCOGIM, either with its own funds or in cooperation with local banks, has launched several sites such as the construction of 1,000 medium standard dwellings in Nouakchott and the sanitation of 1,118 land plots in Rosso. The implementation of a program of 3,000 improved economic dwellings is also under consideration. The success of the Twize program experience (housing construction financed by micro credit) appears to be a new opportunity for housing development.
- **Functional buildings:** within the framework of the PDU, the World Bank participated in the reorganisation operations of the kebbas in Nouakchott and the wilayas’ capitals. There were focused on the housing construction in areas sufficiently equipped with basic infrastructures such as schools, medical centres, urban roads, commercial equipment, water and electricity, burial of wastes....

BUILDING MATERIALS

Most of the building materials used locally are imported (cement, aluminum, concrete iron, lime....). The latter represented 5% of total imports in 1997 and 14% in 2004. Except for the cement plants, the key player in the building materials sub-sector is SNIM through its subsidiaries: manufacturing of reinforcing bars, gypsum plaster for the construction obtained from the gypsum in Nouakchott.

Given the substantial increase of cement consumption, as a result of the multiple infrastructure development projects, the World Bank has signed a loan of EUR 9 million granted to the Mauritanian

company BSA Ciment S.A. for the construction of a modern cement plant located in Nouakchott. The plant will manufacture ready for use concrete which could be directly used on the sites without necessitating on-site preparation. This will enable to reduce losses and to ensure a constant construction quality.

KEY PLAYERS

Institutions

Ministry for Equipment and Transport

B.P. 237 – Nouakchott - Tel : +222 525 3337 - Fax : +222 525 3870 - Web : www.mauritania.mr

Ministry for Mines and Industry

BP 199, Nouakchott - Tel : +222 25 30 83 - Fax : +222 25 69 37 - Email : mmi@mauritania.mr

Ministry for Hydraulic and Energy -

BP 4913 - Nouakchott - Tel : +222 525 26 99 - Fax : +222 514-02

- Direction de l'Hydraulique et de l'Assainissement : Tel : +222 525 71 40
- Direction de l'Energie - Tel : +222 258 014

Ministry for Economic Affairs and Development

Tel : +222 525 16 12 - Fax : +222 525 5110 - Email : infomaed@mauritania.mr

Construction & Civil Engineering Contractors

Agrineq

BP. 5282, Nouakchott - Tel : +222 525 14 56 - Fax : +222 529 68 95 - Email : agrineq@agrineq.mr

Web : www.agrineq.com

AMEXTIPE – Mauritanian Agency for the Execution of Public Interest Works by Intensive Labour Force

BP. 5234 - Nouakchott - Tel : +222 525 76 52 - Fax : +222 525 75 13 – Email : amex@amextipe.opt.mr

ATTM

BP. 442, Nouadhibou - Tel : +222 574 29 60 - Fax : +222 574 83 88

BP. 54 81, Nouakchott - Tel : +222 525 09 19 - Fax : +222 525 09 18 - Email : atm@Snim.Com

Ceteg BTP

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Comacor TP

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EGB TP

BP. 40044, Nouakchott - Tel : +222 525 21 47 - Fax : +222 524 22 36 - Email : yezid@toptechnology.mr

EGBR Tp Zoughmane

BP. 4463, Nouakchott - Tel : +222 525 70 05 - Fax : +222 524 27 38 - Email : egbrtpz@yahoo.fr

EMCG TP (Naty Group)

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ETP

BP. 1709, Nouakchott - Tel : +222 525 14 55 - Fax : +222 525 60 26

Macoba TP (Azizi Group)

BP. 40031, Nouakchott - Tel : +222 525 56 56 - Fax : +222 525 56 57 - Email : macobatp@transac.mr

Web : www.transac.mr

Perevet

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Razel

BP. 5124, Nouakchott - Tel : +222 525 98 88 - Fax : +222 525 48 34 - Email : razelrim@mauritel.mr

Samco TP

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Somiba Tp

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Sorec BTP

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The Arab Contractors O.A.O

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Bureau Veritas

BP. 423, Nouakchott - Tel : +222 525 80 66 - Fax : +222 524 21 47

EAE

BP. 668, Nouakchott - Tel : +222 525 74 56 - Fax : +222 525 74 55 - Email : eae@toptechnology.mr

LNTP - National Laboratory of Public Works

BP. 602, Nouakchott - Tel : +222 525 11 03 - Fax : +222 525 37 74

SCET RIM (Azizi Group)

BP. 40031, Nouakchott - Tel : +222 525 01 93 - Fax : +22 2525 01 94 - Email : scetrim@toptechnology.mr

Web : www.transac.mr

SGS

BP. 5556, Nouakchott, Tel : +222 525 46 32 - Fax : +222 525 46 33 - Email : sgs.mauritania.lo@sgsgroup.com

Web : www.sgs.com

Civil Engineering Studies**Afrecom**

BP. 504, Nouakchott - Tel : +222 525 18 94 - Fax : +222 525 28 76 - Email : africom@toptechnology.mr

Alpha Consult

BP. 6100, Nouakchott - Tel : +222 525 16 82 - Fax : +222 525 85 75 - Email : alpha.consult@toptechnology.mrv

Baher

BP. 4532, Nouakchott - Tel : +222 525 80 67 - Fax : +222 525 81 90 - Email : baher@technology.mr

BICA

BP.1521, Nouakchott - Tel : +222 525 31 65 - Fax : +222 529 05 76 - Email : bica@mauritel.mr

Web : www.bica-consulting.com

FAAR

BP. 864, Nouakchott - Tel : +222 525 96 41 - Fax : +222 525 80 90 - Email : faar@toptechnology.mr

MCG

BP. 1494, Nouakchott - Tel : +222 529 03 64 - Fax : +222 529 44 10 - Email : mcg@mauritel.mr

Web : www.mcg-ingenierie.com

Sinergie

BP. 1389, Nouakchott - Tel : +222 525 67 33 - FAX : +222 525 67 34 - Email : sinergie@toptechnologie.mr

Building materials**BSA Ciment**

BP. 5528, Nouakchott - Tel : +222 525 87 90 - Fax : +222 525 71 62 - Email : indbsa@hotmail.com

Ciment de Mauritanie

BP. 40029, Nouakchott - Tel : +222 525 22 47 - Fax : +222 525 36 83 - Email : info@ciment.mr
Web : www.ciment.mr

MAFCI

BP. 5291, Nouakchott - Tel : +222 525 82 55 6 Fax : +222 525 83 16 - Email : mafc@mauritel.mr

Real Estate**SOCOGIM – Construction and Real Estate Management Company**

Immeuble Brakna, Avenue de l'indépendance, BP 28, Nouakchott - Tel : +222 525 12 51 - Fax : +222 525 42 13 -
Email : socogim@mauritel.mr

Water / Energy / Transport**ADER – Agency for Development of Rural Electrification**

BP. 2920, Nouakchott - Tel : +222 529 38 36 – Email : ader@mauritel.mr

ANEPA - National Agency for Drinking Water and Sanitation

BP. 727, Nouakchott - Tel : +222 525 19 51 - Fax : +222 529 41 94 - Email : anepa@toptechnology.mr

SNDE – National Water Company

BP. 796 - Nouakchott - Tel : +222 525 22 48

SOMELEC – Mauritanian Electricity Company

BP. 355, Nouakchott, Tel : +222 525 23 08 - Fax : +222 525 14 97 - Email : somelec@mauritel.mr

SNIM – National Industrial and Mining Company

BP. 42, Nouadhibou - Tel : +222 574 10 00 - Fax : +222 574 53 96 - Email : contact@snim.com
Web : www.snim.com

Banks**BADH (Al Amana Bank for the Development and Housing)**

BP 5559, Nouakchott - Tel : +222 525 59 53 - Email: badh@opt.mr

BCI – Trade and Industry Bank

Avenue Gamal Abdel nasser, BP 5050, Nouakchott - Tel : +222 529 28 76 - Web : www.bci-banque.com

BCM – Central Bank of Mauritania

Avenue de l'Indépendance, BP 623, Nouakchott - Tel : +222 525 28 88 - Web : www.bcm.mr

BMCI - Mauritanian Bank for International Trade

Avenue G. A. Nasser, BP 622, Nouakchott - Tel : +222 525 28 26 - Web : www.bmci.mr

Bacim Bank

Nouakchott - Tel : +222 529 19 00

BAMIS – Mauritanian Islamic Al Wava Bank

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