

# REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



GENERAL ECONOMIC DATA	
Population - 2005	4 million
Area	342 000 Km <sup>2</sup>
GDP - 2005	USD 5.1 billion
GDP per inhabitant - 2005	USD 1,484
Growth rate - 2005	9.2%
Inflation - 2005	2%
Trade balance (% of GDP) - 2005	59.8%
Budget balance (% of GDP) - 2005	19%
Investment (% of GDP) - 2005	22.3%
Domestic savings (% of GDP) - 2005	59.4%
Total debt (% of GDP) - 2004	133%
COFACE Country risk rating	C

Sources : World Bank, World Development Indicators database, April 2006  
BAfD/OCDE (2005), Perspectives économiques en Afrique  
Banque de France, Rapport annuel de la Zone Franc, 2006  
FMI, Perspectives Economiques Régionales, May 2006  
Missions Economiques, MINEFI - DGPTÉ  
CIA, The World Factbook - COFACE Rating

## ECONOMY STRUCTURE

Congo has experienced a marked economic revival since 2003, following an over ten-year period of political instability and armed conflicts. However, the consequences in terms of damages and destructions are considerable: schools, health infrastructure services, roads, water and power supply are inexistent in several towns and communities as a result of the conflicts.

Nevertheless, since 2003, Congo has made maximum use of its oil revenues in order to re-establish the balance of its public budget, reduce its debt, improve the management thereof and finance the reconstruction of the country. Moreover, the progres made in the income from oil exploitations together

with the adhesion to the EITI (Initiative for the Transparency of the Extraction Industries) encouraged the support of the donor community.

**Sectorial distribution:**

- Primary sector (4.5% of the GDP and 58% of the working population): agriculture, fishing, forestry
- Secondary sector (73.7% of GDP): hydrocarbon (55% of GDP), mining, industry (agribusiness, steel engineering, chemistry), **Construction & Civil Engineering (4%)**
- Services sector (21,8% of the GDP): trade, market services, transport

**CONSTRUCTION & CIVIL ENGINEERING SECTOR**

The launching of numerous operations of basic infrastructure rehabilitation and construction, on the one hand, and the performance of civil engineering works for certain oil companies, on the other hand, have significantly contributed to the development of the Construction & Civil Engineering sector in Congo. Thus, the National Transport Plan (NTP) was launched at the end of 2005 with a view to rehabilitating the highly deteriorated transport infrastructures, impeding economic growth. In the energy sector, several dam construction projects are being implemented or discussed in order to improve access to electric power which is still too limited.

**PLAYERS**

In Congo, several international companies operate in the field of civil engineering: Astaldi (IT), Socofran (Fr), SGE-C Congo (a Sogea Satom subsidiary – Vinci Group)).

Other European contractors such as Techniplan (IT) and Dragages TP were recently involved in the road infrastructure projects financed by the EU. During the last few years Chinese companies have also moved into the Congolese market. CMEC, a Chinese company, is in charge of the construction of the Imboulou dam.

Local companies, such as CSN Construction, Escom, Sobaco are pulling out of the construction field (airport, Stadium...).

There is no specific federation or organisation dedicated to the Construction & Civil Engineering sector. On the other hand, several Construction & Civil Engineering companies are represented by the Employer and Inter-professional Union of Congo.

**INFRASTRUCTURES**

- **Roads:** the road network is in a very poor condition. The road network features 17,289 km of which only 800 km are asphalt coated. This situation is a logistical obstacle to the transport of goods, such as wood. Several projects, based on external aid are envisaged in order to improve this situation. The amount estimated for the road rehabilitation/construction adds up to EUR 1 billion. The main project concerns the rehabilitation/construction of the Pointe Noire-Brazzaville-Ouesso axis (North of the country). The European Union will finance the works for the first section, namely Brazzaville-Kinkala (EUR 47 million). Moreover, within the NTP, a road fund is being created, which should cover the road network maintenance works (EUR 200 million).
- **Railways:** there is a rail line linking Brazzaville to the Pointe Noire port (510 km). The freight is significantly declining because of the insecurity and the run-down state of the line. The railway is operated by the Chemin de Fer Congo-Océan (CFCO), in the process of being privatised, based on World Bank and International Monetary Fund commitments. The investments are estimated at more than EUR 150 million for the rehabilitation and the development of the network. The donors are committed to contribute up to a limit of EUR 35 million.
- **Airports:** Congo has two international airports located in Brazzaville and Pointe Noire, five national airports (Dolisie, Nkayi, Owando, Impfondo, Ouesso) and a number of small-sized airports. In May 2001, the Government launched the construction of a new international airport in Ollombo, 400 km North of Brazzaville.

- **Harbours:** the port of Pointe-Noire is one of the most important deep water ports in Central Africa, with a regular capacity of 5 to 6 million tons. This is the natural market for Central African products, which are transported to Brazzaville by water and then loaded in the CFCO trains. The current trade flow is dominated by oil products. Several international donors are supporting the rehabilitation and modernisation programme of the autonomous port of Pointe Noire (EIB, AfD, BDEAC). The aggregate cost of the operation is estimated at approximately EUR 90 million.
- **Waterways:** the country has more than 2,500 km navigable waterways all the year from a potential 5,000 km. The fluvial network allows the transportation to and from Bangui (RCA) and DRC. The main fluvial port is Brazzaville, comprising a wood port and a public port, in addition to numerous secondary ports.
- **Water:** the infrastructure-related needs in the water sector are significant, both with regard to supply (only 47% of the population have access to drinking water) and to drainage (40% in the urban area and 9% in the rural area). The National Company of Water Distribution (*Société Nationale de Distribution de l'Eau – SNDE*), the privatisation process of which has been blocked, assures the supply and the distribution of drinking water in cities. The water conveyance programme of the peripheral districts of Brazzaville (Nkombo, Massengo, Moukondo), comprises civil engineering works (storage tank, operation building), hydraulic works (drilling, supply networks and branch-piping) and electric works (group procurements, SNE electric connecting). For drinking water management in rural areas, the Government has chosen “village water engineering projects”.
- **Energy:** Congo has two power dams (Moukoulou (74 MW) and Djoué (15 MW)), a gas plant at Djéno (25 MW) and a thermal power plant at Pointe Noire. The production is significantly insufficient for covering the energy needs of the country, which has to import approximately 60% of its electricity from the Inga dam in DRC. Future projects should allow to partially solve the problem in the medium-term: the privatisation of the National Electricity Company (*Société Nationale d'Electricité - SNE*), the construction of a high voltage line at the new dam of Imboulou (120 MW), which is under construction, the construction of a thermal power station in Brazzaville and of micro-centrals in rural areas (UNDP project). Other dam construction projects are also being analysed (Liouesso, Souda (1000 MW) and Chollet (600 MW)).

## HOUSING AND FUNCTIONAL BUILDINGS

- **Housing:** the status of the housing sector is critical, mainly in the urban and semi-urban areas. The major rural migration to Brazzaville and Pointe Noire was not backed by any urban design and housing policy. Moreover, a large number of households have not sufficient resources to become decent dwellings. Through the social programme “La Nouvelle Espérance”, the President of the Republic wishes to develop the dwelling supply by an increase in quality at affordable costs. In order to support this objective, a National Housing Fund and a Housing Bank will be created during 2007 so as to facilitate the financing of housing.
- **Public utility functional buildings:** the school, educational, health and administrative infrastructures seriously damaged because of the successive conflicts or of the lack of maintenance, are currently being rehabilitated. In this respect, the Government launched the “accelerated municipalization” programme allowing each year a different town to receive the decentralised organisation of the national holiday. In this care, the town benefits from public investments for modernising and developing the urban infrastructures. However, this short-term effective system cannot solve the general issue.
- **Industrial works:** there are numerous opportunities mainly in the field of industrial site construction related to oil and iron deposit exploitation.

## BUILDING MATERIALS

- **Cement:** the production of the Société Nouvelle des Ciments du Congo (SONOCC, ex-CimCongo) does not cover the increasing demand due to the reconstruction of the country's infrastructure. Congo imports cement from Lukala in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

- **Other construction materials:** Congo is dependent on imports of building materials, resulting in high construction costs. However, the country has considerable resources and could take advantage of the boom of the Construction & Civil Engineering sector.

## KEY PLAYERS

### Institutions

#### **Ministry of Equipment and Public Works**

BP 2099 Brazzaville - Tel : +242 81 59 07 / 81 59 41 - Fax : +242 81 59 07

#### **Ministry of Construction, Urbanism, Housing and Land Reform**

BP 1580 Brazzaville - Tel : +242 81 11 01 / 81 56 91 - Fax : +242 81 12 97

#### **Ministry of State, Transport and Privatisation, in charge of the Coordination of Government Action**

BP 2148 Brazzaville - Tel : +242 81 10 70 / 81 10 60 - Fax : +242 81 28 27

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

BP 2124 Brazzaville - Tel : +242 81 02 64 / 70 - Fax : +242 81 50 77

### Construction & Civil Engineering Contractors

#### **Astaldi**

BP 1426 Pointe-noire - Tel : +242 94 27 19 - Fax : +242 94 15 55

#### **ATP - Africaine de Travaux Publics**

BP 738, Pointe-noire - Tel : +242 94 03 54 - Fax : +242 94 81 69 - Email : [atp@cg.celtelplus.com](mailto:atp@cg.celtelplus.com)

#### **CSN Construction**

BP. 14841, Brazzaville - Tel : +242 81 36 00 - Fax : +242 81 21 07 - Email : [csn\\_socopi@hotmail.com](mailto:csn_socopi@hotmail.com)

#### **E.A.T. Mauro**

BP. 1155, Pointe-noire

Tel : +242 94 03 63 - Fax : +242 94 39 50

#### **Escom**

BP. 1068, Brazzaville - Tel : +242 281 27 01 - Fax : +242 281 27 01 - Email : [escom@cg.celtelplus.com](mailto:escom@cg.celtelplus.com)

#### **ETXE Bat**

BP. 612, Pointe Noire - Tel : +242 294 82 94 - Fax : +242 294 38 21 - Email : [patricketchebrn@aol.com](mailto:patricketchebrn@aol.com)

#### **Progest Congo**

Ave Independance, Brazzaville - Tel : +242 281 27 01 - Fax : +242 281 27 01 - Email : [progest@congonet.cg](mailto:progest@congonet.cg)

#### **SGE-C Congo (Sogea Satom Subsidiary)**

120-121 bd Lyautey - B.P. 212, Brazzaville - Tel : +242 81 01 56 - Fax : +242 81 51 73

#### **SOBACO**

BP. 2422, Brazzaville - Tel : +242 281 10 76

Pointe Noire - Tel : +242 294 44 43 - Fax : +242 294 49 34

#### **SOCOBA**

BP. 277, Pointe Noire - Tel : +242 294 32 76 - Fax : +242 294 17 67

#### **Socofran**

BP. 134, Brazzaville - Tel : +242 281 22 62 - Fax : +242 281 58 68

BP. 1148, Pointe Noire - Tel : +242 294 11 77 - Fax : +242 294 00 18

### Control

#### **Bivac**

Bp. 687, Pointe Noire - Tel : +242 294 84 56 - Fax : +242 294 85 57 - Email : [gerard.gallay@bureauveritas.com](mailto:gerard.gallay@bureauveritas.com)

#### **Bureau Veritas**

Ave Lyautey, Brazzaville - Tel : +242 551 29 71

BP. 687, Pointe Noire - Tel : +242 294 25 17 - Fax : +242 294 85 57

**CE Control Services**

BP. 5653, Pointe Noire - Tel : +242 294 16 96 - Fax : +242 294 25 68 - Email : [cecontrolservice@yahoo.fr](mailto:cecontrolservice@yahoo.fr)

**CETE Apave Congo**

BP. 857, Pointe Noire - Tel : +242 294 46 99 - Fax : +242 294 46 88

**SGS**

Brazzaville - Tel : +242 281 43 01 - Fax : +242 281 43 01

Bp. 744, Pointe Noire - Tel : +242 294 48 43 - Fax : +242 294 33 12 - Email : [sgscongo@sgs.com](mailto:sgscongo@sgs.com)

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

**Engineering firms****CGI**

BP. 14546, Brazzaville - Tel : +242 281 29 70 - Fax : +242 669 99 45 - Email : [cgicongo@hotmail.com](mailto:cgicongo@hotmail.com)

BP. 1165, Pointe Noire - Tel : +242 294 58 34

**Denko Engineering**

Ave De Gaulle, Pointe Noire - Tel : +242 294 79 93

**Foraid Congo**

Bp. 316, Pointe Noire - Tel : +242 294 15 47 - Fax : +242 294 39 04 - Mail : [fauc11@calva.com](mailto:fauc11@calva.com)

**JBG**

BP. 2791, Brazzaville - Tel : +242 281 05 44 - Email : [gkunzonzila@yahoo.com](mailto:gkunzonzila@yahoo.com) - Web : [www.gauff.com](http://www.gauff.com)

**Intermediary Organisations****Employer and Inter-professional Union of Congo**

BP. 1713, Pointe-Noire - Tel : +242 94 08 61 - Fax : +242 94 07 23 - Email : [unicongopnr@cg.celtelplus.com](mailto:unicongopnr@cg.celtelplus.com)

BP. 42, Brazzaville - Tel : +242 81 47 66 / 68 - Fax : +242 81 47 66 - Email : [unicongobzv@unicongo.net](mailto:unicongobzv@unicongo.net)

**Water / Energy / Transport****CFCO - Chemin de Fer du Congo Océan**

BP. 81 Brazzaville - Tel : +242 281 25 23 - Fax : +242 281 25 23 - Email : [cfcopnr@africances.com](mailto:cfcopnr@africances.com)

**SNDE - Société Nationale de Distribution de l'Eau**

BP. 719 - Pointe Noire - Tel : +242 294 22 16 - Fax : +242 94 28 60

**SNE - Société Nationale d'Electricité**

BP. 95 Brazzaville, Tel : +242 281 05 66 - Fax : +242 281 05 66

**Real Estate****SOPROGI - Société de Promotion et de Gestion Immobilière**

BP 1985, Brazzaville - Tel : +242 666 66 19 - Fax : +242 81 19 71 - Email : [soprogi@yahoo.fr](mailto:soprogi@yahoo.fr)

**Banks****Afriland First Bank**

BP 879 Pointe-Noire - Tel : +242 94 79 37 - Fax : +242 94 78 26

**Banque Cofipa**

BP 147 Brazzaville - Tel : +242 81 58 33 - Fax : +242 81 47 34

**B D E A C**

BP 1177 Brazzaville - Tel : +242 81 18 85 - Fax : +242 81 18 80 - Web : [www.bdeac.org](http://www.bdeac.org)

**B.E.A.C**

BP 126 Brazzaville - Tel : +242 81 10 73 - Fax : +242 81 10 94

**BGFI Bank**

BP 14579 Brazzaville - Tel : +242 81 40 50 - Fax : +242 81 50 89

**C.C.D.E**

BP 13117 Brazzaville - Tel : +242811763 Fax : +242811767

**CCEI Bank**

BP 879 / Avenue Fayette Tchitembo Pointe- Noire - Tel : +242 94 79 40 - Fax : +242 94 78 27

**Cofipa**

BP 147 Brazzaville - Tel : +242 81 58 33 Fax : +242 81 47 34

**C R C A R**

BP 2525 Brazzaville - Tel : +242 67 75 410

6 Avenue Barthelemy Boganda, BP. 1064 Pointe-Noire - Tel : +242 94 30 51

**Credit Lyonnais Congo**

BP 2470 Brazzaville - Tel : +242 81 07 15 - Web : [www.creditlyonnais.cg](http://www.creditlyonnais.cg)

**La Congolaise de Banque (Lcb)**

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