

Uganda



Background:

Uganda achieved independence from the UK in 1962. The dictatorial regime of Idi AMIN (1971-79) was responsible for the deaths of some 300,000 opponents; guerrilla war and human rights abuses under Milton OBOTE (1980-85) claimed at least another 100,000 lives. During the 1990s, the government promulgated non-party presidential and legislative elections.

Geography Uganda

Location:

Eastern Africa, west of Kenya

Area:

total: 236,040 sq km

land: 199,710 sq km

water: 36,330 sq km

Coastline:

0 km (landlocked)

Climate:

tropical; generally rainy with two dry seasons (December to February, June to August); semiarid in northeast

Terrain:

mostly plateau with rim of mountains

Natural resources:

copper, cobalt, hydropower, limestone, salt, arable land

Environment - current issues:

draining of wetlands for agricultural use; deforestation; overgrazing; soil erosion; water hyacinth infestation in Lake Victoria; poaching is widespread

People Uganda

Population:

27,269,482

Population growth rate:

3.31%

12.8 deaths/1,000 population

Net migration rate:

-1.49 migrant(s)/1,000 population

Languages:

English (official national language, taught in grade schools, used in courts of law and by most newspapers and some radio broadcasts), Ganda or Luganda (most widely used of the Niger-Congo languages, preferred for native language publications in the capital and may be taught in school), other Niger-Congo languages, Nilo-Saharan languages, Swahili, Arabic

Government Uganda**Country name:**

conventional long form: Republic of Uganda

Government type:

republic

Capital:

Kampala

Independence:

9 October 1962 (from UK)

Legal system:

in 1995, the government restored the legal system to one based on English common law and customary law; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction, with reservations

Executive branch:  

chief of state: President Lt. Gen. Yoweri Kaguta MUSEVENI

International organization participation:

ACP, AfDB, AU, C, EADB, FAO, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICCT, ICFTU, ICRM, IDA, IDB, IFAD, IFC, IFRC, IGAD, ILO, IMF, Interpol, IOC, IOM, ISO (correspondent), ITU, MIGA, NAM, OIC, OPCW, PCA, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO, UPU, WCO, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO, WTO

Economy Uganda**Economy - overview:**

Uganda has substantial natural resources, including fertile soils, regular rainfall, and sizable mineral deposits of copper and cobalt. Agriculture is the most important sector of the economy, employing over 80% of the work force. Coffee accounts for the bulk of export revenues. Since 1986, the government - with the support of foreign countries and international agencies - has acted to rehabilitate and stabilize the economy by undertaking currency reform, raising producer prices on export crops, increasing prices of petroleum products, and improving civil service wages. The policy changes are especially aimed at dampening inflation and boosting production and export earnings. During 1990-2001, the economy turned in a solid performance based on continued investment in the rehabilitation of infrastructure, improved incentives for production and exports, reduced inflation, gradually improved domestic security, and the return of exiled Indian-Ugandan entrepreneurs. Corruption within the government and slippage in the government's determination to press reforms raise doubts about the continuation of strong growth. In 2000, Uganda qualified for enhanced Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) debt relief worth \$1.3 billion and Paris Club debt relief worth

\$145 million. These amounts combined with the original HIPC debt relief added up to about \$2 billion. Growth for 2001-02 was solid despite continued decline in the price of coffee, Uganda's principal export. Solid growth in 2003-04 reflected an upturn in Uganda's export markets.

GDP:

purchasing power parity - \$39.39 billion

GDP - real growth rate:

5%

GDP - per capita:

purchasing power parity - \$1,500

GDP - composition by sector:

agriculture: 35.8%

industry: 20.8%

services: 43.6%

Investment (gross fixed):

22.4% of GDP

Population below poverty line:

35%

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

3.5% (2004 est.)

Labor force:

12.41 million (2004 est.)

Unemployment rate:

NA (2002 est.)

Budget:

revenues: \$1.491 billion

expenditures: \$1.727 billion, including capital expenditures of NA (2004 est.)

Agriculture - products:

coffee, tea, cotton, tobacco, cassava (tapioca), potatoes, corn, millet, pulses; beef, goat meat, milk, poultry, cut flowers

Industries:

sugar, brewing, tobacco, cotton textiles, cement, steel production

Oil - production:

0 bbl/day

Oil - consumption:

8,750 bbl/day

Current account balance:

-\$590.8 million

Exports:

\$621.7 million f.o.b.

Exports - commodities:

coffee, fish and fish products, tea; gold, cotton, flowers, horticultural products

Exports - partners:

Kenya 13.6%, Switzerland 11.2%, Netherlands 9.8%, Belgium 8.6%, France 4.2%

Imports:

\$1.306 billion f.o.b.

Imports - commodities:

capital equipment, vehicles, petroleum, medical supplies; cereals

Imports - partners:

Kenya 27.9%, India 8%, UAE 7.4%, South Africa 6.9%, UK 5.9%, China 5.6%, Japan 5.1%, US 4.6%

Currency:

Ugandan shilling (UGX)

Exchange rates:

Ugandan shillings per US dollar - 1,810.3 (2004), 1,963.7 (2003), 1,797.6 (2002), 1,755.7 (2001), 1,644.5 (2000)

Transportation**Railways:**

total: 1,241 km

narrow gauge: 1,241 km 1.000-m gauge

Highways:

total: 27,000 km

paved: 1,809 km

unpaved: 25,191 km

Waterways:

300 km (on Lake Victoria, 200 km on Lake Albert, Lake Kyoga, and parts of Albert Nile)

Airports:

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