

## Introduction



## Mali

Background:  

The Sudanese Republic and Senegal became independent of France in 1960 as the Mali Federation. When Senegal withdrew after only a few months, what formerly made up the Sudanese Republic was renamed Mali. Rule by dictatorship was brought to a close in 1991 by a military coup - led by the current president Amadou TOURE - enabling Mali's emergence as one of the strongest democracies on the continent. President Alpha KONARE won Mali's first democratic presidential election in 1992 and was reelected in 1997. In keeping with Mali's two-term constitutional limit, KONARE stepped down in 2002 and was succeeded by Amadou TOURE, who was subsequently elected to a second term in 2007. The elections were widely judged to be free and fair.

## Geography



## Mali

Location:  

Western Africa, southwest of Algeria

Geographic coordinates:  

17 00 N, 4 00 W

Map references:  

[Africa](#)

Area:   

*total:* 1.24 million sq km

*land:* 1.22 million sq km

*water:* 20,000 sq km



Area - comparative:  

slightly less than twice the size of Texas

Land boundaries:  

*total:* 7,243 km



*border countries:* Algeria 1,376 km, Burkina Faso 1,000 km, Guinea 858 km, Cote d'Ivoire 532 km, Mauritania 2,237 km, Niger 821 km, Senegal 419 km

Coastline:  



0 km (landlocked)

Maritime claims:  

none (landlocked)

Climate:  

subtropical to arid; hot and dry (February to June); rainy, humid, and mild (June to November); cool and dry (November to February)

Terrain:  

mostly flat to rolling northern plains covered by sand; savanna in south, rugged hills in northeast

Elevation extremes:  



*lowest point:* Senegal River 23 m

*highest point:* Hombori Tondo 1,155 m

Natural resources:  

gold, phosphates, kaolin, salt, limestone, uranium, gypsum, granite, hydropower

*note:* bauxite, iron ore, manganese, tin, and copper deposits are known but not exploited

Land use:  


*arable land:* 3.76%

*permanent crops:* 0.03%



*other:* 96.21% (2005)

Irrigated land:  

2,360 sq km (2003)

Total renewable water resources:  

100 cu km (2001)


Freshwater withdrawal  
(domestic/industrial/agricultural):  

*total:* 6.55 cu km/yr (9%/1%/90%)

*per capita:* 484 cu m/yr (2000)

Natural hazards:  

hot, dust-laden harmattan haze common during dry seasons; recurring droughts; occasional Niger River flooding



Environment - current issues:  

deforestation; soil erosion; desertification; inadequate supplies of potable water; poaching

Environment - international  

agreements: *party to:* Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Ozone Layer Protection, Wetlands, Whaling




*signed, but not ratified:* none of the selected agreements

Geography - note:  



landlocked; divided into three natural zones: the southern, cultivated Sudanese; the central, semiarid Sahelian; and the northern, arid Saharan

## People

### Mali

Population:   



12,324,029 (July 2008 est.)

Age structure:  

*0-14 years*: 48.2% (male 3,004,003/female 2,937,138)

*15-64 years*: 48.7% (male 2,976,314/female 3,028,433)

*65 years and over*: 3.1% (male 150,597/female 227,544) (2008 est.)

Median age:  

*total*: 15.8 years

*male*: 15.4 years




*female*: 16.2 years (2008 est.)

Population growth  



rate: 2.725% (2008 est.)

Birth rate:   



49.38 births/1,000 population (2008 est.)

Death rate:   

16.16 deaths/1,000 population (2008 est.)

Net migration rate:  

-5.97 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2008 est.)

Sex ratio:  


*at birth*: 1.03 male(s)/female

*under 15 years*: 1.02 male(s)/female

*15-64 years*: 0.98 male(s)/female

*65 years and over*: 0.66 male(s)/female




*total population*: 0.99 male(s)/female (2008 est.)

Infant mortality   

rate: *total*: 103.83 deaths/1,000 live births

*male*: 113.41 deaths/1,000 live births

*female*: 93.97 deaths/1,000 live births (2008 est.)




Life expectancy at   




birth: *total population*: 49.94 years

*male*: 48 years



*female*: 51.94 years (2008 est.)



Total fertility rate:     
7.34 children born/woman (2008 est.)



HIV/AIDS - adult  
prevalence rate:     
1.9% (2003 est.)

HIV/AIDS -     
people living with 140,000 (2003 est.)  
HIV/AIDS:

HIV/AIDS -     
deaths: 12,000 (2003 est.)



Major infectious    
diseases: *degree of risk:* very high  
*food or waterborne diseases:* bacterial and protozoal diarrhea, hepatitis A, and typhoid fever  
*vectorborne disease:* malaria  
*water contact disease:* schistosomiasis  
*respiratory disease:* meningococcal meningitis (2008)

Nationality:    
*noun:* Malian(s)  
*adjective:* Malian



Ethnic groups:    
Mande 50% (Bambara, Malinke, Soninke), Peul 17%, Voltaic 12%, Songhai 6%, Tuareg and Moor 10%, other 5%



Religions:    
Muslim 90%, Christian 1%, indigenous beliefs 9%



Languages:    
French (official), Bambara 80%, numerous African languages



Literacy:    
*definition:* age 15 and over can read and write  
*total population:* 46.4%  
*male:* 53.5%  
*female:* 39.6% (2003 est.)

## Government Mali



Country name:    
*conventional long form:* Republic of Mali  
*conventional short form:* Mali  
*local long form:* Republique de Mali  
*local short form:* Mali  
*former:* French Sudan and Sudanese Republic

Government type:    
republic



Capital:    
*name:* Bamako  
*geographic coordinates:* 12 39 N, 8 00 W  
*time difference:* UTC 0 (5 hours ahead of Washington, DC during Standard Time)


Administrative    
divisions: 8 regions (regions, singular - region); Gao, Kayes, Kidal, Koulikoro, Mopti, Segou, Sikasso, Tombouctou



Independence:    
22 September 1960 (from France)



National holiday:    
Independence Day, 22 September (1960)

Constitution:    
adopted 12 January 1992

Legal system:    
based on French civil law system and customary law; judicial review of legislative acts in Constitutional Court; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction

Suffrage:    
18 years of age; universal



Executive branch:    
*chief of state:* President Amadou Toumani TOURE (since 8 June 2002)  
*head of government:* Prime Minister Modibo SIDIBE (since 28 September 2007)  
*cabinet:* Council of Ministers appointed by the prime minister  
*elections:* president elected by popular vote for a five-year term (eligible for a second term); election last held 29 April 2007 (next to be held April in 2012); prime minister appointed by the president  
*election results:* Amadou Toumani TOURE reelected president; percent of vote - Amadou Toumani TOURE 71.2%, Ibrahim Boubacar KEITA 19.2%, other 9.6%

Legislative branch:    
unicameral National Assembly or Assemblée Nationale (147 seats; members elected by popular vote to serve five-year terms)  
*elections:* last held 1 and 22 July 2007 (next to be held in July 2012)  
*election results:* percent of vote by party - NA; seats by party - ADP coalition

113 (including ADEMA 51, URD 34, MPR 8, CNID 7, UDD 3, and other 10), FDR coalition 15 (including RPM 11, PARENA 4), SADI 4, independent 15

Judicial branch:  

Supreme Court or Cour Supreme

Political parties  

and leaders: Alliance for Democratic Change (political group comprised mainly of Tuareg from Mali's northern region); African Solidarity for Democracy and Independence or SADI [Oumar MARIKO, secretary general]; Alliance for Democracy and Progress or ADP (a coalition of political parties including ADEMA and URD formed in December 2006 to support the presidential candidacy of Amadou TOURE); Alliance for Democracy or ADEMA [Diounconda TRAORE]; Convergence 2007 [Soumeylou Boubeye MAIGA]; Front for Democracy and the Republic or FDR (a coalition of political parties including RPM and PARENA formed to oppose the presidential candidacy of Amadou TOURE); National Congress for Democratic Initiative or CNID [Mountaga TALL]; Party for Democracy and Progress or PDP [Me Idrissa TRAORE]; Party for National Renewal or PARENA [Tiebile DRAME]; Patriotic Movement for Renewal or MPR [Choguel MAIGA]; Rally for Democracy and Labor or RDT; Rally for Mali or RPM [Ibrahim Boubacar KEITA]; Sudanese Union/African Democratic Rally or US/RDA [Mamadou Bamou TOURE]; Union for Democracy and Development or UDD [Moussa Balla COULIBALY]; Union for Republic and Democracy or URD [Soumaila CISSE]

International  

organization ACCT, ACP, AfDB, AU, ECOWAS, FAO, FZ, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, participation: ICCT, ICRM, IDA, IDB, IFAD, IFC, IFRCs, ILO, IMF, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ITSO, ITU, ITUC, MIGA, NAM, OIC, OIF, OPCW, UN, UNAMID, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNMIL, UNMIS, UNWTO, UPU, WADB (regional), WAEMU, WCO, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO



Flag description:  

three equal vertical bands of green (hoist side), yellow, and red; uses the popular pan-African colors of Ethiopia

## Economy

## Mali

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Economy -  




overview: Mali is among the poorest countries in the world, with 65% of its land area desert or semidesert and with a highly unequal distribution of income. Economic activity is largely confined to the riverine area irrigated by the Niger. About 10% of the population is nomadic and some 80% of the labor force is engaged in farming and fishing. Industrial activity is concentrated on processing farm commodities. Mali is heavily dependent on foreign aid and vulnerable to fluctuations in world prices for cotton, its main export, along with gold. The government has continued its successful implementation of an IMF-recommended structural adjustment program that is helping the economy



grow, diversify, and attract foreign investment. Mali's adherence to economic reform and the 50% devaluation of the CFA franc in January 1994 have pushed up economic growth to a 5% average in 1996-2007. Worker remittances and external trade routes for the landlocked country have been jeopardized by continued unrest in neighboring Cote d'Ivoire.




GDP (purchasing power parity): \$14.18 billion (2007 est.)   



GDP (official exchange rate): \$6.936 billion (2007 est.)  




GDP - real growth rate: 4.3% (2007 est.)   



GDP - per capita (PPP): \$1,200 (2007 est.)   

GDP - composition by sector:    
*agriculture*: 45%  
*industry*: 17%  
*services*: 38% (2001 est.)



Labor force:     
5.4 million (2007 est.)




Labor force - by occupation:    
*agriculture*: 80%  
*industry and services*: 20% (2005 est.)



Unemployment rate:     
30% (2004 est.)

Population below poverty line:    
36.1% (2005 est.)

Household income or consumption by percentage share:    
*lowest 10%*: 2.4%  
*highest 10%*: 30.2% (2001)



Distribution of family income - Gini index:    
40.1 (2001)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):     
2.6% (2007 est.)



Budget:  

*revenues*: \$1.5 billion




*expenditures*: \$1.8 billion (2006 est.)




Agriculture -  

products: cotton, millet, rice, corn, vegetables, peanuts; cattle, sheep, goats




Industries:  

food processing; construction; phosphate and gold mining



Industrial     
production growth NA%  
rate:

Electricity -   



production: 804 million kWh (2006)

Electricity -   




consumption: 804 million kWh (2006 est.)

Electricity -  



exports: 0 kWh; note - recent hydropower developments may be providing electricity to Senegal and Mauritania (2007 est.)

Electricity -  




imports: 0 kWh (2007)

Oil - production:   




0 bbl/day (2006 est.)

Oil - consumption:   




5,600 bbl/day (2006 est.)

Oil - exports:   




0 bbl/day (2006)

Oil - imports:   

5,600 bbl/day (2006 est.)




Oil - proved   




reserves: 0 bbl (1 January 2006 est.)




Natural gas -   

production: 0 cu m (2005 est.)






Natural gas -     
consumption: 0 cu m (2005 est.)



Natural gas -     
exports: 0 cu m (2005 est.)

Natural gas -     
imports: 0 cu m (2005)



Natural gas -     
proved reserves: 0 cu m (1 January 2006 est.)

Exports:     
\$294 million f.o.b. (2006)

Exports -    
commodities: cotton, gold, livestock




Exports - partners:    
China 26.8%, Germany 24.9%, Thailand 7.1%, Taiwan 4.9%, Bangladesh 4%  
(2006)




Imports:     
\$2.358 billion f.o.b. (2006)

Imports -    
commodities: petroleum, machinery and equipment, construction materials, foodstuffs,  
textiles



Imports - partners:    
France 12.8%, Senegal 12.2%, Cote d'Ivoire 10.5% (2006)

Economic aid -    
recipient: \$691.5 million (2005)

Debt - external:     
\$2.8 billion (2002)

Market value of     
publicly traded \$NA  
shares:

Currency (code):    
Communaute Financiere Africaine franc (XOF); note - responsible authority is  
the Central Bank of the West African States

Exchange rates:  


Communaute Financiere Africaine francs (XOF) per US dollar - 493.51 (2007), 522.59 (2006), 527.47 (2005), 528.29 (2004), 581.2 (2003)

*note:* since 1 January 1999, the XOF franc has been pegged to the euro at a rate of 655.957 XOF francs per euro




Fiscal year:  

calendar year



## Communications Mali

Telephones - main   

lines in use: 82,500 (2006)

Telephones -   

mobile cellular: 1.513 million (2006)

Telephone system:  

*general assessment:* domestic system unreliable but improving; provides only minimal service

*domestic:* fixed-line availability is gradually increasing, but subscribership remains less than 1 per 100 persons; mobile-cellular subscribership has increased sharply to 13 per 100 persons

*international:* country code - 223; satellite earth stations - 2 Intelsat (1 Atlantic Ocean, 1 Indian Ocean)

Radio broadcast  



stations: AM 1, FM 230 (27 regional and government stations, and 203 private stations), shortwave 1 (2001)

Television  




broadcast stations: 2 (plus repeaters) (2007)

Internet country  

code: .ml

Internet hosts:   

28 (2007)

Internet users:   



70,000 (2006)



## Transportation Mali




Airports:   

29 (2007)

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Airports - with    
paved runways: *total: 8*  
*2,438 to 3,047 m: 4*  
*1,524 to 2,437 m: 4 (2007)*

Airports - with    
unpaved runways: *total: 21*  
*2,438 to 3,047 m: 1*  
*1,524 to 2,437 m: 5*  
*914 to 1,523 m: 7*  
*under 914 m: 8 (2007)*



Railways:     
*total: 729 km*  
*narrow gauge: 729 km 1.000-m gauge (2006)*



Roadways:     
*total: 18,709 km*  
*paved: 3,368 km*  
*unpaved: 15,341 km (2004)*



Waterways:     
*1,800 km (2007)*



Ports and    
terminals: Koulikoro




## **Military Mali**

Military branches:    
Malian Armed Forces: Army, Republic of Mali Air Force (Force Aerienne de la Republique du Mali, FARM), National Guard (2008)



Military service    
age and obligation: 18 years of age for compulsory and voluntary military service; conscript service obligation - 2 years (2008)



Manpower    
available for *males age 18-49: 2,094,432*  
military service: *females age 18-49: 2,027,352 (2005 est.)*

Manpower fit for    
military service: *males age 18-49: 1,244,176*  
*females age 18-49: 1,226,226 (2005 est.)*

Military     
expenditures - 1.9% (2006)  
percent of GDP:

| Transnational Issues | Mali |
|----------------------|------|
|----------------------|------|

Disputes -    
international: none

Refugees and    
internally *refugees (country of origin)*: 6,165 (Mauritania) (2006)  
displaced persons: