

Côte d'Ivoire

An overview on economy and business environment



Côte d'Ivoire is in Western Africa, bordering the North Atlantic Ocean, between Ghana and Liberia. Since 2011, Côte d'Ivoire has been one of the fastest growing countries in the world. According to the IMF, in 2019, its growth stood at 6.9%, driven by sustainable investment, higher cocoa revenues and greater social expenditures. The country is heavily dependent on agriculture and related activities, which engage roughly two-thirds of the population and it is the world's largest producer and exporter of cocoa beans and a significant producer and exporter of coffee and palm oil. As consequence, the economy is highly sensitive to fluctuations in international prices for these products and to climatic conditions.



Cocoa, oil, and coffee are the country's top export revenue earners, but the country has targeted agricultural processing of cocoa, cashews, mangoes, and other commodities as a high priority. Mining gold and exporting electricity are growing industries outside agriculture. In terms of GDP the service sector remains the main driver of the economy, contributing 3.4 percentage points to growth in 2018. Industry contributed 1.5 percentage points in 2018 thanks to a dynamic agrifood industry and construction and public works sector. The primary sector contributed 0.8 point thanks to agriculture, which in the last two years benefited from good rainfall and seed distribution by the government. The contribution of extractive industries fell due to the fall in oil production.

However, the excellent economic performance of Côte d'Ivoire of the last years has not produced the results expected in terms of social inclusion and a reduction in the poverty rate, which remains high. In addition to that, the Covid-19 pandemic is having some negative impacts even if for the moment the country is not one the most affected countries.

Not only growth is expected to slow markedly this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic weighs on the economy, but also weak global demand is set to negatively affect the external sector, while containment measures will halt investment activity and household spending.

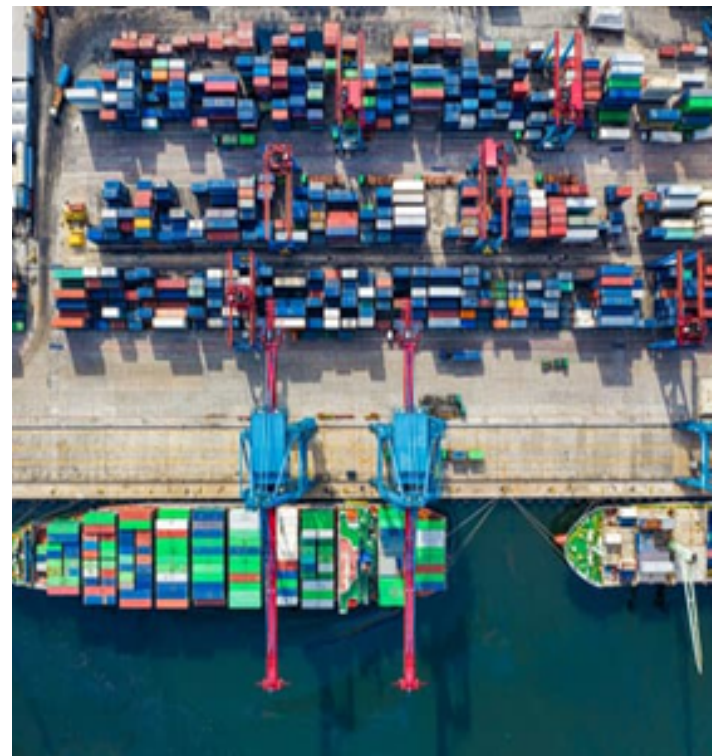
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The Ivorian government has taken several measures including business support measures, economic support measures and social measures for population to mitigate the impact of Covid-19 and to preserve the key sectors of the economy. At the beginning of June, Fitch Ratings has confirmed Côte d'Ivoire's Long-Term Foreign-Currency Issuer Default Rating (IDR) at 'B+' with a Positive Outlook.

Côte d'Ivoire's economy is strongly based on agriculture. The primary sector contributes to almost a fifth of the GDP and employs less than half of the country's active population (48%). The government is trying to maximise agricultural output by developing raw material processing units. In January 2019, it launched a 5-year (2018-2023) plan funded by the World Bank, valued at XOF107 billion. The latter is aimed at making the cashew sector more profitable. In recent years, rubber output has increased substantially. The oil sector has been gaining weight over the past few years, leveraging a steady growth rate and major investments. The country has some mining activities, particularly of precious minerals, such as gold and diamonds, but also others like nickel.



The industrial sector also contributes to a quarter of the GDP but only employs 6% of active population. The country's main industrial sectors include food-processing, textiles, construction materials, fertilizers, tuna canning and motorbikes, vehicles and bicycles assembling. Like in many other African countries, the tertiary sector has grown at relatively rapid rate in the last several years. The telecommunications sector is booming and, together with other sectors, are key drivers of services. The services sector contributes to nearly 42% of the GDP and employs 46% of the workforce.

As previously mentioned, Côte d'Ivoire is the world's largest producer and exporter of cocoa (30% of the world production), one of the three bigger producer and exporter of cashew, and a major exporter of palm oil, coffee and oil.

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In addition to cocoa, coffee, palm oil and cashew some other top exported goods are timber, petroleum, cotton, bananas, pineapples and fish. The top export countries are Netherlands, US, France, Belgium, Germany, Burkina Faso, India and Mali.

Most imported commodities are fuel, capital equipment, foodstuffs and the main import countries are Nigeria, France, China, and US.

Doing good business in Côte d'Ivoire and importing or exporting to/from this region requires an in depth knowledge of the country. In addition to that, in Côte d'Ivoire key information is not published for private companies: financial statements, shareholders, banks, are only accessible by authorization of the subject company. Moreover, Ivorian companies do not report dissolution to the registry.

In order to overcome these problems and get reliable information on companies, a business information company needs to have a local presence in the country. Only the local presence and the support of local and native agents can allow access to manual registries, build stronger networks and react faster to political and social unrests and cultural/religious manifestations affecting the delivery time of the reports.



SkyMinder ensure the most reliable business credit information available on Ivorian companies thanks to the most trustworthy and competent local information providers.

Team of high skilled local experts access all local official entities and other sources, collect all available data and analyze them by using trusted and sophisticated risk models.

All Credit reports are freshly investigated.

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SkyMinder credit reports include the following information:

- Complete company identification details: correct company name, adresse(s), contact details such as phone, fax, email, webs, etc.
- Company registration details: our local providers try to access local registries and to get registration number, company id, fiscal code, and any information that can be retrieved at the local registry
- Directors and company structure: board of directors, shareholders and related companies
- Financials: most times financials are not filed at the local registries, however, our local providers thanks to their information network and to the interview to the company try to get the most detailed financial information on the requested company
- Credit rating and suggested credit limit
- Number of employees
- Activity details: sector and industry of the company, when possible also information on import and export activities, company brands, main suppliers and customers names, etc.
- Legal and negative information on the company
- Banks information
- Basic geopolitic information on the country

Of course the availability of each single details depends on the company type and on other contingent factors, but SkyMinder always guarantees that all the information included in a report is the result of the best expertise and efforts and that the details included are the best available on the company at the time of the search.

Finally, SkyMinder local providers ensure the best and fastest delivery time of the reports available in the market.

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