

## Botswana



### Introduction Botswana

**Background:** Formerly the British protectorate of Bechuanaland, Botswana adopted its new name upon independence in 1966. Four decades of uninterrupted civilian leadership, progressive social policies, and significant capital investment have created one of the most dynamic economies in Africa. Mineral extraction, principally diamond mining, dominates economic activity, though tourism is a growing sector due to the country's conservation practices and extensive nature preserves. Botswana has one of the world's highest known rates of HIV/AIDS infection, but also one of Africa's most progressive and comprehensive programs for dealing with the disease.

### Geography Botswana

**Location:** Southern Africa, north of South Africa

**Geographic coordinates:** 22 00 S, 24 00 E

**Map references:** Africa

**Area:** *total:* 600,370 sq km  
*land:* 585,370 sq km

*water:* 15,000 sq km

**Area - comparative:** slightly smaller than Texas

**Land boundaries:** *total:* 4,013 km  
*border countries:* Namibia 1,360 km, South Africa 1,840 km, Zimbabwe 813 km

**Coastline:** 0 km (landlocked)

**Maritime claims:** none (landlocked)

**Climate:** semiarid; warm winters and hot summers

**Terrain:** predominantly flat to gently rolling tableland; Kalahari Desert in southwest

**Elevation extremes:** *lowest point:* junction of the Limpopo and Shashe Rivers 513 m  
*highest point:* Tsodilo Hills 1,489 m

**Natural resources:** diamonds, copper, nickel, salt, soda ash, potash, coal, iron ore, silver

**Land use:** *arable land:* 0.65%  
*permanent crops:* 0.01%  
*other:* 99.34% (2005)

**Irrigated land:** 10 sq km (2003)

**Natural hazards:** periodic droughts; seasonal August winds blow from the west, carrying sand and dust across the country, which can obscure visibility

**Environment - current issues:** overgrazing; desertification; limited fresh water resources

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

**Geography - note:** landlocked; population concentrated in eastern part of the country

People	Botswana
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<b>Population:</b>	1,639,833 <i>note:</i> estimates for this country explicitly take into account the effects of excess mortality due to AIDS; this can result in
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lower life expectancy, higher infant mortality and death rates, lower population and growth rates, and changes in the distribution of population by age and sex than would otherwise be expected (July 2006 est.)

<b>Age structure:</b>	<i>0-14 years:</i> 38.3% (male 319,531/female 309,074) <i>15-64 years:</i> 57.9% (male 460,692/female 488,577) <i>65 years and over:</i> 3.8% (male 23,374/female 38,585) (2006 est.)
<b>Median age:</b>	<i>total:</i> 19.4 years <i>male:</i> 18.8 years <i>female:</i> 20 years (2006 est.)
<b>Population growth rate:</b>	-0.04% (2006 est.)
<b>Birth rate:</b>	23.08 births/1,000 population (2006 est.)
<b>Death rate:</b>	29.5 deaths/1,000 population (2006 est.)
<b>Net migration rate:</b>	6.07 migrant(s)/1,000 population <i>note:</i> there is an increasing flow of Zimbabweans into South Africa and Botswana in search of better economic opportunities (2006 est.)
<b>Sex ratio:</b>	<i>at birth:</i> 1.03 male(s)/female <i>under 15 years:</i> 1.03 male(s)/female <i>15-64 years:</i> 0.94 male(s)/female <i>65 years and over:</i> 0.61 male(s)/female <i>total population:</i> 0.96 male(s)/female (2006 est.)
<b>Infant mortality rate:</b>	<i>total:</i> 53.7 deaths/1,000 live births <i>male:</i> 54.92 deaths/1,000 live births <i>female:</i> 52.44 deaths/1,000 live births (2006 est.)
<b>Life expectancy at birth:</b>	<i>total population:</i> 33.74 years <i>male:</i> 33.9 years <i>female:</i> 33.56 years (2006 est.)
<b>Total fertility rate:</b>	2.79 children born/woman (2006 est.)
<b>HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:</b>	37.3% (2003 est.)
<b>HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:</b>	350,000 (2003 est.)
<b>HIV/AIDS - deaths:</b>	33,000 (2003 est.)

**Major infectious diseases:** *degree of risk:* high  
*food or waterborne diseases:* bacterial diarrhea, hepatitis A, and typhoid fever  
*vectorborne disease:* malaria (2005)

**Nationality:** *noun:* Motswana (singular), Batswana (plural)  
*adjective:* Motswana (singular), Batswana (plural)

**Ethnic groups:** Tswana (or Setswana) 79%, Kalanga 11%, Basarwa 3%, other, including Kgalagadi and white 7%

**Religions:** Christian 71.6%, Badimo 6%, other 1.4%, unspecified 0.4%, none 20.6% (2001 census)

**Languages:** Setswana 78.2%, Kalanga 7.9%, Sekgalagadi 2.8%, English 2.1% (official), other 8.6%, unspecified 0.4% (2001 census)

**Literacy:** *definition:* age 15 and over can read and write  
*total population:* 79.8%  
*male:* 76.9%  
*female:* 82.4% (2003 est.)

Government	Botswana
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**Country name:** *conventional long form:* Republic of Botswana  
*conventional short form:* Botswana  
*local long form:* Republic of Botswana  
*local short form:* Botswana  
*former:* Bechuanaland

**Government type:** parliamentary republic

**Capital:** *name:* Gaborone  
*geographic coordinates:* 24 45 S, 25 55 E  
*time difference:* UTC+2 (7 hours ahead of Washington, DC during Standard Time)

**Administrative divisions:** 9 districts and 5 town councils\*; Central, Francistown\*, Gaborone\*, Ghanzi, Jwaneng\*, Kgalagadi, Kgatleng, Kweneng, Lobatse\*, Northeast, Northwest, Selebi-Pikwe\*, Southeast, Southern

**Independence:** 30 September 1966 (from UK)

**National holiday:** Independence Day (Botswana Day), 30 September (1966)

**Constitution:** March 1965, effective 30 September 1966

**Legal system:** based on Roman-Dutch law and local customary law; judicial review limited to matters of interpretation; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction, with reservations

- Suffrage:** 18 years of age; universal
- Executive branch:** *chief of state:* President Festus G. MOGAE (since 1 April 1998) and Vice President Seretse Ian KHAMA (since 13 July 1998); note - the president is both the chief of state and head of government  
*head of government:* President Festus G. MOGAE (since 1 April 1998) and Vice President Seretse Ian KHAMA (since 13 July 1998); note - the president is both the chief of state and head of government  
*cabinet:* Cabinet appointed by the president  
*elections:* president indirectly elected for a five-year term (eligible for a second term); election last held 20 October 2004 (next to be held in 2009); vice president appointed by the president  
*election results:* Festus G. MOGAE elected president; percent of National Assembly vote - 52%
- Legislative branch:** bicameral Parliament consists of the House of Chiefs (a largely advisory 15-member body with 8 permanent members consisting of the chiefs of the principal tribes, and 7 non-permanent members serving 5-year terms, consisting of 4 elected subchiefs and 3 members selected by the other 12 members) and the National Assembly (63 seats, 57 members are directly elected by popular vote, 4 are appointed by the majority party, and 2, the President and Attorney-General, serve as ex-officio members; members serve five-year terms)  
*elections:* National Assembly elections last held 30 October 2004 (next to be held October 2009)  
*election results:* percent of vote by party - BDP 51.7%, BNF 26.1%, BCP 16.6%, other 5%; seats by party - BDP 44, BNF 12, BCP 1
- Judicial branch:** High Court; Court of Appeal; Magistrates' Courts (one in each district)
- Political parties and leaders:** Botswana Alliance Movement or BAM [Ephraim Lepetu SETSHWAELO]; Botswana Congress Party or BCP [Otladisa KOOSALETSE]; Botswana Democratic Party or BDP [Festus G. MOGAE]; Botswana National Front or BNF [Otswoletse MOUPO]; Botswana Peoples Party or BPP; MELS Movement of Botswana or MELS; New Democratic Front or NDF  
*note:* a number of minor parties joined forces in 1999 to form the BAM but did not capture any parliamentary seats - includes the United Action Party [Ephraim Lepetu SETSHWAELO]; the Independence Freedom Party or IFP [Motsamai MPHONGA]; the Botswana Progressive Union [D. K. KWELE]

**Political pressure groups and leaders:**

NA

**International organization participation:**

ACP, AfDB, AU, C, FAO, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICCT, ICRM, IDA, IFAD, IFC, IFRC, ILO, IMF, Interpol, IOC, IPU, ISO, ITU, MIGA, NAM, OPCW, SACU, SADC, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNMIS, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

**Diplomatic representation in the US:**

*chief of mission:* Ambassador Lapologang Caesar LEKOA  
*chancery:* 1531-1533 New Hampshire Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20036  
*telephone:* [1] (202) 244-4990  
*FAX:* [1] (202) 244-4164

**Diplomatic representation from the US:**

*chief of mission:* Ambassador Katherine H. CANAVAN  
*embassy:* address NA, Gaborone  
*mailing address:* Embassy Enclave, P. O. Box 90, Gaborone  
*telephone:* [267] 353982  
*FAX:* [267] 312782

**Flag description:**

light blue with a horizontal white-edged black stripe in the center

<b>Economy</b>	<b>Botswana</b>
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**Economy - overview:**

Botswana has maintained one of the world's highest economic growth rates since independence in 1966. Through fiscal discipline and sound management, Botswana has transformed itself from one of the poorest countries in the world to a middle-income country with a per capita GDP of \$11,200 in 2006. Two major investment services rank Botswana as the best credit risk in Africa. Diamond mining has fueled much of the expansion and currently accounts for more than one-third of GDP and for 70-80% of export earnings. Tourism, financial services, subsistence farming, and cattle raising are other key sectors. On the downside, the government must deal with high rates of unemployment and poverty. Unemployment officially was 23.8% in 2004, but unofficial estimates place it closer to 40%. HIV/AIDS infection rates are the second highest in the world and threaten Botswana's impressive economic gains. An expected leveling off in diamond mining production overshadows long-term prospects.

**GDP (purchasing power parity):**

\$18.72 billion (2006 est.)

<b>GDP (official exchange rate):</b>	\$9.697 billion (2006 est.)
<b>GDP - real growth rate:</b>	4.7% (2006 est.)
<b>GDP - per capita (PPP):</b>	\$11,400 (2006 est.)
<b>GDP - composition by sector:</b>	<i>agriculture: 2.4%</i> <i>industry: 46.9% (including 36% mining)</i> <i>services: 50.7% (2003 est.)</i>
<b>Labor force:</b>	288,400 formal sector employees (2004)
<b>Labor force - by occupation:</b>	<i>agriculture: NA%</i> <i>industry: NA%</i> <i>services: NA%</i>
<b>Unemployment rate:</b>	23.8% (2004)
<b>Population below poverty line:</b>	30.3% (2003)
<b>Household income or consumption by percentage share:</b>	<i>lowest 10%: NA%</i> <i>highest 10%: NA%</i>
<b>Distribution of family income - Gini index:</b>	63 (1993)
<b>Inflation rate (consumer prices):</b>	11.4% (2006 est.)
<b>Investment (gross fixed):</b>	21.8% of GDP (2006 est.)
<b>Budget:</b>	<i>revenues: \$4.256 billion</i> <i>expenditures: \$3.968 billion; including capital expenditures of \$NA (2006 est.)</i>
<b>Public debt:</b>	7.1% of GDP (2006 est.)
<b>Agriculture - products:</b>	livestock, sorghum, maize, millet, beans, sunflowers, groundnuts
<b>Industries:</b>	diamonds, copper, nickel, salt, soda ash, potash; livestock processing; textiles
<b>Industrial production</b>	6.3% (2006 est.)

**growth rate:**

**Electricity - production:** 823 million kWh (2004)

**Electricity - production by source:** *fossil fuel:* 100%  
*hydro:* 0%  
*nuclear:* 0%  
*other:* 0% (2001)

**Electricity - consumption:** 2.464 billion kWh (2004)

**Electricity - exports:** 0 kWh (2004)

**Electricity - imports:** 1.699 billion kWh (2004)

**Oil - production:** 0 bbl/day (2004)

**Oil - consumption:** 11,500 bbl/day (2004 est.)

**Oil - exports:** NA bbl/day (2001)

**Oil - imports:** 16,000 bbl/day (2001)

**Natural gas - production:** 0 cu m (2004 est.)

**Natural gas - consumption:** 0 cu m (2004 est.)

**Current account balance:** \$1.698 billion (2006 est.)

**Exports:** \$4.836 billion f.o.b. (2006 est.)

**Exports - commodities:** diamonds, copper, nickel, soda ash, meat, textiles

**Exports - partners:** European Free Trade Association (EFTA) 87%, Southern African Customs Union (SACU) 7%, Zimbabwe 4% (2004)

**Imports:** \$3.034 billion f.o.b. (2006 est.)

**Imports - commodities:** foodstuffs, machinery, electrical goods, transport equipment, textiles, fuel and petroleum products, wood and paper products, metal and metal products

**Imports - partners:** Southern African Customs Union (SACU) 74%, EFTA 17%, Zimbabwe 4% (2004)

**Reserves of foreign exchange and** \$7.445 billion (2006 est.)

**gold:**

**Debt - external:** \$520 million (2006 est.)

**Economic aid - recipient:** \$73 million (1995)

**Currency (code):** pula (BWP)

**Currency code:** BWP

**Exchange rates:** pulas per US dollar - 5.90646 (2006), 5.1104 (2005), 4.6929 (2004), 4.9499 (2003), 6.3278 (2002)

**Fiscal year:** 1 April - 31 March

## Communications Botswana

**Telephones - main lines in use:** 132,000 (2005)

**Telephones - mobile cellular:** 823,100 (2005)

**Telephone system:** *general assessment:* the system is expanding with the growth of mobile cellular service and participation in regional development  
*domestic:* small system of open-wire lines, microwave radio relay links, and a few radiotelephone communication stations; mobile cellular service is growing fast  
*international:* country code - 267; two international exchanges; digital microwave radio relay links to Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and South Africa; satellite earth station - 1 Intelsat (Indian Ocean)

**Radio broadcast stations:** AM 8, FM 13, shortwave 4 (2001)

**Radios:** 252,720 (2000)

**Television broadcast stations:** 1 (2001)

**Televisions:** 31,000 (1997)

**Internet country code:** .bw

**Internet hosts:** 5,499 (2006)

**Internet Service Providers (ISPs):** 11 (2001)

**Internet users:** 60,000 (2002)

## Transportation Botswana

**Airports:** 85 (2006)

**Airports - with paved runways:** *total: 10*  
*2,438 to 3,047 m: 2*  
*1,524 to 2,437 m: 7*  
*914 to 1,523 m: 1 (2006)*

**Airports - with unpaved runways:** *total: 75*  
*1,524 to 2,437 m: 3*  
*914 to 1,523 m: 55*  
*under 914 m: 17 (2006)*

**Railways:** *total: 888 km*  
*narrow gauge: 888 km 1.067-m gauge (2005)*

**Roadways:** *total: 24,455 km*  
*paved: 8,914 km*  
*unpaved: 15,441 km (2004)*

## Military Botswana

**Military branches:** Botswana Defense Force (includes an air wing) (2006)

**Military service age and obligation:** 18 is the apparent age of voluntary military service; the official qualifications for determining minimum age are unknown (2001)

**Manpower available for military service:** *males age 18-49: 350,649*  
*females age 18-49: 361,642 (2005 est.)*

**Manpower fit for military service:** *males age 18-49: 136,322*  
*females age 18-49: 136,315 (2005 est.)*

**Manpower reaching military service age annually:** *males age 18-49: 21,103*  
*females age 18-49: 21,379 (2005 est.)*

**Military expenditures** \$325.5 million (2005 est.)

- dollar  
figure:

**Military expenditures** 3.4% (2005 est.)  
- percent of  
**GDP:**

<b>Transnational Issues</b>	<b>Botswana</b>
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**Disputes - international:** commission established with Namibia has yet to resolve small residual disputes along the Caprivi Strip, including the Situngu marshlands along the Linyanti River; downstream Botswana residents protest Namibia's planned construction of the Okavango hydroelectric dam at Popavalle (Popa Falls); Botswana has built electric fences to stem the thousands of Zimbabweans who flee to find work and escape political persecution; Namibia has long supported and in 2004 Zimbabwe dropped objections to plans between Botswana and Zambia to build a bridge over the Zambezi River, thereby de facto recognizing their short, but not clearly delimited Botswana-Zambia boundary