

Guinea



Introduction Guinea

Background: Guinea has had only two presidents since gaining its independence from France in 1958. Lansana CONTE came to power in 1984 when the military seized the government after the death of the first president, Sekou TOURE. Guinea did not hold democratic elections until 1993 when Gen. CONTE (head of the military government) was elected president of the civilian government. He was reelected in 1998 and again in 2003. Unrest in Sierra Leone and Liberia has spilled over into Guinea on several occasions over the past decade, threatening stability and creating humanitarian emergencies. In 2006, declining economic conditions prompted two massive strikes that sparked urban unrest in many Guinean cities.

Geography Guinea

Location: Western Africa, bordering the North Atlantic Ocean, between Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone

Geographic coordinates: 11 00 N, 10 00 W

Map references: Africa

Area: *total:* 245,857 sq km
land: 245,857 sq km
water: 0 sq km

Area - comparative: slightly smaller than Oregon

Land boundaries: *total:* 3,399 km
border countries: Cote d'Ivoire 610 km, Guinea-Bissau 386 km, Liberia 563 km, Mali 858 km, Senegal 330 km, Sierra Leone 652 km

Coastline: 320 km

Maritime claims: *territorial sea:* 12 nm
exclusive economic zone: 200 nm

Climate: generally hot and humid; monsoonal-type rainy season (June to November) with southwesterly winds; dry season (December to May) with northeasterly harmattan winds

Terrain: generally flat coastal plain, hilly to mountainous interior

Elevation extremes: *lowest point:* Atlantic Ocean 0 m
highest point: Mont Nimba 1,752 m

Natural resources: bauxite, iron ore, diamonds, gold, uranium, hydropower, fish, salt

Land use: *arable land:* 4.47%
permanent crops: 2.64%
other: 92.89% (2005)

Irrigated land: 950 sq km (2003)

Natural hazards: hot, dry, dusty harmattan haze may reduce visibility during dry season

Environment - current issues: deforestation; inadequate supplies of potable water; desertification; soil contamination and erosion; overfishing, overpopulation in forest region; poor mining practices have led to environmental damage

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: the Niger and its important tributary the Milo have their sources in the Guinean highlands

People	Guinea
---------------	---------------

Population:	9,690,222 (July 2006 est.)
Age structure:	<i>0-14 years:</i> 44.4% (male 2,171,733/female 2,128,027) <i>15-64 years:</i> 52.5% (male 2,541,140/female 2,542,847) <i>65 years and over:</i> 3.2% (male 134,239/female 172,236) (2006 est.)
Median age:	<i>total:</i> 17.7 years <i>male:</i> 17.4 years <i>female:</i> 17.9 years (2006 est.)
Population growth rate:	2.63% (2006 est.)
Birth rate:	41.76 births/1,000 population (2006 est.)
Death rate:	15.48 deaths/1,000 population (2006 est.)
Net migration rate:	0 migrant(s)/1,000 population <i>note:</i> as a result of conflict in neighboring countries, Guinea is host to approximately 141,500 refugees from Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, and Sierra Leone (2006 est.)
Sex ratio:	<i>at birth:</i> 1.03 male(s)/female <i>under 15 years:</i> 1.02 male(s)/female <i>15-64 years:</i> 1 male(s)/female <i>65 years and over:</i> 0.78 male(s)/female <i>total population:</i> 1 male(s)/female (2006 est.)
Infant mortality rate:	<i>total:</i> 90 deaths/1,000 live births <i>male:</i> 95.16 deaths/1,000 live births <i>female:</i> 84.69 deaths/1,000 live births (2006 est.)
Life expectancy at birth:	<i>total population:</i> 49.5 years <i>male:</i> 48.34 years <i>female:</i> 50.7 years (2006 est.)
Total fertility rate:	5.79 children born/woman (2006 est.)
HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:	3.2% (2003 est.)
HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:	140,000 (2003 est.)
HIV/AIDS - deaths:	9,000 (2003 est.)
Major infectious diseases:	<i>degree of risk:</i> very high <i>food or waterborne diseases:</i> bacterial and protozoal diarrhea, hepatitis A, and typhoid fever

vectorborne diseases: malaria and yellow fever are high risks in some locations
water contact disease: schistosomiasis
respiratory disease: meningococcal meningitis
aerosolized dust or soil contact disease: Lassa fever (2005)

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

Ethnic groups: Peuhl 40%, Malinke 30%, Soussou 20%, smaller ethnic groups 10%

Religions: Muslim 85%, Christian 8%, indigenous beliefs 7%

Languages: French (official); note - each ethnic group has its own language

Literacy: *definition:* age 15 and over can read and write
total population: 35.9%
male: 49.9%
female: 21.9% (1995 est.)

Government	Guinea
-------------------	---------------

Country name: *conventional long form:* Republic of Guinea
conventional short form: Guinea
local long form: Republique de Guinee
local short form: Guinee
former: French Guinea

Government type: republic

Capital: *name:* Conakry
geographic coordinates: 9 31 N, 13 43 W
time difference: UTC 0 (5 hours ahead of Washington, DC during Standard Time)

Administrative divisions: 33 prefectures and 1 special zone (zone special)*; Beyla, Boffa, Boke, Conakry*, Coyah, Dabola, Dalaba, Dinguiraye, Dubreka, Faranah, Forecariah, Fria, Gaoual, Gueckedou, Kankan, Kerouane, Kindia, Kissidougou, Koubia, Koundara, Kouroussa, Labe, Lelouma, Lola, Macenta, Mali, Mamou, Mandiana, Nzerekore, Pita, Siguiiri, Telimele, Tougue, Yomou

Independence: 2 October 1958 (from France)

National holiday: Independence Day, 2 October (1958)

Constitution: 23 December 1990 (Loi Fundamentale)

Legal system: based on French civil law system, customary law, and

decree; legal codes currently being revised; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction, with reservations

Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal

Executive branch: *chief of state:* President Lansana CONTE (head of military government since 5 April 1984, elected president 19 December 1993)
head of government: vacant; note - Prime Minister Cellou Dalein DIALLO was dismissed on 5 April 2006
cabinet: Council of Ministers appointed by the president
elections: president elected by popular vote for a seven-year term (no term limits); candidate must receive a majority of the votes cast to be elected president; election last held 21 December 2003 (next to be held December 2010); the prime minister is appointed by the president
election results: Lansana CONTE reelected president; percent of vote - Lansana CONTE (PUP) 95.3%, Mamadou Boye BARRY (UPR) 4.6%

Legislative branch: unicameral People's National Assembly or Assemblée Nationale Populaire (114 seats; members are elected by direct, popular vote to serve five-year terms)
elections: last held 30 June 2002 (next to be held in 2007)
election results: percent of vote by party - PUP 61.6%, UPR 26.6%, other 11.8%; seats by party - PUP 85, UPR 20, other 9

Judicial branch: Court of Appeal or Cour d'Appel

Political parties and leaders: Democratic Party of Guinea-African Democratic Rally or PDG-RDA [El Hadj Ismael Mohamed Gassim GUSHEIN]; Dyama; National Union for Progress or UPN [Mamadou Bhoie BARRY]; Party for Unity and Progress or PUP [Lansana CONTE] (the governing party); People's Party of Guinea or PPG [Charles Pascal TOLNO]; Rally for the Guinean People or RPG [Alpha CONDE]; Union of Democratic Forces of Guinea or UFDG [Mamadou BAH]; Union of Republican Forces or UFR [Sidya TOURE]; Union for Progress of Guinea or UPG [Jean-Marie DORE, secretary-general]; Union for Progress and Renewal or UPR [Ousmane BAH]

Political pressure groups and leaders: Labor Union of Guinean Workers - National Confederation of Guinean Workers or USTG-NCTG Alliance [Ibrahima FOFANA]; Student and teacher unions

International organization participation: ACCT, ACP, AfDB, AU, ECOWAS, FAO, G-77, IBRD, ICAO, ICCT, ICRM, IDA, IDB, IFAD, IFC, IFRC, ILO, IMF, IMO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO (correspondent), ITU, ITUC, MIGA, MINURSO, MONUC, NAM, OIC,

OIF, OPCW, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNMIS, UNOCI, UNWTO, UPU, WCL, WCO, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

Diplomatic representation in the US: *chief of mission:* Ambassador (vacant)
chancery: 2112 Leroy Place NW, Washington, DC 20008
telephone: [1] (202) 986-4300
FAX: [1] (202) 478-3800

Diplomatic representation from the US: *chief of mission:* Ambassador Jackson C. MCDONALD
embassy: Koloma, Conakry, east of Hamdallaye Circle
mailing address: B. P. 603, Transversale No. 2, Centre Administratif de Koloma, Commune de Ratoma, Conakry
telephone: [224] 30-42-08-61
FAX: [224] 30-42-08-73

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

Economy	Guinea
---------	--------

Economy - overview: Guinea possesses major mineral, hydropower, and agricultural resources, yet remains an underdeveloped nation. The country possesses almost half of the world's bauxite reserves and is the second-largest bauxite producer. The mining sector accounts for over 70% of exports. Long-run improvements in government fiscal arrangements, literacy, and the legal framework are needed if the country is to move out of poverty. Fighting along the Sierra Leonean and Liberian borders, as well as refugee movements, have caused major economic disruptions, aggravating a loss in investor confidence. Panic buying has created food shortages and inflation and caused riots in local markets. Guinea is trying to reengage with the IMF and World Bank, which cut off most assistance in 2003. Growth rose slightly in 2006, primarily due to increases in global demand and commodity prices on world markets, but the standard of living fell. The Guinea franc depreciated sharply as the prices for basic necessities like food and fuel rose beyond the reach of most Guineans. Dissatisfaction with economic conditions prompted nationwide strikes in February and June 2006.

GDP (purchasing power parity): \$19.4 billion (2006 est.)

GDP (official exchange rate): \$3.737 billion (2006 est.)

GDP - real growth rate: 2% (2006 est.)

GDP - per capita (PPP):	\$2,000 (2006 est.)
GDP - composition by sector:	<i>agriculture: 23.7%</i> <i>industry: 36.1%</i> <i>services: 40.2% (2006 est.)</i>
Labor force:	3 million (1999)
Labor force - by occupation:	<i>agriculture: 80%</i> <i>industry and services: 20% (2000 est.)</i>
Unemployment rate:	NA%
Population below poverty line:	40% (2003 est.)
Household income or consumption by percentage share:	<i>lowest 10%: 2.6%</i> <i>highest 10%: 32% (1994)</i>
Distribution of family income - Gini index:	40.3 (1994)
Inflation rate (consumer prices):	27% (2006 est.)
Investment (gross fixed):	17.6% of GDP (2006 est.)
Budget:	<i>revenues: \$288.2 million</i> <i>expenditures: \$556.7 million; including capital expenditures of \$NA (2006 est.)</i>
Agriculture - products:	rice, coffee, pineapples, palm kernels, cassava (tapioca), bananas, sweet potatoes; cattle, sheep, goats; timber
Industries:	bauxite, gold, diamonds; alumina refining; light manufacturing and agricultural processing industries
Industrial production growth rate:	NA
Electricity - production:	790 million kWh (2004)
Electricity - production by source:	<i>fossil fuel: 45.5%</i> <i>hydro: 54.5%</i> <i>nuclear: 0%</i> <i>other: 0% (2001)</i>

Electricity - consumption:	734.7 million kWh (2004)
Electricity - exports:	0 kWh (2004)
Electricity - imports:	0 kWh (2004)
Oil - production:	0 bbl/day (2004 est.)
Oil - consumption:	8,440 bbl/day (2004 est.)
Oil - exports:	NA bbl/day (2001)
Oil - imports:	NA bbl/day (2001)
Natural gas - production:	0 cu m (2004 est.)
Natural gas - consumption:	0 cu m (2004 est.)
Current account balance:	-\$344 million (2006 est.)
Exports:	\$615.1 million f.o.b. (2006 est.)
Exports - commodities:	bauxite, alumina, gold, diamonds, coffee, fish, agricultural products
Exports - partners:	Russia 14.6%, South Korea 11.3%, Spain 10.2%, Ukraine 7.9%, US 6.1%, Ireland 6%, France 5.7%, Germany 5%, Belgium 4.5% (2005)
Imports:	\$730 million f.o.b. (2006 est.)
Imports - commodities:	petroleum products, metals, machinery, transport equipment, textiles, grain and other foodstuffs
Imports - partners:	China 8.5%, US 7.3%, France 7.2%, Cote d'Ivoire 5.2%, Italy 4.7%, Belgium 4.1% (2005)
Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:	\$59.6 million (2006 est.)
Debt - external:	\$3.46 billion (2003 est.)
Economic aid - recipient:	\$237.5 million (2003)
Currency (code):	Guinean franc (GNF)

Currency code: GNF

Exchange rates: Guinean francs per US dollar - 5,555 (2006), 3,644.3 (2005), 2,225 (2004), 1,984.9 (2003), 1,975.8 (2002)

Fiscal year: calendar year

Communications Guinea

Telephones - main lines in use: 26,200 (2003)

Telephones - mobile cellular: 189,000 (2005)

Telephone system: *general assessment:* poor to fair system of open-wire lines, small radiotelephone communication stations, and new microwave radio relay system
domestic: microwave radio relay and radiotelephone communication
international: country code - 224; satellite earth station - 1 Intelsat (Atlantic Ocean)

Radio broadcast stations: AM 4 (one station is inactive), FM 1 (plus 7 repeaters), shortwave 3 (2001)

Radios: 357,000 (1997)

Television broadcast stations: 6 low-power stations (2001)

Televisions: 85,000 (1997)

Internet country code: .gn

Internet hosts: 367 (2006)

Internet Service Providers (ISPs): 4 (2001)

Internet users: 46,000 (2005)

Transportation Guinea

Airports: 16 (2006)

Airports - with paved runways: *total: 5*
over 3,047 m: 1
2,438 to 3,047 m: 1
1,524 to 2,437 m: 3 (2006)

Airports - with unpaved runways: *total: 11*
1,524 to 2,437 m: 6
914 to 1,523 m: 3
under 914 m: 2 (2006)

Railways: *total: 837 km*
standard gauge: 175 km 1.435-m gauge
narrow gauge: 662 km 1.000-m gauge (2005)

Roadways: *total: 44,348 km*
paved: 4,342 km
unpaved: 40,006 km (2003)

Waterways: 1,300 km (navigable by shallow-draft native craft) (2005)

Ports and terminals: Kamsar

Military	Guinea
Military branches:	Army, Navy, Air Force, Presidential Guard (2006)
Military service age and obligation:	18 years of age for compulsory military service; conscript service obligation - 24 months (2004)
Manpower available for military service:	<i>males age 18-49: 1,852,534</i> <i>females age 18-49: 1,827,560 (2005 est.)</i>
Manpower fit for military service:	<i>males age 18-49: 1,034,006</i> <i>females age 18-49: 1,032,885 (2005 est.)</i>
Military expenditures - dollar figure:	\$119.7 million (2005 est.)
Military expenditures - percent of GDP:	2.9% (2005 est.)

Transnational Issues	Guinea
Disputes - international:	conflicts among rebel groups, warlords, and youth gangs in neighboring states have spilled over into Guinea, resulting in

domestic instability; Sierra Leone has pressured Guinea to remove its forces from the town of Yenga, occupied since 1998

Refugees and internally displaced persons: *refugees (country of origin):* 54,810 (Liberia), 5,423 (Sierra Leone), 3,900 (Cote d'Ivoire)
IDPs: 19,000 (cross-border incursions from Liberia, Sierra Leone, Cote d'Ivoire) (2006)