



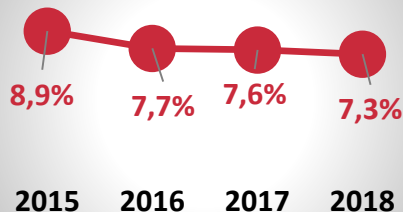
COUNTRYFACTSHEET-IVORY COAST



Ivory Coast is Africa's fastest-growing economy and the third largest economy in West Africa after Nigeria and Ghana. The fast pace of growth is due to a strong macroeconomic environment, a solid position in international markets and a large amount of significant natural resources. Following the end of more than a decade of civil conflict in 2011, Ivory Coast has experienced a boom in foreign investment and economic growth. For the last 5 years, Ivory coast's growth rate has been among the highest in the world.

KEY FACTS

- **Population:** 23,6 million
- **Demographic growth:** 2,5%
- **GDP per capita:** \$1526
- **Life Expectancy:** 53 years
- **Literacy Rate:** 43,1%
- **Inflation:** 1%
- **Human development index (HDI) (over 188 countries) :** 171st
- **FDI (Net Inflows):** \$ 481 Millions
- **Current accounts:**
- -0,6%
- **Primary export:** Cocoa
- **Last elections:** 2016
- **GDP Growth (%) :**



* Source : World Bank data 2016

INVESTMENT INCENTIVES

Certain tax incentives are available to qualifying enterprises in Ivory Coast:

TAX INCENTIVES KEY NUMBERS

Enterprises may apply for a reduction in the tax on industrial and commercial profits. For the reduction to be granted, the amount invested in Ivory Coast should be at least **XOF10 million** for an **investment period not exceeding three years.**

Plant, machinery and equipment that are used exclusively in manufacturing, agriculture, transportation or storage and that have an expected life of more than five years may be granted capital allowances at up to twice the normal rates.

Tax incentives are granted under the mining code and the petroleum code for enterprises involved in mining and petroleum activities. These codes provide exemptions from VAT and additional tax on imports and purchases to companies involved

in the production of oil, gas or minerals.

ATTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

The economy of Ivory Coast is dominated by agriculture; especially cocoa beans, the country's largest export. Mining gold and exporting electricity are also growing industries.

TOP 5 COMPANIES :

Air Liquide CI, Alios Finance CI
Bernabe CI, BICI CI, CFAO Motors

WORK PERMIT

A visa is required to work in Ivory Coast and is valid for a maximum of three months. An extension is required to stay longer.

DOCUMENTS FOR VISA : A letter from the employing company (stating a specific mission for the employee), and a confirmation of itinerary from a travel agent must be provided. Natives of an Economic Community of West African States (**ECOWAS**) member state do not need a visa to work in the country.



INTEREST AND CURRENCY EXCHANGE

Benchmark Interest Rate

Bank rate 4,5% (2018)
(source : Banque Centrale d'Afrique de l'Ouest)

Currency: The Ivory Coast currency is the Communauté Financière Africaine Franc (XOF)

This is the currency currently used by eight independent states in West Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coats, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo.

ZAR1 = XOF 44,21 (FEB 2018) source: Oanda

USD1= XOF 535,067 (FEB 2018) source: Oanda

EUR1 = XOF 655,957(Fixed Rate) source: Oanda

CORPORATE TAXES

Corporate Tax

The standard corporate tax rate is 25%. Companies are also subject to the minimum lump-sum tax (even if it is a loss making company).

Capital Gains Tax

Capital gains are not taxed separately as such but are included in ordinary income and subject to corporate income tax. Capital gains arising from the disposal of fixed assets and shares are normally included in taxable income. Rollover relief for gains is granted where the taxpayer invests a sum equal to the amount of the gain in the acquisition of a similar asset within 3 years of the sale. For shares, the relief applies only to significant long-term holdings.

Anti-avoidance

There is no specific transfer pricing rules but there is an anti-avoidance notion based on the principle of abuse of law (abus de droit). There is no specific thin capitalization rule. However, interest paid by a company to its shareholders is deductible only where the following conditions are met: the loan is to be reimbursed within 5 years and the company is not under a liquidation procedure during the same period; and the interest rate does not exceed the Central Bank interest rate by more than 3 percentage points.

Value-Added Tax (VAT)

Value added tax (VAT) is levied on transactions carried out in Ivory Coast by individuals or companies who, either regularly or occasionally, purchase goods for resale or render services, other than as employees or farming workers. VAT is levied only in respect of business activities that are carried on Ivory Coast territory at a standard rate of **18%**. Different rates apply to milk, petroleum products or tobacco. Certain specified supplies are exempt from tax.

Customs Duties

As a member state of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), Ivory Coast applies the customs rates specified in the community regulations. New rates came in force in 2015 related to the Common External Tariff (TEC). Customs duties are levied on the customs value of most imported goods at rates of 0%, 5%, 10%, 20% and 35%, depending on their classification.

Stamp Duty

Stamp duty is 2.5% of the secured amount (i.e. the value of the asset or the amount of the debt provided by the lender), without a cap. There is also a fixed XOF500 stamp duty per page of the security documents.

Real Property Tax

Property taxes are charged on the actual or potential Rental income of landlords (at 4%) and on their ownership interests (at 11%). Property owned and used by the same legal entity is subject to an ownership charge based on 15% of the market rental value. The charge is reduced for unoccupied or undeveloped property.

Transfer Tax

A stamp duty of XOF18 000 is charged on the transfer of shares. A transfer tax of 6% is applicable to real property. Business transfers also are charged at 10%. Registration fees may apply.

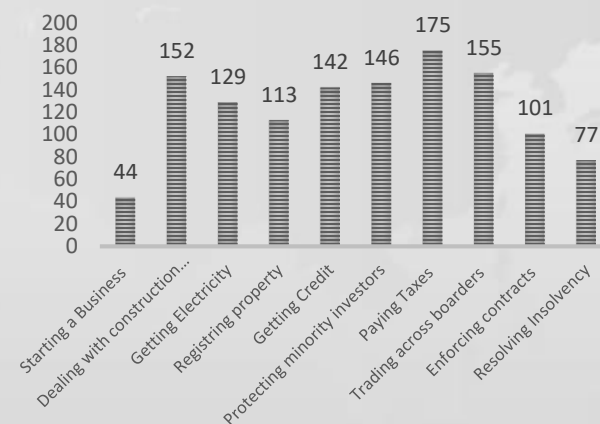
Starting a Business – Rank 44 out of 189

The Investment Promotion Centre in Côte d'Ivoire (CEPICI) was created to facilitate and simplify the process of starting a business in Ivory Coast. The institution's main goal is to assure that administrative formalities of creating a business are dealt with effectively. They also aim to reduce the cost of time of said procedures; as a result, starting a business may take as little as **two to three days**.

Steps To start a Business :

Procedure	Time to complete	Associated Costs
A notary drafts the company's statutes and certifies the paid-in capital	2 days	XOF 120,000
Open a bank account and deposit the minimum capital at the bank	1 day	No charge
Register at the one-stop shop (CEPICI) and publish the legal notice of company incorporation	3 days	XOF 15,000
Obtain a company seal	1 day	Aprx XOF 10,000

DOING BUSINESS 2018



USEFUL LINKS / SOURCES :

- <http://www.cepici.gouv.ci/en/>
- <https://www.bcea0.int/>
- <https://www.cciad.sn/>
- <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/iv.html>
- <https://data.worldbank.org/country/cote-divoire>
- https://www2.deloitte.com/content/dam/Deloitte/za/Documents/tax/za_Key_Fiscal_Brochure_2017.pdf
- <https://assets.kpmg.com/content/dam/kpmg/pdf/2016/05/Ivory-Coast-Fiscal-Guide-2015-2016.pdf>
- <http://www.brvm.org/fr/rapports-societes-cotees>
- <http://www.doingbusiness.org/data/exploreconomies/c%C3%B4te-divoire#starting-a-business>
- <http://www.gouv.ci/Main.php>