

Country Factsheet : GABON

Undergoing a transition since 2009, the Gabonese economy enjoyed a strong growth of 5% on average over the period 2010-2016. The country is committed to a dynamic of diversification, intended to revitalize its economy and gradually reduce its historical reliance on the exploitation of oil.

Gabon is the fifth largest oil producer in Africa - on average, over the past five years, the oil sector has accounted for 80% of exports, 45% of GDP, and 60% of fiscal revenue.

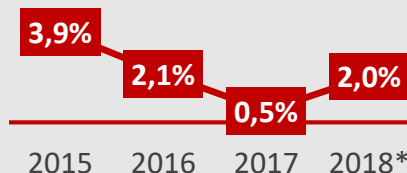


GABON



KEY FACTS

- **Population: 2,025 M** (2017)
- **Demographic growth: 2,25%**
- **Current GDP : US\$ 14,93B** (2017)
- **GDP per capita: US\$ 7373** (2017)
- **Life Expectancy: 66 years**
- **Literacy Rate: 82,3%**
- **Inflation: 2,88%**
- **Human development index (over 190 countries) : 110th**
- **FDI (Net Inflows): US\$1,5 B**(2017)
- **Current accounts: -4,7%** (2017)
- **Primary export: Crude Petroleum (\$2,49B)**
- **Last elections: 2016**
- **GDP Growth (%) :**



* Source : World Bank data, IMF and Reuters Eikon

ATTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

Wood, Agriculture, Fisheries, Mining, Hydrocarbons, Construction, Digital and Tourism.

LEADING COMPANIES :

1. Gabon Telecom
 2. Société Nationale pétrolière Gabonaise
 3. Sky Gabon
 4. Air Service Gabon
4. Pay the company registration fees and obtain a receipt (1 day)
 5. Publish the notice of company incorporation in a legal journal (2 days, XAF 60,000)
 6. Register the company with the Tax Authorities to obtain a Tax ID (NIF) (5 days, no charge)
 7. Register the employees with the Social Security Authorities (1 day, no charge)
 8. Submit an employment declaration to the Labor Inspectorate (1 day, no charge)

DOING BUSINESS 2018

Steps to start a Business

1. Deposit the legally required capital in a bank and obtain the deposit evidence (2 days, no charge)
2. Verify and reserve the company name (1 day, XAF 35,000)
3. Register the company with the National Investment Promotion Agency (ANPI-Gabon) (25 days, XAF 50,000 (ANPI-Gabon fees) + XAF 60,000 (registration fees) + XAF 80,000 (stamps)

WORK PERMIT

There are three stages to the work/residence permit application:

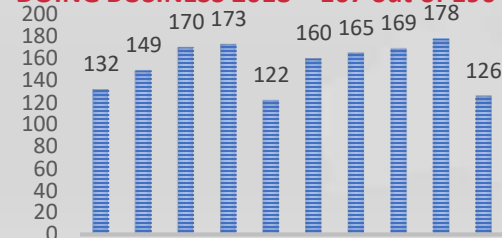
1. An application for a work authorisation application must be sent to the Gabonese Ministry of Labour and Employment before entering the country. This process takes approximately one month and costs XAF 250 000
2. Entry authorisation application – the applicant must then apply to the DGDI to obtain “entry authorisation”



This process takes approximately 10 business days and costs XAF 45 000

3. Residence permit application – If the applicant is planning to stay in Gabon for a period that exceeds 90 days, a residence permit also is required. Applications must be sent to the DGDI. This process takes two weeks.

DOING BUSINESS 2018 – 167 out of 190



Starting a Business
Dealing with construction...
Getting Electricity
Registering property
Getting Credit
Protecting minority...
Paying Taxes
Trading across borders
Enforcing contracts
Resolving Insolvency

CORPORATE TAXES

Corporate Income Tax

The standard corporate income tax rate is 30%. Oil and mining companies are subject to tax at a rate of 35%.

A reduced corporate tax rate of 25% applies to a *limited number of companies*¹.

Withholding Tax (WHT)

Dividends paid to resident and nonresident individuals and legal entities are subject to a 20% withholding tax.

Interest – Interest paid by a Gabonese company to a non-resident entity is subject to a 20% WHT calculated on the gross amount paid (excluding tax on turnover).

Royalties – Royalties paid by a Gabonese company to a non-resident entity, as well as commissions, consultancy fees and fees for services performed in Gabon, are subject to a WHT of 20%.

Value Added Tax

Standard VAT rate is 18%. A reduced rate of 10% applies to some goods, including mineral water produced in Gabon. A rate of 0% applies to qualifying exports that have been properly declared to customs and international carriages.

INVESTMENT INCENTIVES

- Benefits for companies engaged in the wood industry include a **five-year period of exemption from corporate income tax**.

- Enterprises operating a hotel business in the tourism sector that make a new minimum investment of XAF 300 million (taxes excluded) are **exempt from corporate income tax during their first three years of business activity**.

- For businesses in the tourism sector in Gabon that make investments below XAF 300 million, corporate income tax is reduced by a tax credit equal to **50% of the amount of the investment** (taxes excluded) during a five-year period.

- Enterprises operating in the tourism sector are **exempt from income tax during their first five years of business activity** following the end of the construction period of the project.

- Newly incorporated companies are exempt from the minimum corporate tax during their first two tax years, irrespective of their sector of activity.

INTERESTS AND CURRENCY EXCHANGE

Monetary Policy rate

Interest rate: 2, 95%

USD1=XAF 572,686

EUR 1= XAF 655,957

Source : Banque d'Etats de l'Afrique Centrale, 2018

USEFUL LINKS / SOURCES :

[ANPI GABON- Agence nationale de promotion des investissements du Gabon](#)
[Gabon Special Economic Zone](#)
[Central Intelligence Agency- Gabon Factbook](#)
[Doing Business 2018- Gabon](#)
[Deloitte Guide to fiscal information 2018](#)
[EY Worldwide corporate Tax Guide](#)
[The World Bank Data](#)
[World Investment Report](#)

¹ Companies owning intellectual property (IP) shares, the Gabonese Development Bank, authorized companies of property promotions, public companies, non-profit partnerships and collectives, authorized companies of the tourism sector.