



The information contained in this sheet has been compiled by [Jaume Portell](#), a journalist specialized in economics and international relations, in an activity 85% co-financed by ERDF funds in the framework of the [AfricanTech](#) project (1/MAC/1/1.3/0088) within the INTERREG VI D MAC 2021-2027 initiative.

BENIN

Macroeconomic framework:

In 2022, the GDP had a 6,3% growth and will maintain that level of growth above 6% until 2025, according to the African Economic Outlook 2024. This report identifies the production of beverages and telecommunications as the two big boosters of Benin's economic growth. It also points to the need to support the industrial sector to 'consolidate the country's economic resilience'. In 2022, the GDP of the country was 17,4 billion.

Debt and currency:

In 2012, Benin's annual debt service was less than 60 million; by 2025, it will surpass 1 billion. This country is one of the few African countries that have been able to sell Eurobonds in international markets in 2024: the most recent one will exceed 8% annual interest, with a deadline in 2032. Those who have Eurobonds have 23% of Benin's debt. Nevertheless, most of their creditors are multilateral, with the World Bank (24%) and the IMF (11%) playing a prominent role. Benin is one of the fourteen African countries that use the CFA Franc. This currency has a fixed parity (655 CFA francs) with the euro.

Imports and exports:

According to the MIT Complexity Index, Benin's imports in 2023 (\$5.5 billion) exceeded the exports (1930 million). More than half of the products that Benin sells to international markets are linked to gold and cotton, which allows an increase in revenue, but it requires an investment in infrastructure and higher energy and electricity consumption. Most of its exports go to Asia, especially to countries that produce garments like India and Bangladesh, which process Benin's cotton. The United Arab Emirates is the destination for gold, which represents almost 50% of exports. In the imports area, more than 13% is destined for buying rice, making

Benin one of the most vulnerable countries to the rising price of rice in international markets. Most of the rice comes from India. Other highly demanded products are gasoline, palm oil, fertilizers, and cars. China represents 21% of all of Benin's imports.

Energy and electricity:

Benin's energy mix is based mainly on biofuels (60% of the total) and petroleum (35%), which are used to supply the residential sector and transport. According to the International Energy Agency, the energy supply of the country was 200,000 TJ in 2021, less than half of Spain's wind and solar energy supply, which exceeded 420,000 TJ.

In 2023, Benin generated 1 TWh, a number that is five times what it produced in 2018, but that still places it as one of the countries with the lowest electricity generation on the continent. 70% of the electricity generation is from gas, with the rest coming from other fossil fuels, and only 0.03 TWh from solar.

Defence:

In 2023, the annual defence spending was \$130,5 million, according to SIPRI, a Swedish institute specialised in trade with this type of product. This number represents 3.75% of the government spending. Benin's main supplier since 2020 has been France.

Demographics:

Benin has undergone an urbanisation process since 1990. Back then, the population in the rural areas represented 66% of the Beninese; today, they are only 50%. Half of the country now lives in urban areas, where people expect to find more job opportunities. Between 1990 and 2022, Benin grew from 5.1 million to 13.7 million inhabitants. Life expectancy has increased, from 53 years in 1990 to 60 years nowadays. Half of the population is less than 17 years old.

Technological innovation:

The percentage of the population that uses the internet in Benin is eleven times higher than in 2010: 3% more than a decade ago, to 33.75% today. In this way, Benin is in line with the African average. Most of the Beninese are connected through their mobile phone, given the fact that more than 50% of the population has one, according to the 2023 ICT Development Index.