

Centre of Sierra Leone Studies – The economy of Sierra Leone – Part 1

This section of the CSLS data base will contain some duplication. It has been composed to allow readers to gain an accurate and comprehensive range of materials of the economy of Sierra Leone – in the past, the present and the future.

The economy of Sierra Leone is that of a least developed country.

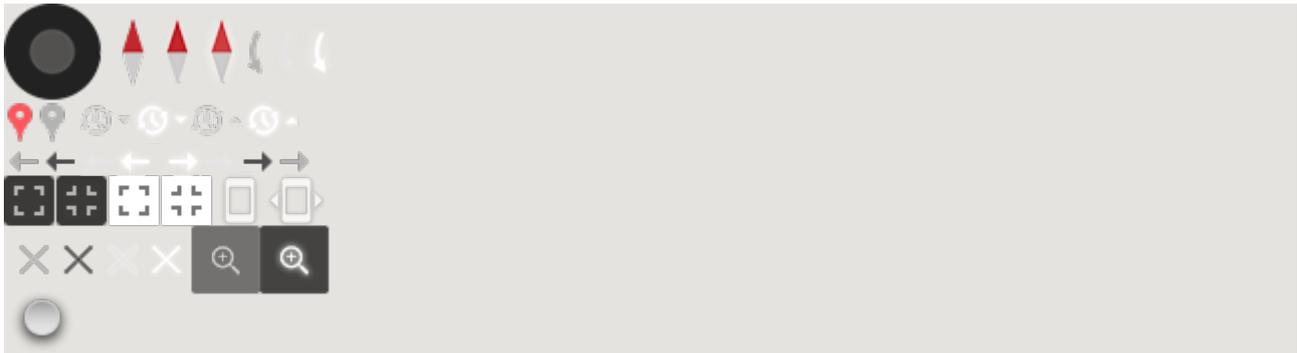
Sierra Leone's economic development has always been hampered by an overdependence on mineral exploitation. Successive governments and the population as a whole have always believed that "diamonds and gold" are sufficient generators of foreign currency earnings and lure for investment.

As a result, large scale agriculture of commodity products, industrial development and sustainable investments have been neglected by governments. The economy could thus be described as one which is "exploitative" - a rentier state - and based upon the extraction of unsustainable resources or non-reusable assets.

Two-thirds of the population of Sierra Leone are directly involved in subsistence agriculture. Agriculture accounts for nearly 60% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

The Heritage Scores

OVERALL SCORE **52.3**



- Population:
 - 6.2 million
- GDP (PPP):
 - \$12.6 billion
 - 6.0% growth

- 10.5% 5-year compound annual growth
- \$2,027 per capita
- Unemployment:
 - 3.3%
- Inflation (CPI):
 - 8.3%
- FDI Inflow:
 - \$439.9 million

Sierra Leone's economic and political institutions remain fragile and provide little support for long-term economic development. Recent reforms have been targeted at openness to international trade and stronger enforcement of contracts. The country continues to face the daunting challenge of enhancing integrity in the management of its natural resources.

Economic Freedom Snapshot

- 2016 Economic Freedom Score: 52.3 (up 0.6 point)
- Economic Freedom Status: Mostly Unfree
- Global Ranking: 142nd
- Regional Ranking: 33rd in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Notable Successes: Trade Freedom
- Concerns: Rule of Law, Regulatory Efficiency, and Management of Public Finance
- Overall Score Change Since 2012: +3.2

Mismanagement of public spending remains a serious problem and ultimately hurts implementation of needed structural and institutional reforms. Protection of property rights is weak, and the judicial system lacks both independence and transparency. Legal proceedings are vulnerable to political interference and commonly subject to pervasive corruption.



Opposition candidate Ernest Bai Koroma, elected president in 2007 in Sierra Leone's first peaceful transition of power since independence from Britain in 1961, was reelected in 2012. Despite some institutional progress since the end of the country's decade-long civil war in 2002, living standards remain very low. Sierra Leone ranks 183rd out of 187 countries on the U.N.'s 2014 Human Development Index, and basic infrastructure is lacking throughout the country. Mining is the primary industry, and mineral exports generate most foreign exchange. Gem-quality diamonds account for nearly half of exports and for high rates of economic growth. In 2014, West Africa's Ebola epidemic spread to Sierra Leone, killing nearly 4,000 people as of September 2015 and badly damaging the economy.

Corruption remains pervasive, and steps taken in 2015 by President Koroma to consolidate his power are not likely to improve the rule of law. The government's anti-corruption commission has been criticized repeatedly for its poor prosecutorial record, especially in trials involving the president's friends, family, and political allies. There is no land titling system, and judicial corruption is significant. Traditional tribal justice prevails in rural areas.

The top individual income and corporate tax rates are 30 percent. Other taxes include a goods and services tax and an interest tax. The overall tax burden equals 8.8 percent of total domestic income. Government spending amounts to 15.7 percent of GDP, and the budget balance continues to be negative. Public debt equals about 40 percent of annual domestic output.

Launching a company takes less than 30 days, but completing licensing requirements is time-consuming. An increase in the minimum wage has exceeded labor productivity growth in the formal sector. The IMF has urged the government to take advantage of lower oil prices and cut subsidies, particularly since so many public funds had to be redirected to respond to the Ebola outbreak.

Sierra Leone's average tariff rate is 10.3 percent. Foreign investors may not own land, but government policies otherwise do not generally discriminate against foreign investment. The government does not screen foreign investment, but long-term investment remains discouraged by the inadequate rule of law. The state controls the majority of bank assets, and much of the population operates outside of the formal banking sector.

<http://www.heritage.org/index/country/sierraleone>

The World Bank

Macroeconomic Context

Sierra Leone's economy proved resilient in the face of two major exogenous shocks: the Ebola epidemic and collapse of iron ore prices and associated loss of production in 2014-2015. Since the last quarter of 2015, economic growth has resumed, and it remains on an upward trend, supported by new investments in mining, agriculture and fisheries. The recovery underway, according to International Monetary Fund projections, is expected to remain sustainable over the medium term.

Real Gross Domestic Growth (GDP) is projected to recover from -21.1% in 2015 to 4.3% in 2016.

However, Consumer Price Inflation continues to rise on account of exchange rate pass-through and accommodative monetary stance. Rising from a base of 9.5% (year-on-year) in December 2015, inflation has reached 10.9% in July

2016. Exchange rate pressures remain unabated. The local currency (the Leone) depreciated by 20.4 percent (year-on-year) in June 2016.

The overall fiscal balance (excluding grants) is projected to recover slightly from -9.6% of non-iron ore GDP in 2015 to -8.1% in 2016. Total domestic revenue collection amounted to Le1.32 trillion, slightly above the program target of Le1.31 trillion for end-June.

The medium-term outlook is expected to improve given that the twin shocks have now largely dissipated. Under the baseline scenario, the IMF projects the medium-term growth to gradually pick up to around 6.5% by 2020 from 4.3% in 2016. Inflation is projected to decline to 7.5% by 2020 from the current level in 2016.

Political Context

Sierra Leone conducted its third democratic elections in 2012 since the end of the 11 years civil war in 2002 that claimed the lives of over 50,000 Sierra Leoneans. The current President, Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma, is serving his second and final term, which ends in 2017. ; Elections for president, government and Parliament will be held in early 2018...

The 1991 Constitution is being reviewed and a draft is expected to be presented to the President by the Constitutional Review Committee (CRC) in the second week of October. A referendum to vote on the new Constitution follows in 2017. A national population and housing census was conducted in 2015 and provisional results released early this year by Statistics Sierra Leone.

Development Challenges

Until the outbreak of Ebola in May 2014, Sierra Leone was seeking to become a transformed nation with middle-income status, but the country still carries its post-conflict attributes of high youth unemployment, corruption and weak national cohesion. The country continues to face the daunting challenge of enhancing transparency in managing its natural resources and fiscal policy. Problems of poor infrastructure and widespread rural and urban impoverishment still persist in spite of remarkable strides and reforms.

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/sierraleone/overview>

The basics

Land

Sierra Leone's 350-mi (560-km) Atlantic coastline is made up of a belt (average width 30 mi/50 km) of low-lying mangrove swamps, except for the mountainous Sierra Leone Peninsula (on which Freetown is situated). The coastline is broken by numerous estuaries and has some wide, sandy beaches. Behind the coastal belt is a wooded plateau (average elevation: 1,000 ft/300 m). The eastern half of the country is mostly mountainous and includes Bintimane Peak, Sierra Leone's loftiest point (6,390 ft/1,948 m), located near the Guinea border. Several rivers, including the Great Scarcies (which makes up a section of the boundary with Guinea) and the Mano (which forms part of the border with Liberia), flow through the country to the Atlantic. The headwaters of the Niger River are situated in the mountains of the northeast. In addition to the capital, other cities include Bo, Kenema, and Makeni.

People

The two main ethnic groups are the Mende, who speak a Mande language and live in the central and southern parts of the country, and the Temne, who speak a W Atlantic language and live in the north. There are also Creoles or Krios, descendants of freed slaves from North America, the West Indies, and other parts of W Africa. The population also contains small numbers of South Asians and Lebanese, who play a major role in the nation's commerce. English is the country's official language and Krio, a mixture of several African languages and English, is the lingua franca. About 60% of the population is Muslim, 30% follows traditional religious beliefs, and 10% is Christian.

Economy

Sierra Leone's economy is predominantly agricultural, with about half of its workers engaged in subsistence farming. The principal food crops are rice, cassava, corn, millet, and peanuts. The leading cash crops, most of which are exported, are coffee, cocoa, palm kernels, and palm oil. Poultry, cattle, sheep, pigs, and goats are raised. The fishing industry is also important.

The country has an important mining industry, which is largely controlled by foreign companies. The main minerals extracted are diamonds (the country's major source of hard currency), iron ore, gold, bauxite, and rutile (titanium ore). However, the mining industry, like other areas of the economy, was severely affected by civil strife. Since 2009 a number of offshore oil discoveries have been made. The country's few manufactures include refined petroleum and basic consumer goods. There is commercial ship repairing. Sierra Leone has limited rail and highway networks, which mostly serve the central and western parts of the country. Freetown has excellent port facilities; smaller ports are located at Bonthe (on Sherbro Island) and Pepel (near Freetown).

The cost of Sierra Leone's imports is considerably higher than its earnings from exports. The principal imports are foodstuffs, machinery, transportation equipment, fuels, and chemicals; the chief exports are diamonds and other minerals, cocoa, coffee, and fish. Diamond smuggling has been a problem since the 1960s, and during the civil war much of the diamond-mining area fell into the hands of rebel groups. Sierra Leone's leading trade partners are Belgium, Germany, the United States, and Côte d'Ivoire.

Government

Sierra Leone is governed under the constitution of 1991 as amended. The executive branch is headed by the president, who is both head of state and head of government. The president is popularly elected for a five-year term and may serve for two terms. The unicameral Parliament has 124 members; 112 are popularly elected and 12 are paramount chiefs who are chosen in separate elections. All members serve five-year terms. Administratively, Sierra Leone is divided into 3 provinces and one area.

History

Early History

The Temne were living along the northern coast of present-day Sierra Leone when the first Portuguese navigators reached the region in 1460. The Portuguese landed on the Sierra Leone Peninsula, naming it Serra Lyoa [lion mountains] after the mountains located there. Beginning c.1500, European traders stopped regularly on the peninsula, exchanging cloth and metal goods for ivory, timber, and small numbers of slaves. Beginning in the mid-16th cent. Mande-speaking people migrated into Sierra Leone from present-day Liberia, and they eventually established the states of Bullom, Loko, Boure, and Sherbro. In the early 17th cent. British traders became increasingly active along the Sierra Leone coast. In the early 18th cent. Fulani and Mande-speaking persons from the Fouta Djallon region of present-day Guinea converted numerous Temne of N Sierra Leone to Islam. Sierra Leone was a minor source of slaves for the transatlantic slave trade during the 17th and 18th cent.

Following the American Revolutionary War (1775–83) attempts were made to resettle freed slaves who had sided with Great Britain in Africa. In 1787, 400 persons (including 330 blacks and 70 white prostitutes) arrived at the Sierra Leone Peninsula, bought land from local Temne leaders, and established the Province of Freedom near present-day Freetown. The settlement did not fare well, and most of the inhabitants died of disease in the first year. A renewed attempt at settlement was made in 1792, when about 1,100 freed slaves under the leadership of the abolitionist Thomas Clarkson landed on the peninsula and founded Freetown. They were joined by about 500 free blacks from

Jamaica in 1800. The new colony was controlled by the Sierra Leone Company, which forcefully held off the Temne while the settlers supported themselves by farming.

In 1807, Great Britain outlawed the slave trade, and in early 1808 the British government took over Freetown from the financially troubled company, using it as a naval base for antislavery patrols. Between 1808 and 1864 approximately 50,000 liberated slaves settled at Freetown. Protestant missionaries were active there, and in 1827 they founded Fourah Bay College (now part of the Univ. of Sierra Leone), where Africans were educated. Most of the freedmen and their descendants, known as Creoles or Krios, were Christians. They became active as missionaries, traders, and civil servants along the Sierra Leone coast and on Sherbro Island as well as in other regions of coastal W Africa, especially among the Yoruba of present-day SW Nigeria.

The Colonial Era

During the periods 1821 to 1827, 1843 to 1850, and 1866 to 1874, British holdings on the Gold Coast (present-day Ghana) were placed under the governor of Sierra Leone. In 1863 an advisory legislative council was established in Sierra Leone. The British were reluctant to assume added responsibility by increasing the size of the colony, but in 1896 the interior was proclaimed a British protectorate, mainly in order to forestall French ambitions in the region, and the Colony and Protectorate of Sierra Leone was established.

The protectorate was ruled "indirectly" (i.e., through the rulers of the numerous small states, rather than by creating an entirely new administrative structure) and a hut tax was imposed in 1898 to pay for administrative costs. The Africans protested the tax in a war (1898) led in the north by Bai Bureh and in the south by the Poro secret society; the British quickly emerged victorious and there were no further major armed protests. Under the British, little economic development was undertaken in the protectorate until the 1950s, although a railroad was built and the production for export of palm products and peanuts was encouraged.

After World War II, Africans were given more political responsibility, and educational opportunities were enlarged. In the economic sphere, mining (especially of diamonds and iron ore) increased greatly. The Creoles of the colony, who had been largely excluded from higher government posts in favour of the British, sought a larger voice in the affairs of Sierra Leone. A constitution adopted in 1951 gave additional power to Africans. However, the Creoles were a small minority in the combined colony and protectorate, and in the elections of 1951 the protectorate-based Sierra Leone Peoples party (SLPP), led by Dr. Milton [Margai](#) (a Mende), and emerged victorious.

An Independent Nation

On Apr. 27, 1961, Sierra Leone became independent, with Margai as prime minister. He died in 1964 and was succeeded by his brother, Albert M. Margai. Following the 1967 general elections, Siaka [Stevens](#) of the All Peoples Congress party (APC), a Temne-based party, was appointed prime minister by the governor-general (a Sierra Leonean who represented the British monarch). However, a military coup led by Brig. David Lansana in support of Margai ousted Stevens a few minutes after he took the oath of office.

The Lansana government itself was soon toppled and replaced by a National Reformation Council (NRC) headed by Col. Andrew Juxom-Smith. In 1968, an army revolt overthrew the NRC and returned the nation to parliamentary government, with Stevens as prime minister. The following years were marked by considerable unrest, caused by ethnic and army disaffection with the central government. After an attempted coup in 1971, parliament declared Sierra Leone to be a republic, with Stevens as president. Guinean troops requested by Stevens to support his government were in the country from 1971 to 1973. Stevens's APC swept the 1973 parliamentary elections, creating a de facto one-party state; a 1978 referendum made the APC the only legal party. Maj. Gen. Joseph Saidu Momoh succeeded Stevens as president in 1986.

In 1991 a referendum was passed, providing for a new constitution and multiparty democracy. However, in 1992, Momoh was overthrown in a military coup. Capt. Valentine Strasser soon became president, but he was ousted in Jan., 1996, and replaced by Brig. Gen. Julius Maada Bio. Promises of a return to civilian rule were fulfilled by Bio, who handed power over to Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, of the Sierra Leone People's party, after the conclusion of elections in early 1996. Kabbah's government reached a cease-fire in the war with the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), which had launched its first attacks in 1991; rebel terror attacks continued, however, aided by Liberia.

Kabbah was overthrown in May, 1997, by the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC), a military junta headed by Lt. Col. Johnny Paul Koroma. The junta soon invited the RUF to participate in a new government. The United Nations imposed sanctions against the military government in Oct., 1997, and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) sent in forces led by Nigeria. The rebels were subdued in Feb., 1998, and President Kabbah was returned to office in March.

Fighting continued, however, in many parts of the country, with reports of widespread atrocities. Over 6,000 people were killed in fighting in the Freetown area in Jan., 1999, alone. In March, Nigeria announced it would withdraw its forces by May. A peace accord was signed in July between President Kabbah and Foday Sankoh of the RUF. The agreement granted the rebels seats in a new government and all forces a general amnesty from prosecution. The government had largely ceased functioning effectively, however, and at least half of its territory remained under rebel control.

In October, the United Nations agreed to send peacekeepers to help restore order and disarm the rebels. The first of the 6,000-member force began arriving in December, and the Security Council voted in Feb., 2000, to increase the UN force to 11,000 (and subsequently to 13,000). In May, when nearly all Nigerian forces had left and UN forces were attempting to disarm the RUF in E Sierra Leone, Sankoh's forces clashed with the UN troops, and some 500 peacekeepers were taken hostage as the peace accord effectively collapsed.

An 800-member British force entered the country to secure W Freetown and evacuate Europeans; some also acted in support of the forces (including Koroma's AFRC group) fighting the RUF. After Sankoh was captured in Freetown, the hostages were gradually released by the RUF, but clashes between the UN forces and the RUF continued, and in July the West Side Boys (part of the AFRC) clashed with the peacekeepers. In the same month the UN Security Council placed a ban on the sale of rough diamonds from Sierra Leone in an attempt to undermine the funding of the RUF. In late August, Issa Sesay became head of the RUF; also, British troops training the Sierra Leone army were taken hostage by the West Side Boys, but were freed by a British raid in September.

General elections scheduled for early 2001 were postponed in Feb., 2001, due to the insecurity caused by the civil war. In May, 2001, sanctions were imposed on Liberia because of its support for the rebels, and UN peacekeepers began to make headway in disarming the various factions. Although disarmament of rebel and pro-government militias proceeded slowly and fighting continued to occur, by Jan., 2002, most of the estimated 45,000 fighters had surrendered their weapons. In a ceremony that month, government and rebel leaders declared the civil war to have ended; an estimated 50,000 persons died in the conflict. Subsequently, a tribunal established (2002–9) by Sierra Leone and the United Nations tried and convicted Issa Sesay and two other surviving leaders of the RUF of war crimes.

Elections were finally held in May, 2002. President Kabbah was re-elected, and his Sierra Leone People's party won a majority of the parliamentary seats. In June, 2003, the UN ban on the sale of Sierra Leone diamonds expired and was not renewed. The UN disarmament and rehabilitation program for Sierra Leone's fighters was completed in Feb., 2004, by which time more 70,000 former combatants had been helped.

UN forces returned primary responsibility for security in the area around the capital to Sierra Leone's police and armed forces in Sept., 2004; it was the last part of the country to be turned over. Some UN peacekeepers remained to assist the Sierra Leone government until the end of 2005. Parliamentary elections in Aug., 2007, gave a majority of the seats to opposition All People's Congress (APC), and after a runoff, Ernest Bai [Koroma](#), of the APC, was elected president. The UN Security Council lifted its remaining sanctions on the country, including the arms embargo, in Sept., 2010. Koroma was re-elected in Nov., 2012, and the APC again won a legislative majority.

The Commonwealth

With real GDP falling almost continuously from the 1980s to the start of the 2000s, the economy of Sierra Leone became very depressed, despite the country's rich resource base, notably diamonds, rutile (an oxide of titanium), bauxite and gold. It still has one of the lowest per capita incomes in the Commonwealth. Civil war in neighbouring Liberia and its spread within Sierra Leone, particularly from 1995, caused total collapse of the economy. The country was burdened by an economically counter-productive parallel economy, which increased in the lawless conditions of civil war. Around 90 per cent of diamonds produced in Sierra Leone were estimated to be leaving the country illegally,

and cash crops in the fertile south and east were being smuggled out. The cost of maintaining a large army and bringing in foreign troops put a further strain on the economy, and there were mass migrations of people to avoid the fighting.

Restoration of democracy in February 1998 and the peace agreement with the Revolutionary United Front of July 1999 opened the way for a very substantial commitment of aid by the international community, led by the UN, IMF and World Bank, to reintegrate the military into civilian life, to restore institutions, to rebuild the economy and alleviate poverty.

Delivery of this aid was impeded and delayed by the collapse of the peace agreement in May 2000 and during 2001 by the slow pace of demobilisation of rebel troops and of returning all areas of the country to peace and security, but during 2001 the rutile mines were rehabilitated and agricultural production was resumed in large areas of the country. In 2001, too, reserves of offshore oil and gas were discovered and further offshore oil discoveries were announced in 2009 and 2010. The UN ban on the trade in uncut diamonds did begin to reduce smuggling.

In December 2006, Sierra Leone qualified for debt relief amounting to US\$994 million under the IMF/World Bank Enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative.

The economy began to expand again in 2000. After a very strong surge of growth in 2001–03, it grew at about six per cent p.a. during the rest of the decade, while unemployment persisted at a high level and inflation rose from practically nil in 2000–02 to generally more than ten per cent p.a. in the second half of the 2000s, continuing into the 2010s. As the world economic downturn of 2008–09 depressed demand for Sierra Leone's exports, GDP growth moderated to 3.1 per cent in 2009, but recovered quickly in 2010, continuing at more than five per cent p.a. in 2010–15. The outbreak of Ebola in late 2013 had a devastating impact on economic activity and caused the collapse of tourism.

<http://thecommonwealth.org/our-member-countries/sierra-leone/economy#sthash.89YQx05z.dpuf>

African Development Bank – The current outlook

- **Sierra Leone is currently grappling with the after-effects of the Ebola crisis and the sustained decline in iron ore prices. Accordingly, GDP for 2015 is estimated to have contracted by more than one-fifth.**
- **Remedial actions and policies are needed to improve the indicators that may have been reversed by the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) crisis, following positive strides in improved economic and political governance.**
- **Sierra Leone, with approximately 40% urban population is experiencing its urbanisation without industrialisation (manufacturing), which does not promote appropriate structural linkages and sustained transformation of the economy.**

Sierra Leone is on the path to recovery following the effects of an 18-month Ebola outbreak and the sustained decline of iron ore prices. The Ebola outbreak affected the socio-economic livelihoods of the country, disrupting normal health care and education services, agricultural production and trade. The iron ore price decline affected macro-financial stability and reversed the country's remarkable positive growth trajectory as economic growth declined from a buoyant 20.1% in 2013 to 4.6% in 2014 and thereafter contracted by 21.5% in 2015 according to the latest estimates. GDP in 2016 is expected to remain relatively unchanged and to rise moderately in 2017. Inflation, which was moderate in the first quarter of 2015, is now estimated at 9.9% for 2015 and is expected to hover around 10% in 2016 and 2017. The Bank of Sierra Leone (BSL) needs to be vigilant as regards second-round inflationary pressures resulting from the depreciation of the Leone and the bottoming out of crude oil prices. Fiscal space in Sierra Leone is very limited due to the historically low revenue to GDP ratio and higher government expenditure.

There have been significant gains in the Human Development Index (HDI) from 0.344 in 2005 to 0.413 in 2014 (an improvement of more than 20%), and this will most likely be reversed due to the impact of the EVD on health (i.e. life expectancy at birth), education (years of schooling) and standard of living (gross national income per capita). Having failed to achieve most Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015, government authorities and development partners on the ground are now aware of the pertinence and inseparability of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals

(SDGs) which essentially means that development work should be across all sectors. Government needs to do more on poverty reduction using the new poverty-related data and information which will be generated by the population and housing census conducted in December 2015.

Sierra Leone has a population of about 6.3 million with approximately 39.1% living in urban areas (Freetown, Bo, Kenema, Makeni and other urban areas) in 2015 and the urbanisation rate is projected to reach 43.8% in 2030. Manufacturing is the “missing link” in Sierra Leone’s structural transformation as labour migrates from low productivity agricultural activities in the rural areas directly to low productivity services (informal jobs in the urban areas) without a transformative industrial sector.

CIA

GDP (purchasing power parity):

\$9.156 billion (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: 155

\$8.079 billion (2012 est.)

\$7.016 billion (2011 est.)

note: data are in 2013 US dollars

[GDP country ranks](#)]

[GDP \(official exchange rate\):](#)

\$4.607 billion (2013 est.)

[GDP \(official exchange rate\) country ranks](#)]

[GDP - real growth rate:](#)

13.3% (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: 2

15.2% (2012 est.)

6% (2011 est.)

[GDP - real growth rate country ranks](#)]

[GDP - per capita:](#)

\$1,400 (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: 208

\$1,300 (2012 est.)

\$1,200 (2011 est.)

note: data are in 2013 US dollars

[GDP - per capita country ranks](#)]

[Gross national saving:](#)

27.8% of GDP (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: 35

17.2% of GDP (2012 est.)

-1% of GDP (2011 est.)

[Gross national saving country ranks](#)]

[GDP - composition, by end use:](#)

household consumption: 77.8%

government consumption: 6.8%

investment in fixed capital: 36.7%

investment in inventories: 0.8%

exports of goods and services: 9.7%

imports of goods and services: -31.8%

(2013 est.)

GDP - composition, by sector of origin:

agriculture: 47.9%

industry: 18.6%

services: 33.5% (2013 est.)

Agriculture - products:

rice, coffee, cocoa, palm kernels, palm oil, peanuts; poultry, cattle, sheep, pigs; fish

Industries:

diamond mining; iron ore, rutile and bauxite mining; small-scale manufacturing (beverages, textiles, cigarettes, footwear); petroleum refining, small commercial ship repair

Industrial production growth rate:

42% (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: 1

[see also: [Industrial production growth rate country ranks](#)]

Labor force:

2.207 million (2007 est.)

country comparison to the world: 119

[see also: [Labor force country ranks](#)]

Labor force - by occupation:

agriculture: NA%

industry: NA%

services: NA%

Unemployment rate:

NA%

[Unemployment rate country ranks](#)]

Population below poverty line:

70.2% (2004)

[Population below poverty line country ranks](#)]

Household income or consumption by percentage share:

lowest 10%: 2.6%

highest 10%: 33.6% (2003)

Distribution of family income - Gini index:

62.9 (1989)

country comparison to the world: 4

[see also: [Distribution of family income - Gini index country ranks](#)]

Budget:

revenues: \$614.8 million

expenditures: \$754.4 million (2013 est.)

Taxes and other revenues:

13.3% of GDP (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: 200

[Taxes and other revenues country ranks](#)]

Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-):

-3% of GDP (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: 124
[Budget surplus \(+\) or deficit \(-\) country ranks](#)]

Public debt:

31.1% of GDP (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 116

36.5% of GDP (2012 est.)
[Public debt country ranks](#)]

Fiscal year:

calendar year

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

11.1% (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 212

12.9% (2012 est.)
[Inflation rate \(consumer prices\) country ranks](#)]

Central bank discount rate:

NA%
[Central bank discount rate country ranks](#)]

Commercial bank prime lending rate:

20.5% (31 December 2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 16

21% (31 December 2012 est.)
[Commercial bank prime lending rate country ranks](#)]

Stock of narrow money:

\$355.7 million (31 December 2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 165

\$324.7 million (31 December 2012 est.)
[Stock of narrow money country ranks](#)]

Stock of broad money:

\$1.001 billion (31 December 2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 170

\$772.6 million (31 December 2012 est.)
[Stock of broad money country ranks](#)]

Stock of domestic credit:

\$567.7 million (31 December 2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 164

\$429.1 million (31 December 2012 est.)
[Stock of domestic credit country ranks](#)]

Market value of publicly traded shares:

\$NA
[Market value of publicly traded shares country ranks](#)]

Current account balance:

-\$463.3 million (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: 97

-\$862.5 million (2012 est.)

[Current account balance country ranks](#)]

Exports:

\$1.563 billion (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: 148

\$953.4 million (2012 est.)

[Exports country ranks](#)]

Exports - commodities:

diamonds, rutile, cocoa, coffee, fish

Exports - partners:

China 51.1%, Belgium 18.2%, Japan 7.7%, Turkey 4.8% (2012)

Imports:

\$1.637 billion (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: 170

\$1.597 billion (2012 est.)

[see also: [Imports country ranks](#)]

Imports - commodities:

foodstuffs, machinery and equipment, fuels and lubricants, chemicals

Imports - partners:

China 16.5%, India 10.2%, South Africa 7.6%, US 6.7%, UK 6.7%, Belgium 4.6% (2012)

Debt - external:

\$1.331 billion (31 December 2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: 152

\$1.172 billion (31 December 2012 est.)

[Debt - external country ranks](#)]

Stock of direct foreign investment - at home:

\$2.394 billion (31 December 2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: 98

\$1.719 billion (31 December 2012 est.)

[Stock of direct foreign investment - at home country ranks](#)]

Exchange rates:

leones (SLL) per US dollar -

4,320.8 (2013 est.)

4,344 (2012 est.)

3,978.1 (2010 est.)

The impact on the economy of the Ebola epidemic

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty/publication/socio-economic-impacts-ebola-sierra-leone>

Africa Economic Development Report – 2016

Accelerating Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in Africa

Gender inequality is costing sub-Saharan Africa on average \$US95 billion a year, peaking at US\$105 billion in 2014– or six percent of the region’s GDP – jeopardising the continent’s efforts for inclusive human development and economic growth, according to the Africa Human Development Report 2016.

The report analyses the political, economic and social drivers that hamper African women’s advancement and proposes policies and concrete actions to close the gender gap. These include addressing the contradiction between legal provisions and practice in gender laws; breaking down harmful social norms and transforming discriminatory institutional settings; and securing women’s economic, social and political participation.

Deeply-rooted structural obstacles such as unequal distribution of resources, power and wealth, combined with social institutions and norms that sustain inequality are holding African women, and the rest of the continent, back. The report estimates that a 1 percent increase in gender inequality reduces a country’s human development index by 0.75 percent.

Highlights

- African women achieve only 87 percent of the human development outcomes of men
- African women hold 66 percent of the all jobs in the non-agricultural informal sector and only make 70 cents for each dollar made by men
- Only between 7 and 30 percent of all private firms have a female manager
- Gender gap costs sub-Saharan Africa \$US95 billion a year

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/hdr/2016-africa-human-development-report.html>

Major Indicators

<http://globaledge.msu.edu/countries/sierra-leone/economy/>

Population

http://www.countrymeters.info/en/Sierra_Leone/

Relevant Literature

<http://www.gsdr.org/docs/open/hd710.pdf>

Global Finance Report

<https://www.gfmag.com/global-data/country-data/sierra-leone-gdp-country-report>

Government Strategy Report – 2013-2017

http://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Project-and-Operations/2013-2017%20-%20Sierra%20Leone%20Country%20Strategy%20Paper_01.pdf

The IMF

<http://www.imf.org/external/country/SLE/index.htm>

The Civil War

<http://www.fairobserver.com/region/africa/sierra-leone-after-civil-war/>

Index Mundi

http://www.indexmundi.com/sierra_leone/

Report on Extractive Industries in Sierra Leone

<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/16726>

Mining in the economy of Sierra Leone

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/274836112_MINING_AND_THE_ECONOMY_OF_SIERRA_LEONE

Annual Growth Figures

<http://www.tradingeconomics.com/sierra-leone/gdp-growth-annual>

Water Pricing in Freetown

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/57a08a9d40f0b652dd0007fe/Sierra-Leone-case-study.pdf>

The End of Part 1