



BURKINA FASO FACTSHEET



Delegation der Deutschen Wirtschaft
in Ghana
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INTRODUCTION

Burkina Faso, situated at the heart of the Sahel, is undergoing a profound period of national sovereignty assertion and strategic realignment. A landlocked nation defined by its flat savanna plateaus and semi-arid climate, it has historically served as a cultural bridge between the Sahara and the coastal forests. In late 2025, the country is characterized by its new geopolitical identity within the Alliance of Sahel States (AES) and a "Sovereign Partnership" economic model, particularly in the mining sector.

The population has shown remarkable resilience in the face of security challenges, rallying behind a new national narrative of self-reliance. While French remains a working language, national languages have been elevated to official status, symbolizing a cultural pivot.

KEY STATISTICS

Indicator	Current Data
Population	24,300,000 (2025 Est.)
Area	274,200 km ²
Official Languages	National Languages (Mooré, Dyula, Fula, etc.)
Working Language	French
Capital	Ouagadougou
Head of State	Captain Ibrahim Traoré (President of the Transition)
Currency	West African CFA franc (XOF)
Major Trade Partners	Switzerland (Gold), India, UAE, China

POLITICAL CONTEXT

Strategic Realignment (2024–2025):

Burkina Faso has fundamentally reshaped its geopolitical trajectory by pivoting away from traditional Western alliances in favor of a sovereign, regional confederation and new international partnerships. This shift was solidified in July 2024 when "National Assizes" formally extended the transition period by five years, thereby entrenching Captain Ibrahim Traoré's mandate to prioritize national security and sovereignty goals over immediate electoral processes. Simultaneously, the country has deepened its integration within the newly formed Alliance of Sahel States (AES) alongside Mali and Niger, rapidly evolving the bloc from a mutual defense pact into a robust economic confederation that demonstrated its commitment to continental unity by abolishing visa fees for all African travelers in September 2025.

Consequently, following the country's official withdrawal from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) on January 29, 2025, the commercial landscape has been redefined, compelling investors to abandon previous regional standards in favor of navigating a burgeoning framework of bilateral protocols and AES-specific regulations.

ECONOMIC CONTEXT

Despite persistent security headwinds, Burkina Faso's economy has demonstrated notable resilience, with GDP growth projected to reach approximately 4.7% in 2025, driven largely by a recovering mining sector and agricultural adaptability. This growth is underpinned by the aggressive expansion of gold production, most notably the commissioning of the Kiaka gold mine, which achieved its first gold pour in mid-2025 and targets an average annual production of over 230,000 ounces.

Inflation has successfully moderated to a projected 2.7% in 2025 (down from 4.2% in 2024), a stabilization attributed to improved food supply chains and "Patriotic Support" measures that have curbed speculative pricing. Fiscal strategy remains heavily anchored in the "Patriotic Support Fund" (FSP), which mobilizes over 100 billion CFA annually to finance the Volunteers for the Defense of the Homeland (VDP); this is funded through specific levies, including a 5% tax on telecommunications and internet services,

a 10% tax on private television subscriptions, and direct transfers from the Local Development Mining Fund (FMDL).

SELECTED DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS (ESTIMATES)

INDICATOR	2023	2024 (EST.)	2025 (PROJ.)
GDP Growth (%)	3.6%	4.9%	4.7%
Inflation (%)	0.7%	4.2%	2.7%
Poverty Rate (%)	39.8%	37.5%	34.2%

DATA ON MINING AND MINERAL RESOURCES

Mining remains the engine of the economy, but the "laissez-faire" era has ended. The sector is now governed by a model of "Controlled Partnership."

KEY MINERALS

Gold: As the primary export, the gold sector has demonstrated remarkable resilience in 2025, buoyed significantly by the successful commissioning of West African Resources' Kiaka Gold Project. This flagship asset poured its first gold in June 2025, providing a critical boost to national output that effectively counterbalances production declines in security-compromised zones. The Kiaka mine represents a strategic upgrade for the sector, offering a long-life, low-cost operation that secures consistent revenue streams for the state, ensuring that industrial gold production remains robust even as artisanal mining faces deeper security challenges.

Zinc: The base metal sector is dominated by high-grade zinc production, entrenched specifically by the Perkoa mine in the Sanguié province. Perkoa occupies a unique position as the country's only significant commercial zinc operation, extracting ore from

a volcanogenic massive sulfide (VMS) deposit known for its exceptional mineral grade. However, the operational success of zinc in 2025 is inextricably linked to complex logistics and security protocols. Consequently, the sector's stability is currently defined by the ability to maintain secure supply corridors, making logistics and convoy security as critical to the business model as the extraction process itself.

Strategic minerals: Looking toward long-term economic sovereignty, the Burkinabè government is aggressively pivoting toward strategic minerals to break the economy's historical "gold monoculture." There is a renewed and urgent focus on capitalizing on under-exploited reserves of manganese, lithium, and copper commodities essential for the global energy transition. Under the new "Controlled Partnership" framework, the state is actively seeking international partners who are willing to go beyond extraction and commit to local value addition. This diversification strategy aims to unlock the massive potential of manganese deposits and emerging copper prospects, leveraging these assets to integrate Burkina Faso into the global battery metals supply chain while reducing exposure to gold price volatility.

KEY SECTOR DEVELOPMENTS

In a decisive move toward resource nationalism as of June 2025, Burkina Faso has fundamentally restructured its mining sector by transitioning the state from a passive regulator to an active industrial operator through the Société de Participation Minière du Burkina (SOPAMIB), which now holds operational command over the strategic Boungou and Wahgnion gold mines. This assertion of sovereignty extends across the entire value chain, evidenced by stringent new mandates requiring a specific quota of industrial gold to be refined domestically, alongside the enforcement of a state monopoly on the purchase of artisanal gold via the Société Nationale des Substances Précieuses (SONASP), a measure designed to centralize revenue capture, mitigate illicit trade, and formalize the previously fragmented artisanal market.

MINING BUSINESS CLIMATE

Regulatory Environment: The regulatory environment in Burkina Faso has shifted significantly toward resource nationalism under the 2024 Mining Code (Law No. 016-2024/ALT), which prioritizes state sovereignty and local economic integration. A pivotal change in this legislation is the increase of the State's free-carried interest in new projects from 10% to 15%, ensuring the government captures a larger share of mineral wealth upfront. Furthermore, the investment landscape has become more dynamic with the abolition of tax stability clauses for new permits; this prevents fiscal terms from being locked in for the life of the mine, allowing the tax regime to evolve alongside the nation's economic necessities.

Beyond fiscal measures, the "Social License to Operate" has been redefined to include explicit national security obligations. Mining companies are now mandated to strictly adhere to enhanced Local Content laws regarding procurement quotas and are directly involved in funding the Volunteers for the Defense of the Homeland (VDPs), effectively linking corporate social responsibility (CSR) to the financing of national defense efforts.

Security Dynamics: The security landscape has necessitated a highly militarized operational strategy, fundamentally altering how logistics and supply chains are managed. Mines located in the volatile Northern and Eastern regions now operate as "fortified islands," heavily reliant on fly-in/fly-out (FIFO) procedures for personnel and military-escorted convoys for the transport of fuel, equipment, and concentrate. This reliance on armed escorts for ground transport introduces significant operational friction and increases Operating Expenses (OPEX) due to the high cost of security infrastructure and insurance. While the central regions remain relatively stable, allowing for more standard operations, the overall sector requires constant vigilance. Operators must integrate security planning directly into their core business strategies to navigate the risks associated with isolated sites and vulnerable supply corridors.

MAJOR MINING COMPANIES

COMPANY NAME	KEY PROJECTS	2025 STATUS UPDATE
West African Resources	Sanbrado, Kiaka	Major Growth. Kiaka mine poured first gold in June 2025; high-grade production continues at Sanbrado.
SOPAMIB (State-Owned)	Wahgnion, Boungou	New Operator. Took control of these assets in mid-2025; seeking technical partnerships.
Endeavour Mining	Houndé	Active. Houndé remains a top producer
Iamgold	Essakane	Active. Country's largest mine; operates with high-level security protocols in the Sahel region.
Orezone Gold Corp	Bomboré	Active. Fully operational; focusing on hard rock plant expansion.
Fortuna Mining	Yaramoko	Active. Operating high-grade underground mine.

OUTLOOK

Burkina Faso's mining sector is being fundamentally reshaped by a doctrine of national sovereignty and operational resilience. The economy is projected to maintain a steady growth trajectory of approximately 4.7%, driven by the stabilization of new mining outputs that continue to anchor the nation's financial health despite external pressures. With the transitional government entrenched for a defined five-year term, the political landscape now offers a predictable, albeit rigorous, policy environment that favors investors willing to align with the state's strict nationalist agenda. This strategic shift has precipitated the departure of several risk-averse Western majors, creating a lucrative vacuum for agile service providers, contract miners, and technical partners who possess the operational flexibility to collaborate with the newly formed state-owned operator, SOPAMIB, and successfully navigate the specific security architecture of the Alliance of Sahel States (AES).

Alliance of Sahel States - Wikipedia

Burkina Faso Overview: Development news, research, data | World Bank

Burkina Faso Economic Outlook

Operations - West African Resources Ltd

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Africa's Sovereign Turn: Mining codes, risk, and the politics of insurance - LSE International Development



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