



GOVERNMENT

Chief of State President Patrice TALON

Head of Government

President Patrice TALON

Government Type

presidential republic

Capital

Porto-Novo (constitutional capital); Cotonou (seat of government)

Legislature

unicameral National Assembly (83 seats) Judiciary

Supreme Court (consists of chief justice and 16 justices); Constitutional Court (consists of 7 members, including court president); High Court of Justice (consists of Constitutional Court members, 6 members appointed by the

National Assembly, and the Supreme Court president)

Ambassador to US

Charge d'Affaires Gafari DANGO

US Ambassador

Ambassador Patricia MAHONEY

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 112,622 sq km Land: 110,622 sq km Water: 2,000 sq km

Climate

tropical; hot, humid in south; semiarid in north

Natural Resources

small offshore oil deposits, limestone, marble, timber

BENIN





ECONOMY

Economic Overview

free market economy; cotton a key export commodity, with export earnings significantly impacted by the price of cotton in the broader market; economy began deflating in 2017

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)

\$25.39 billion (2017 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$2,300 (2017 est.)

Exports

\$1.974 billion (2017 est.)

partners: Bangladesh 18.1%, India 10.7%, Ukraine 9%, Niger 8.1%, China 7.7%, Nigeria 7.2%, Turkey 4% (2017)

Imports

\$2.787 billion (2017 est.)

partners: Thailand 18.1%, India 15.9%, France 8.5%, China 7.5%, Togo 5.9%, Netherlands 4.3%, Belgium 4.3% (2017)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

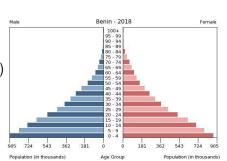
Population

12.9 million (July 2020 est.) Population Growth

3.4% (2020 est.)

Ethnicity

Fon and related 38.4%, Adja and related 15.1%,



Yoruba and related 12%, Bariba and related 9.6%, Fulaini and related 8.6%, Ottamari and related 6.1%, other 10.8% (2013 est.)

Language

French (official), Fon and Yoruba (most common vernaculars in south), tribal languages (at least six major ones in north)

Religion

Muslim 27.7%, Roman Catholic 25.5%, Protestant 13.5%, Vodoun 11.6%, other Christian 9.5%, other traditional religions 2.6%, other 2.6%, none 5.8% (2013 est.)

Urbanization

urban population: 48.4% of total population (2020) rate of urbanization: 3.89% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

Literacy

42.4% (2018)