

Senegal



Senegal, officially the **Republic of Senegal**, is a country in West Africa. Senegal is bordered by Mauritania in the north, Mali to the east, Guinea to the southeast, and Guinea-Bissau to the southwest. Senegal nearly surrounds The Gambia, a country occupying a narrow sliver of land along the banks of the Gambia River, which separates Senegal's southern region of Casamance from the rest of the country. Senegal also shares a maritime border with Cape Verde. Senegal's economic and political capital is Dakar.

It is a unitary presidential republic and is the westernmost country in the mainland of the Old World, or Afro-Eurasia. It owes its name to the Senegal River, which borders it to the east and north. Senegal covers a land area of almost 197,000 square kilometres (76,000 sq mi) and has a population of around 16 million. The state was formed as part of the independence of French West Africa from French colonial rule. Because of this history, the official language is French. Most of the population is on the coast and works in agriculture or other food industries. Other major industries include mining, tourism and services. The climate is typically Sahelian, though there is a rainy season.

Currently, Senegal has a quasi-democratic political culture, one of the more successful post-colonial democratic transitions in Africa. Local administrators are appointed and held accountable by the president. Marabouts, religious leaders of the various Muslim brotherhoods of Senegal, have also exercised a strong political influence in the country especially during Wade's presidency. In 2009, Freedom House downgraded Senegal's status from "Free" to "Partially Free", based on increased centralisation of power in the executive. Senegal is a member **state of the African Union, the United Nations, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the Community of Sahel-Saharan States.**

Recent macroeconomic and financial developments

The COVID-19 pandemic hit Senegal hard, leading a once robust economy to fall into recession. After increases of 6.7% in 2018 and 5.3% in 2019, real GDP contracted by 0.7% in 2020—due to a slowdown in tourism (−17.0%), transport (−8.8%), and trade (−0.6%), as well as a decline in investment and external demand. Inflation rose to 1.9% in 2020 from 0.9% in 2019 due to the restrictive measures to contain COVID-19 and the continued easing of monetary policy. The

crisis hit fiscal position from both sides. Tax revenue fell and health spending rose, resulting in a deterioration of the fiscal deficit to 6.0% of GDP in 2020 from an average of 3.7% in 2018–19. The fall in external demand led to a deterioration of the current account deficit from 7.9% in 2019 to 10.3% of GDP, which was financed by donors because of the low level of foreign direct investment and the decline in remittances.

Outlook and risks

If the pandemic is brought under control in the first half of 2021, growth is expected to rebound to 5.1% in 2021 and 6.0% in 2022, driven by the resumption of public investments and the hydrocarbon sector in tandem with the resumption of global growth. Even so, inflation will be stable—at 2.1% in 2021 and 1.8% in 2022. Senegalese authorities remain committed to rationalizing public spending and mobilizing domestic revenue to reduce fiscal deficit to 5% of GDP in 2021 and 4.2% in 2022. Similarly, the current account deficit will fall to 8.2% in 2021 and 7.1% in 2022, as exports resume and remittances pick up. This scenario could, however, be called into question if the COVID–19 pandemic persists as observed in December 2020.

* * *

Bilateral trade between Senegal and Greece
Unit : Euro thousand

Product label	Senegal's imports from Greece				
	Value in 2016	Value in 2017	Value in 2018	Value in 2019	Value in 2020
All products	8533	3588	6566	20296	12018
Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral ...	7209	65	1511	18304	10615
Iron and steel	5	2469	1760	0	375
Machinery, mechanical appliances, nuclear reactors, boilers; parts thereof	333	147	243	454	341
Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling stock, and parts and accessories thereof	507	229	283	344	195
Pharmaceutical products	42	96	122	123	117
Cotton	0	0	0	106	95
Articles of stone, plaster, cement, asbestos, mica or similar materials	0	0	19	0	50
Miscellaneous chemical products	36	20	19	5	45
Rubber and articles thereof	2	12	10	19	44
Residues and waste from the food industries; prepared animal fodder	17	80	30	26	26
Aluminium and articles thereof	0	3	4	9	16
Other made-up textile articles; sets; worn clothing and worn textile articles; rags	15	1	2	2	15
Inorganic chemicals; organic or inorganic compounds of precious metals, of rare-earth metals, ...	0	0	60	76	14
Tanning or dyeing extracts; tannins and their derivatives; dyes, pigments and other colouring ...	0	21	102	46	14
Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television ...	27	6	47	80	14
Salt; sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime and cement	0	0	1846	0	11
Footwear, gaiters and the like; parts of such articles	1	0	1	1	6

- Sources: African Economic Outlook (AEO) 2021
- African Development Bank
- Trade map; Trade statistics for international business development