



# Somalia

## Country Profile

### Summary

The **Federal Republic of Somalia** is a country located in the Horn of Africa. It is bordered by Ethiopia to the west, Djibouti to the northwest, the Gulf of Aden to the north, the Indian Ocean to the east, and Kenya to the southwest. Somalia has the longest coastline on the mainland, and its terrain consists mainly of plateaus, plains and highlands. Hot conditions prevail year-round, along with periodic monsoon winds and irregular rainfall.

Somalia has a population of around 10 million. About 85% of local residents are ethnic Somalis, who have historically inhabited the northern part of the country. Ethnic minority groups make up the remainder of the nation's population, and are largely concentrated in the southern regions. Most people in the territory are Muslims, the majority being Sunni.

### History

In antiquity, Somalia was an important centre for commerce with the rest of the ancient world. In 1991, Civil War broke out in Somalia. Africa's worst drought of the century occurred in 1992, and, coupled with the devastation of civil war, Somalia was plunged into a severe famine that killed 300,000. U.S. troops were sent in to protect the delivery of food in Dec. 1992, and in May 1993 the UN took control of the relief efforts from the U.S. The warlord Mohamed Farah Aidid ambushed UN troops and dragged American bodies through the streets, causing an about-face in

U.S. willingness to involve itself in the fate of this lawless country. The last of the U.S. troops departed in late March, leaving 19,000 UN troops behind.

In Aug. 2000, a parliament convened in nearby Djibouti and elected Somalia's first government in nearly a decade. After its first year in office, the government still controlled only 10% of the country, and in Aug. 2003, its mandate expired. In Oct. 2002, new talks to establish a government began; in Aug. 2004 a 275-member transitional parliament was inaugurated for a five-year term. Parliament selected a national president in September, Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed, the president of the breakaway region of Puntland. The new government, however, spent its first year operating out of Kenya—Somalia remained too violent and unstable to enter.

In May 2006, the country's worst outbreak of violence in 10 years began, with Islamist militias, called the Somali Islamic Courts Council (SICC), battling rival warlords. In the meantime, neighboring Ethiopia, considering them a threat to regional security, began amassing troops on the border. In mid-December, Ethiopia launched air strikes against the Islamists, and in days Ethiopian ground troops and Somali soldiers loyal to the transitional government regained control of Mogadishu. A week later most of the Islamists had been forced to flee the country. Ethiopia announced that its troops would remain in the country until stability was assured and a functional central government had been established, ending Somalia's 15 years of anarchy.

In Jan. 2007, the U.S. launched airstrikes on the retreating Islamists, who they believed included three members of al-Qaeda suspected of involvement in the 1998 bombings of the American embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam. Battles between the insurgents and Somali and Ethiopian troops intensified in March, leaving 300 civilians dead in what has been called the worst fighting in 15 years. The fighting created a humanitarian crisis, with more than 320,000 Somalis fleeing the fighting in Mogadishu in just two months. Amid a growing threat from militant Islamists, Ethiopia began withdrawing troops from Somalia in January 2009.

The summer of 2011 brought drought to a country already laid low by nearly constant conflict, resulting in a UN-declared famine in two regions in southern Somalia. With tens of thousands of Somalis dead of malnutrition and its related causes and ten million more at risk, those who could, fled, trying to reach neighboring Kenya and Ethiopia for help. About 260,000 died in the famine—more than half under age 6.

After more than 20 years and 17 attempts at forming an internationally recognized central government, the Somali parliament held its inaugural session on Aug. 20, 2012.

In September, parliament elected Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, an advocate for civil rights, as president. Many observers expressed hope and optimism that Hassan, who is considered above corruption, would set the country on a path toward stability. Just two days after he became president, he survived an assassination attempt by a member of the militant group Shabab.

In Oct. 2012, President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud appointed Abdi Farah Shirdon, a businessman who had once worked as an economist for the Somali government, as prime minister.

## **Politics**

Concurrent with the end of the TFG's interim mandate on August 20, 2012, the Federal Parliament of Somalia was inaugurated, ushering in the Federal Government of Somalia, the first permanent central government in the country since the start of the civil war. On September 2010-2012; the parliament also elected Hassan Sheikh Mohamud as the new President of Somalia. President Mohamud later appointed Abdi Farah Shirdon as the new Prime Minister on October 6, 2012. On November 4, 2012, Shirdon named a new Cabinet, which was later endorsed by the legislature on November 13, 2012.

### **Constitution**

The national constitution lays out the basic way in which the government is to operate. It was passed on June 23, 2012, after several days of deliberation between Somali federal and regional politicians. To come into effect, the constitution must be ratified by the new parliament. Under the new constitution, Somalia, now officially known as the Federal Republic of Somalia, is a federation.

### **Executive branch**

The President is elected by the Parliament. He or she serves as the head of state and chooses the Prime Minister, who serves as the head of government and leads the Council of Ministers. According to Article 97 of the constitution, most executive powers of the Somali government are vested in the Council of Ministers. The incumbent President of Somalia is Hassan Sheikh Mohamud. Abdi Farah Shirdon is the national Prime Minister.

### **Council of Ministers**

The Cabinet is formally known as the Council of Ministers. It is appointed by the Prime Minister.

### **Parliament**

The Federal Parliament of Somalia elects the President and Prime Minister, and has the authority to pass and veto laws. It is bicameral, and consists of a 275 seat lower house as well as an upper house capped at 54 representatives. By law, at least 30% of all MPs must be women. Members of parliament were selected by a Technical Selection Committee, which was tasked with vetting potential legislators that were in turn nominated by a National Constituent Assembly consisting of elders. The current Speaker of the Federal Parliament is Mohamed Osman Jawari.

## **Judiciary**

The national court structure is organized into three tiers: the Constitutional Court, Federal Government level courts and Federal Member State level courts. A nine-member Judicial Service Commission appoints any Federal tier member of the judiciary. It also selects and presents potential Constitutional Court judges to the House of the People of the Federal Parliament for approval. If endorsed, the President appoints the candidate as a judge of the Constitutional Court. The five-member Constitutional Court adjudicates issues pertaining to the constitution, in addition to various Federal and sub-national matters.

## **Membership**

Somalia is a member of International Finance Corporation, United Nations, Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Arab League, African Union, and Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization.

## **Basic Facts**

<b>Capital City</b>	Mogadishu
<b>Population</b>	10251568
<b>Total Area</b>	637,657 sq km
<b>Languages</b>	Somali (official), Arabic (official, according to the Transitional Federal Charter), English
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Somali 85%, Bantu and other non-Somali 15% (including 30,000 Arabs)
<b>Religion</b>	Sunni Muslim
<b>Political System</b>	federated parliamentary republic
<b>Current president</b>	Hassan Sheikh Mohamoud
<b>Currency</b>	Somali Shilling

## **Health**

Somalia is a drought prone country that faces extreme food insecurity, which is exacerbated by poor healthcare lack of access to safe drinking water and safe sanitation facilities.

The health problems of Somalia can be shortly defined as gathering of 4 major problems. The entire world is complaining of these four devastating issues, but in Somalia these factors are wide.

The four categories are:

### **1. Infectious diseases:**

They are the biggest problem in Africa as a whole. Somalia has several recent outbreaks and epidemics of easily preventable diseases like dengue fever and cholera, and is experiencing also many endemic diseases like Malaria, TB, and AIDS.

### **2. Non-communicable diseases:**

These are the second major health problem Somalia is suffering from. Diseases like gastric ulcer, renal diseases, hepatic diseases, diabetes, hypertension, different types of cancer, and others are universally affecting the population, especially old age group, and you can hardly find a family without all these diseases.

### **3. Disabilities due to accidents, wars, etc:**

Because of the hazards and insecurity of Somalia, wars and political and tribal conflicts can explode any moment leaving many victims either dead or injured. Furthermore, the unpaved roads, old vehicles, less experienced drivers, and over packing of passengers cause accidents on daily basis leaving a respectable number of mortalities and morbidities all over Somalia.

### **4. Health problems due to ignorance and malpractice:**

This is a major problem in Somalia. The ignorance of people accounts for many problems like using false drugs, neglecting serious illnesses, late visits to hospitals after the disease has already progressed to late stage, going wrongly to the herbal and traditional healers who make the problem even worse.

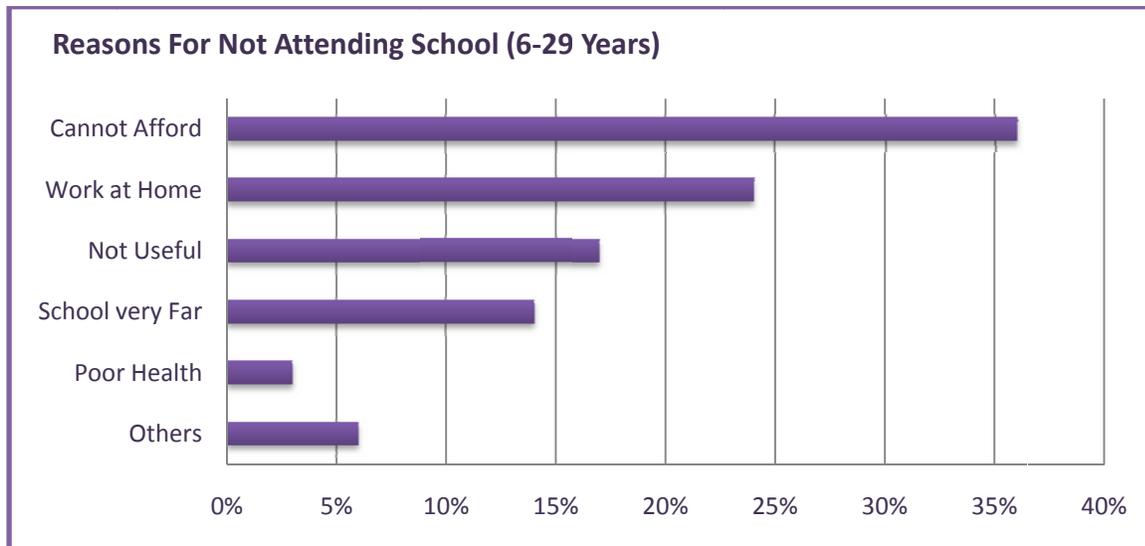
<b>Health Indicators</b>	<b>2013</b>
Under 5 mortality rate (per 1000)	180
Life expectancy at birth (years)	50
Expenditure on Health ( % of GDP)	0
Physicians (per 10.000)	0.4
Maternal mortality ratio	1000
Nurses (per 9000)	1
HIV Rate (%)	0.7
People Living with HIV	34000
Tuberculosis Cases	3300

Malaria Cases	17500
Weapon Casualties (Only in June)	322
Cholera Cases	7000
Measles Cases	1600
Improved Water Sources (%)	29
Improved Sanitation Facilities (%)	23

## Education

The Ministry of Education is officially responsible for education in Somalia, with about 15% of the nation's budget allocated to scholastic instruction. The autonomous Puntland and Somaliland macro-regions maintain their own Ministries of Education. Much of this article deals with the educational system of Puntland due to a lack of detailed and up-to-date information from the other regions in Somalia.

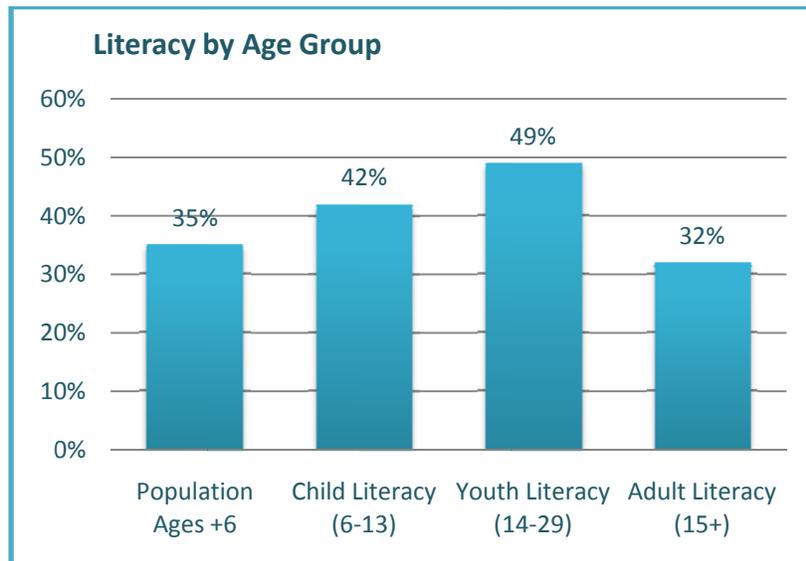
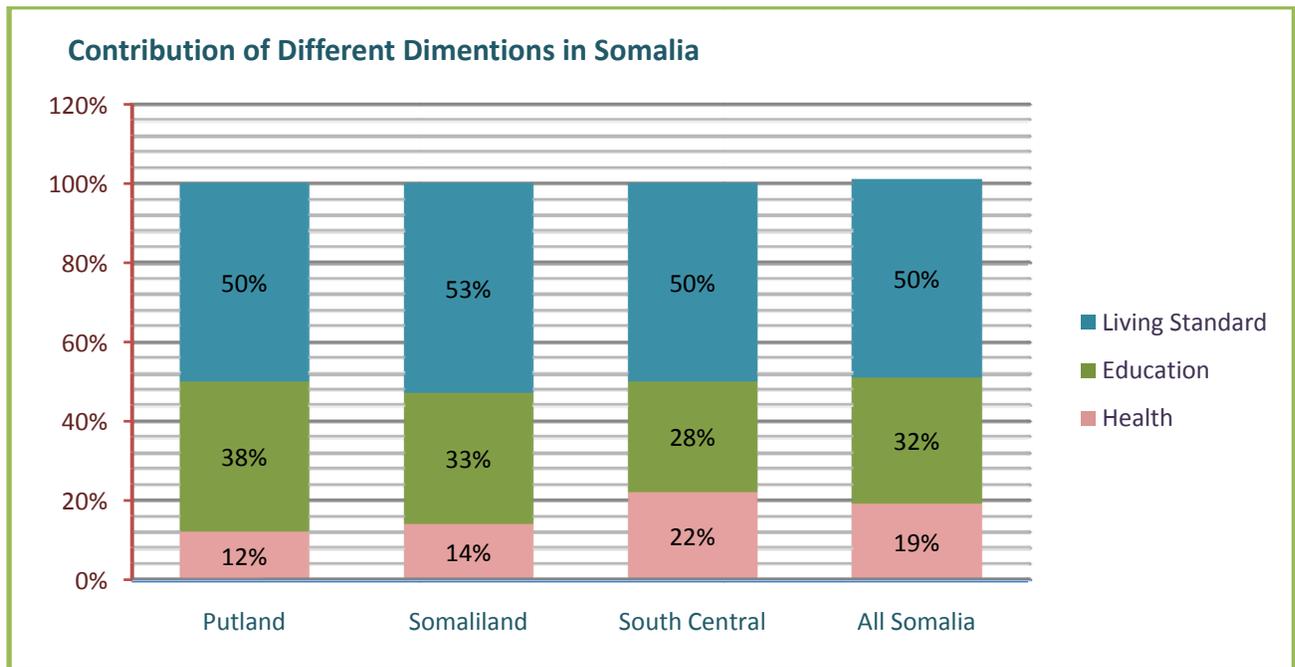
Within the Puntland government, the Ministry of Education is responsible for developing and managing the region's educational needs. It is headed by the Minister Mohamud Bile Dubbe.



The educational system of Puntland comprises two years of Early Childhood Development (ECD), eight years of primary education (four years of lower primary and four years of upper primary) and four years of secondary education. University education comprises an average of four years. Thus, it is a 2-4-4-4 system. Puntland's Ministry of Education also recognizes non-formal and technical and vocational education as integral parts of the region's educational system.

In 2007, there was also a significant increase in the number of schools in Puntland, 137 institutions were built. During the same period, the number of classes in the region increased by 504, with 762 more teachers also offering their services. Total student enrollment increased by 27% over the year, with girls lagging only slightly behind boys in attendance in most regions.

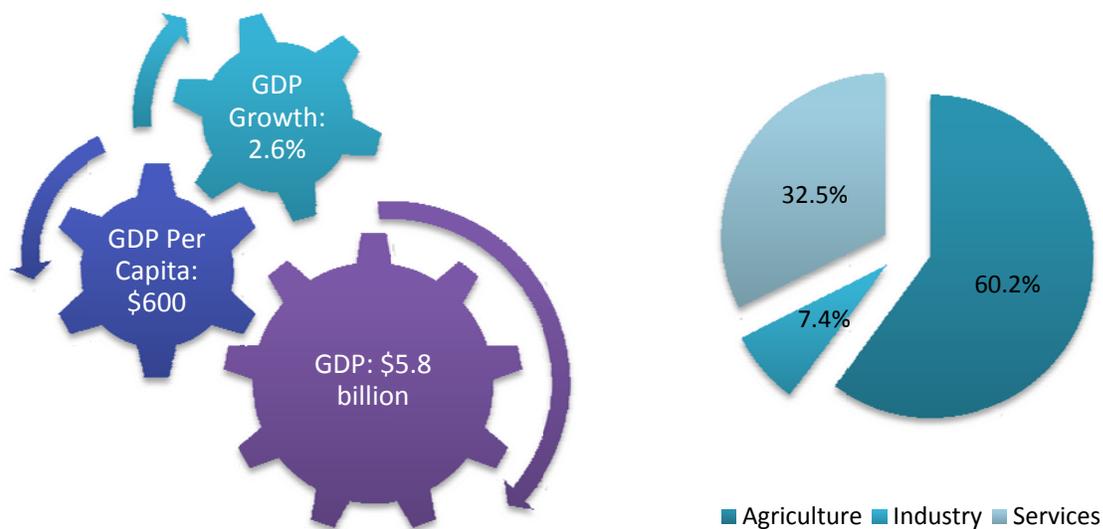
Higher education in Somalia is now largely private. Several universities in the country, including Mogadishu University, have been scored among the 100 best universities in Africa in spite of the harsh environment, which has been hailed as a triumph for grass-roots initiatives.



## Economy

Somalia is an impoverished country where economic growth has been all but impossible as a result of continued unrest. The violence has hampered international efforts to provide food aid and basic health services and has a negative effect on the country's investment climate.

The government has been unable to formulate proper economic policies as a result of the unrest and the economy's reliance on agriculture means that it is especially vulnerable to climatic conditions. Donor support to the country focuses on humanitarian relief and development assistance.



Somalia's economy relies largely on agriculture; staples include bananas, rice, sorghum, and livestock. With its 3,000 km of coastline, longer than any other African country, fishing is a major source of livelihood. Remittances sent from Somalis living abroad also comprise a substantial portion of Somalia's GDP. In recent years, piracy has also become big business: Somali pirates have attacked hundreds of boats in the Indian Sea, and demanded ransoms for kidnapped sailors.

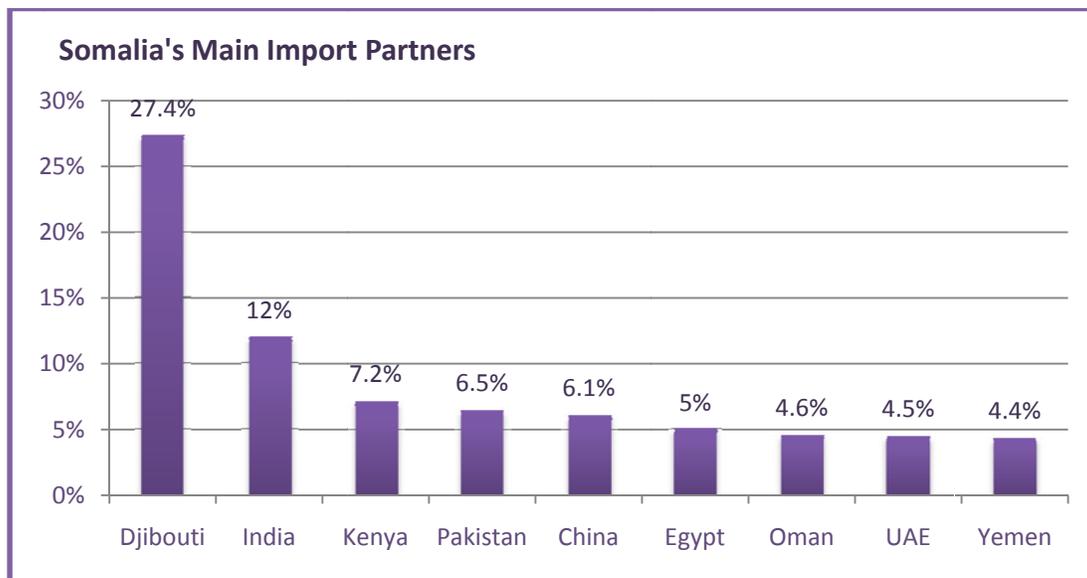
Somalia is reported to have large, untapped reserves of many natural resources, including iron ore, uranium, and tin. Many also suspect Somalia is sitting on top of oil and natural gas reserves.

### Natural Resources

Somalia has uranium and largely unexploited reserves of iron ore, tin, gypsum, bauxite, copper, salt, natural gas, likely oil reserves.

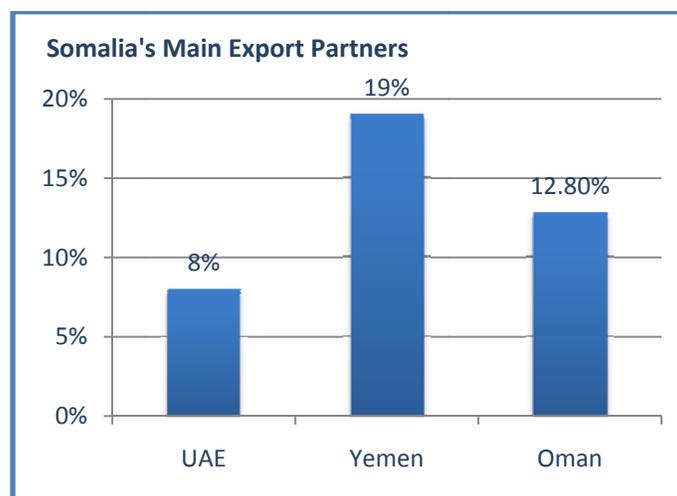
## Imports

Import commodities of Somalia include: manufactures, petroleum products, foodstuffs, and construction materials. According to 2012 estimation, the total value of Somalia imports was \$1.263 billion.



## Exports

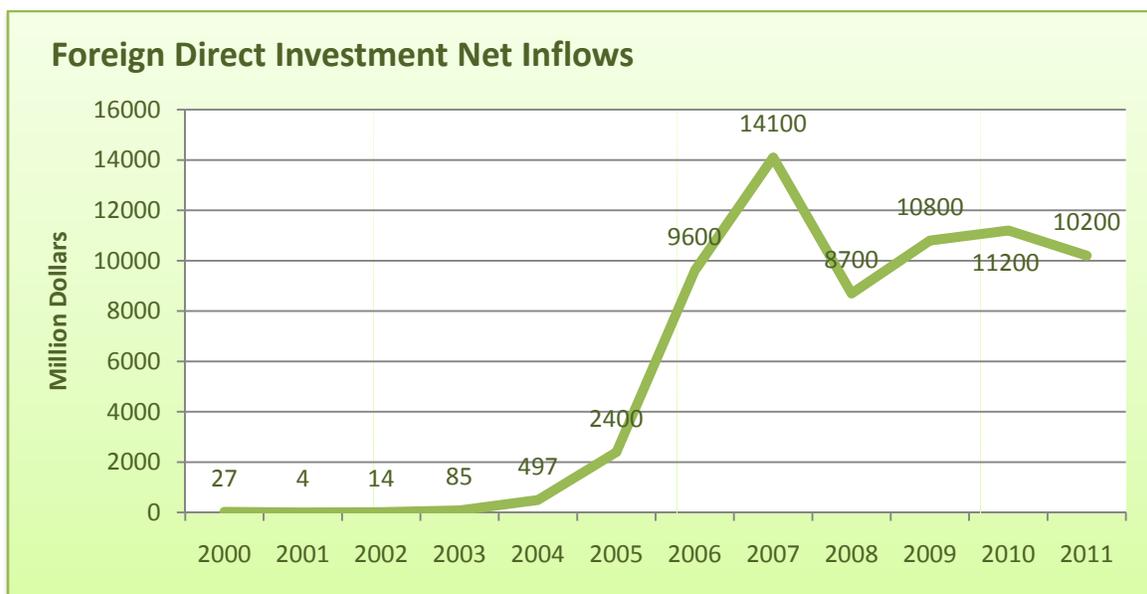
Export commodities of Somalia include: livestock, bananas, hides, fish, charcoal, and scrap metal. According to 2012 estimation, the total value of Somalia exports was \$515.8 million.



## **Foreign Investment**

In Somalia, Foreign investment includes convertible currency specified by the Central Bank of Somalia and duly transferred to Somalia; machinery, equipment, spare parts, installations and current production inputs, whose importation is permitted under the prevailing import legislation.

The foreign investment law provides several incentives to foreign investors, such as exemption from taxes and customs duties. It aims at channeling FDI flows to certain industries of the national economy, such as agriculture, industry, fishing and forestry.



## **Somali Trade and Tariff Profile**

No available data.

## **Human Development Index**

No available data.

## **Somalia Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture**

The Somaliland chamber of commerce, industry and agriculture was established in 25th October 1993 under a public law No. 35 as an independent entity owned by the business community. Currently the chairman of the chamber is Mohamed Shukri Jama and the secretary General is Ibrahim Ismail Elmi.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Somali Chamber of Commerce and Industry</b>
<b>President</b>	Mohamed Abdi Ali (Gabaire)
<b>Telephone</b>	00252-61-554-9852
	00252-69-966-0176
<b>E-mail</b>	<a href="mailto:mgabayre@somalichamber.so">mgabayre@somalichamber.so</a>
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://somalichamber.so/">http://somalichamber.so/</a>
<b>Name</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Somaliland Chamber of Commerce (UK Representative)</b>
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<b>Telephone</b>	00252-25-23-143
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## Somalia Banks

<b>Somalia Banks</b>
National Bank of Somalia
Commercial and Savings Bank of Somalia
Somali Commercial Bank
Al Barakaat Bank, Mogadishu
Dalsan Bank
Universal Bank of Somalia (UBSOM)

## Somalia Insurance Companies

<b>Name</b>	State Insurance Company of Somalia(SICOS)
<b>Industry</b>	Insurance
<b>Telephone</b>	32051/52. 32070

## Somalia Economic Ministries

<b>Ministry of Finance and Treasury</b>	
<b>Minister</b>	Mohamud Hassan Suleiman
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<b>Minister of Industry &amp; Trade</b>	
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<b>Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock</b>	
<b>Minister</b>	Mahamed Mahamuud Haaji Ibraahim
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<b>Fax</b>	NA
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# Iran and Somalia

