

Profile:

Federal Republic of Somalia



Somalia at a Glance

Capital:	Mogadishu
Official language:	Somali (official, according to the 2012 Transitional Federal Charter), Arabic (official, according to the 2012 Transitional Federal Charter)
Population:	11,031,386 (2017 est.)
Government:	federal parliamentary republic
Establishment	1 July 1960 (from a merger of British Somaliland that became independent from the UK on 26 June 1960 and Italian Somaliland that became independent from the Italian-administered UN trusteeship on 1 July 1960 to form the Somali Republic)
National or Regional Currency:	Somali shilling (SOS)
Area:	total: 637,657 sq km land: 627,337 sq km water: 10,320 sq km

Location: Eastern Africa, bordering the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean, east of Ethiopia

Geographic Coordinates: 10 00 N, 49 00 E

Map References: Africa

Area - Comparative: almost five times the size of Alabama; slightly smaller than Texas

Terrain: mostly flat to undulating plateau rising to hills in north

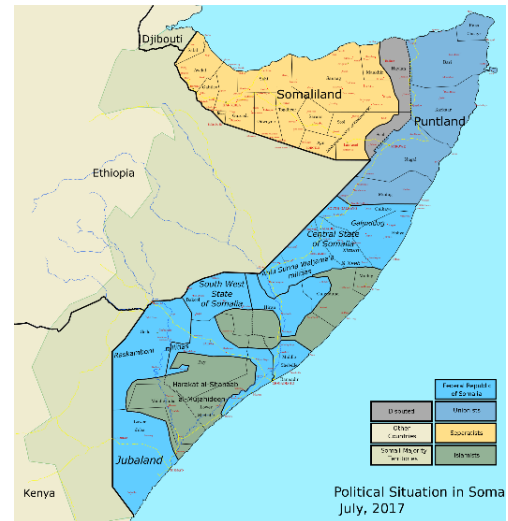
Elevation Extremes(M): lowest point: Indian Ocean 0 m ; highest point: Shimbiris 2,416 m

Land Boundaries(Km): total: 2,385 km ; border countries: Djibouti 61 km, Ethiopia 1,640 km, Kenya 684 km

Coastline: 2,798 km

Maritime Claims: territorial sea: 200 nm

Geography - Note: strategic location on Horn of Africa along southern approaches to Bab el Mandeb and route through Red Sea and Suez Canal¹



History

Britain withdrew from British Somaliland in 1960 to allow its protectorate to join with Italian Somaliland and form the new nation of Somalia. In 1969, a coup headed by Mohamed SIAD Barre ushered in an authoritarian socialist rule characterized by the persecution, jailing, and torture of political opponents and dissidents. After the regime's collapse early in 1991, Somalia descended into turmoil, factional fighting, and anarchy. In May 1991, northern clans declared an independent Republic of Somaliland that now includes the administrative regions of Awdal, Woqooyi Galbeed, Togdheer, Sanaag, and Sool. Although not recognized by any government, this entity has maintained a stable existence and continues efforts to establish a constitutional democracy, including holding municipal, parliamentary, and presidential elections. The regions of Bari, Nugaal, and northern Mudug comprise a neighboring semi-autonomous state of Puntland, which has been self-governing since 1998 but does not aim at independence; it has also made strides toward reconstructing a legitimate, representative government but has suffered some civil strife. Puntland disputes its border with Somaliland as it also claims the regions of Sool and Sanaag, and portions of Togdheer. Beginning in 1993, a two-year UN humanitarian effort (primarily in south-central Somalia) was able to alleviate famine conditions, but when the UN withdrew in 1995, having suffered significant casualties, order still had not been restored.

¹ <http://www.economywatch.com/economic-statistics/Somalia/Geography/>

In 2000, the Somalia National Peace Conference (SNPC) held in Djibouti resulted in the formation of an interim government, known as the Transitional National Government (TNG). When the TNG failed to establish adequate security or governing institutions, the Government of Kenya, under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), led a subsequent peace process that concluded in October 2004 with the election of Abdullahi YUSUF Ahmed as President of a second interim government, known as the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of the Somali Republic. The TFG included a 275-member parliamentary body, known as the Transitional Federal Parliament (TFP). President YUSUF resigned late in 2008 while UN-sponsored talks between the TFG and the opposition Alliance for the Re-Liberation of Somalia (ARS) were underway in Djibouti. In January 2009, following the creation of a TFG-ARS unity government, Ethiopian military forces, which had entered Somalia in December 2006 to support the TFG in the face of advances by the opposition Islamic Courts Union (ICU), withdrew from the country. The TFP was doubled in size to 550 seats with the addition of 200 ARS and 75 civil society members of parliament. The expanded parliament elected Sheikh SHARIF Sheikh Ahmed, the former ICU and ARS chairman as president in January 2009. The creation of the TFG was based on the Transitional Federal Charter (TFC), which outlined a five-year mandate leading to the establishment of a new Somali constitution and a transition to a representative government following national elections. In 2009, the TFP amended the TFC to extend TFG's mandate until 2011 and in 2011 Somali principals agreed to institute political transition by August 2012. The transition process ended in September 2012 when clan elders replaced the TFP by appointing 275 members to a new parliament who subsequently elected a new president.²

Government

Country name:	Federal Republic of Somalia
Government type:	federal parliamentary republic
Capital:	Mogadishu
Administrative divisions:	18 regions (plural - NA, singular - gobolka); Awdal, Bakool, Banaadir, Bari, Bay, Galguduud, Gedo, Hiiraan, Jubbada Dhexe (Middle Jubba), Jubbada Hoose (Lower Jubba), Mudug, Nugaal, Sanaag, Shabeellaha Dhexe (Middle Shabeelle), Shabeellaha Hoose (Lower Shabeelle), Sool, Togdheer, Woqooyi Galbeed
Independence:	1 July 1960 (from a merger of British Somaliland that became independent from the UK on 26 June 1960 and Italian Somaliland that became independent from the Italian-administered UN trusteeship on 1 July 1960 to form the Somali Republic)
National holiday:	Foundation of the Somali Republic, 1 July (1960); note - 26 June (1960) in Somaliland
Constitution:	history: previous 1961, 1979; latest drafted 12 June 2012, approved 1 August 2012 (provisional) amendments: proposed by the federal government, by members of the state governments, the Federal Parliament, or by public petition; proposals require review by a joint committee of Parliament with inclusion of public comments and state legislatures' comments; passage requires at least two-thirds majority vote in both houses of Parliament and approval by a majority of votes cast in a

² <https://www.indexmundi.com/somalia/background.html>

	referendum; constitutional clauses on Islamic principles, the federal system, human rights and freedoms, powers and authorities of the government branches, and inclusion of women in national institutions cannot be amended
Legal system:	mixed legal system of civil law, Islamic law, and customary law (referred to as Xeer)
Suffrage:	18 years of age; universal
Executive branch:	<p>chief of state: President Mohamed ABDULLAHI Mohamed "Farmaajo" (since 8 February 2017)</p> <p>head of government: Prime Minister Hassan Ali KHAYRE (since 1 March 2017)</p> <p>cabinet: Cabinet appointed by the prime minister, approved by the House of the People</p> <p>elections/appointments: president indirectly elected by the Federal Parliament by two-thirds majority vote in 2 rounds if needed for a single 4-year term; election last held on 8 February 2017 (previously scheduled for 30 September 2016 but postponed repeatedly); prime minister appointed by the president, approved by the House of the People</p> <p>election results: Mohamed ABDULLAHI Mohamed "Farmaajo" elected president; Federal Parliament second round vote - Mohamed ABDULLAHI Mohamed "Farmaajo" (TPP) 184, HASSAN SHEIKH Mohamud (PDP) 97, Sheikh SHARIF Sheikh Ahmed (ARS) 46</p>
Legislative branch:	<p>description: bicameral Federal Parliament to consist of an Upper House (54 seats; senators elected by state assemblies to serve 4-year terms) and the House of the People (275 seats; members elected by regional delegates to serve 4-year terms)</p> <p>note: the inaugural House of the People was appointed in September 2012 by clan elders; in elections in 2016 and 2017, the Federal Parliament became bicameral with elections scheduled for 10 October 2016 for the Upper House and 23 October to 10 November 2016 for the House of the People; while the elections were delayed, they were eventually held in most regions despite voting irregularities; on 27 December 2016, 41 Upper House senators and 242 House of the People members were sworn in</p>
Judicial branch:	<p>highest court(s): the provisional constitution stipulates the establishment of the Constitutional Court (consists of 5 judges including the chief judge and deputy chief judge); note - under the terms of the 2004 Transitional National Charter, a Supreme Court based in Mogadishu and an Appeal Court were established; yet most regions have reverted to local forms of conflict resolution, either secular, traditional Somali customary law, or sharia Islamic law</p> <p>judge selection and term of office: judges appointed by the president upon proposal of the Judicial Service Commission, a 9-member judicial and administrative body; judge tenure NA</p> <p>subordinate courts: federal courts; federal member state-level courts; military courts; sharia courts</p>

Source: https://www.indexmundi.com/somalia/government_profile.html

Human Development Indicators

Health

Indicator	value
Expenditure on health, public (% of GDP)(%)2015	...
Under-five mortality (per 1,000 live birth) 2016	132.5
Life expectancy at birth 2017	56.7

Source: http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2018_human_development_statistical_update.pdf

Economy - overview:

Despite the lack of effective national governance, Somalia maintains an informal economy largely based on livestock, remittance/money transfer companies, and telecommunications. Somalia's government lacks the ability to collect domestic revenue and external debt – mostly in arrears – was estimated at 93% of GDP in 2014.

Agriculture is the most important sector, with livestock normally accounting for about 40% of GDP and more than 50% of export earnings. Nomads and semi-pastoralists, who are dependent upon livestock for their livelihood, make up a large portion of the population. Economic activity is estimated to have increased by 2.4% in 2017 because of growth in the agriculture, construction and telecommunications sector. Somalia's small industrial sector, based on the processing of agricultural products, has largely been looted and the machinery sold as scrap metal.

In recent years, Somalia's capital city, Mogadishu, has witnessed the development of the city's first gas stations, supermarkets, and airline flights to Turkey since the collapse of central authority in 1991. Mogadishu's main market offers a variety of goods from food to electronic gadgets. Hotels continue to operate and are supported with private-security militias. Formalized economic growth has yet to expand outside of Mogadishu and a few regional capitals, and within the city, security concerns dominate business. Telecommunication firms provide wireless services in most major cities and offer the lowest international call rates on the continent. In the absence of a formal banking sector, money transfer/remittance services have sprouted throughout the country, handling up to \$1.6 billion in remittances annually, although international concerns over the money transfers into Somalia continues to threaten these services' ability to operate in Western nations.³

Economic Outlook

GDP	Last	Previous	Range	Unit	Reference	Frequency
GDP	7.37	6.75	0.18:7.37	USD Billion	Dec/17	Yearly
GDP Annual Growth Rate	2.9	2.4	-21:14.88	%	Dec/18	Yearly
Labor	Last	Previous	Range	Unit	Reference	Frequency
POPULATION	14.74	14.32	2.76:14.74	Million	Dec/17	Yearly

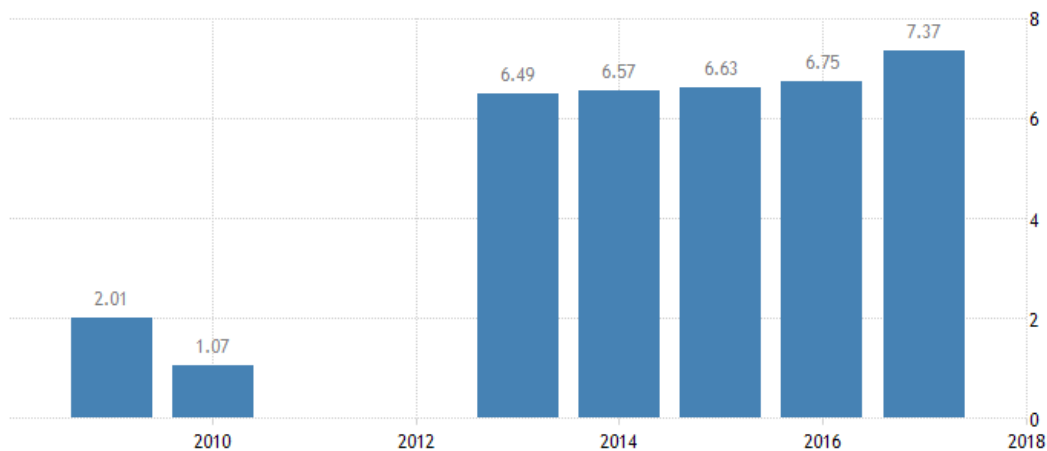
³ https://www.indexmundi.com/somalia/economy_overview.html

Prices	Last	Previous	Range	Unit	Reference	Frequency
INFLATION RATE	-3.6	-5.6	-15:216	%	Dec/16	Yearly
Trade	Last	Previous	Range	Unit	Reference	Frequency
BALANCE OF TRADE	-2149	-2092	-2149:-102	USD Million	Dec/17	Yearly
EXPORTS	257	627	45.29:690	USD Million	Dec/17	Yearly
IMPORTS	2406	2720	163:2720	USD Million	Dec/17	Yearly
Government	Last	Previous	Range	Unit	Reference	Frequency
CREDIT RATING	15					Monthly

Source: <https://tradingeconomics.com/somalia/indicators>

GDP

The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Somalia was worth 7.37 billion US dollars in 2017. The GDP value of Somalia represents 0.01 percent of the world economy. GDP in Somalia averaged 1.48 USD Billion from 1960 until 2017, reaching an all time high of 7.37 USD Billion in 2017 and a record low of 0.18 USD Billion in 1960.⁴

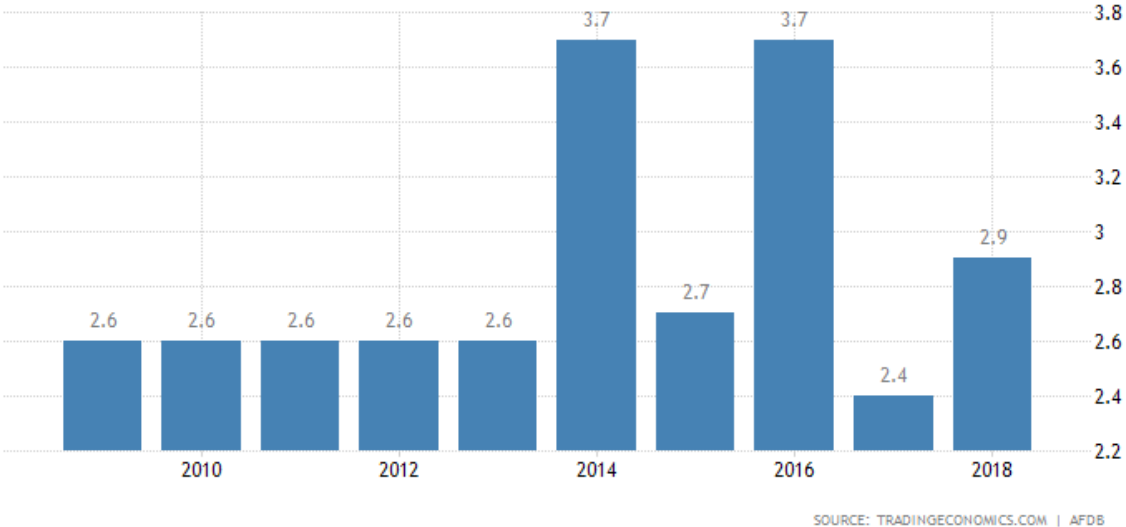


SOURCE: TRADINGECONOMICS.COM | WORLD BANK

⁴ <https://tradingeconomics.com/somalia/gdp>

GDP Annual Growth Rate

The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Somalia expanded 2.40 percent in 2017 from the previous year. GDP Annual Growth Rate in Somalia averaged 1.58 percent from 1961 until 2017, reaching an all time high of 14.88 percent in 1972 and a record low of -21 percent in 1994.⁵



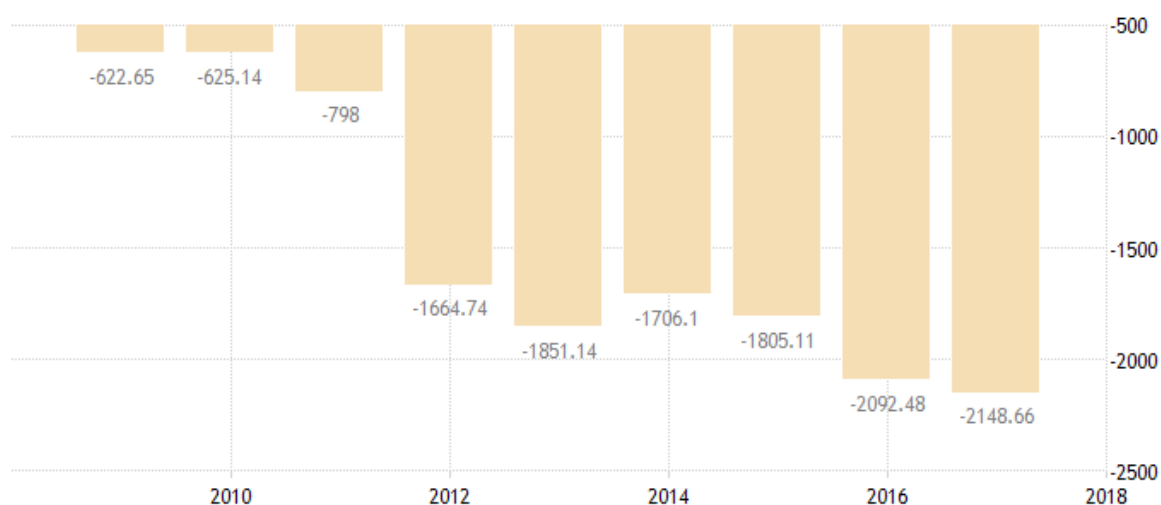
⁵ <https://tradingeconomics.com/somalia/gdp-growth-annual>

Foreign Trade Evaluation

Trade	Last	Previous	Highest	Lowest	Unit
Balance of Trade	-2148.66	-2092.48	-101.76	-2148.66	USD Million
Exports	257.45	627.25	690.02	45.29	USD Million
Imports	2406.11	2719.73	2719.73	162.71	USD Million

Balance of Trade

Somalia recorded a trade deficit of 2148.66 USD Million in 2017. Balance of Trade in Somalia averaged -808.89 USD Million from 1998 until 2017, reaching an all time high of -101.76 USD Million in 2003 and a record low of -2148.66 USD Million in 2017.⁶



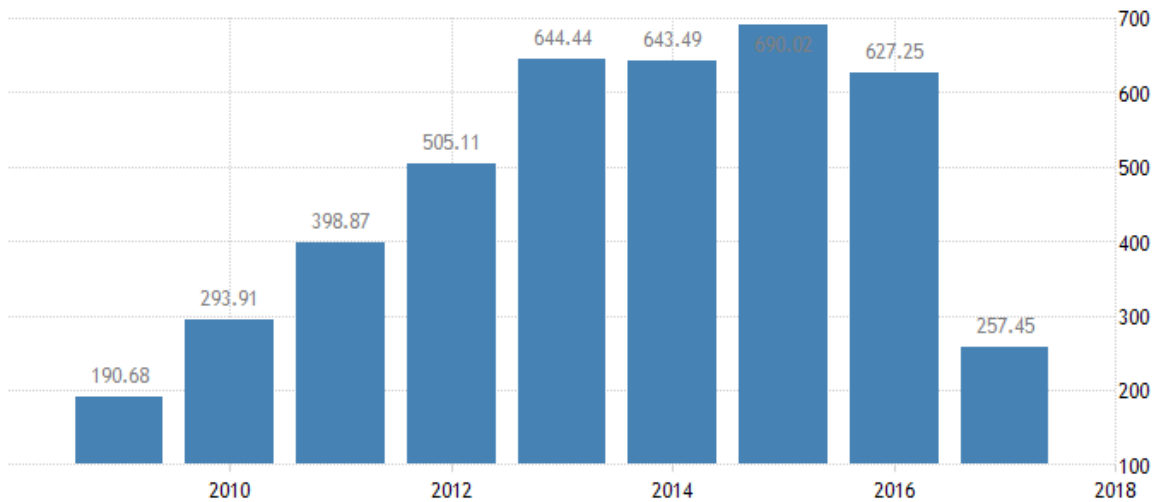
SOURCE: TRADINGECONOMICS.COM | INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE

Exports and Imports

Exports in Somalia decreased to 257.45 USD Million in 2017 from 627.25 USD Million in 2016. Exports in Somalia averaged 298.22 USD Million from 1998 until 2017, reaching an all time high of 690.02 USD Million in 2015 and a record low of 45.29 USD Million in 2001.⁷

⁶ <https://tradingeconomics.com/somalia/balance-of-trade>

⁷ <https://tradingeconomics.com/somalia/exports>



SOURCE: TRADINGECONOMICS.COM | INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE

Imports in Somalia decreased to 2406.11 USD Million in 2017 from 2719.73 USD Million in 2016. Imports in Somalia averaged 1107.52 USD Million from 1998 until 2017, reaching an all time high of 2719.73 USD Million in 2016 and a record low of 162.71 USD Million in 2001.⁸



SOURCE: TRADINGECONOMICS.COM | INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE

⁸ <https://tradingeconomics.com/somalia/imports>

Somalia Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Agriculture & Fisheries

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