## DEMOCRATIC REP. OF CONGO

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) economy continues to face challenges from increased conflict in the eastern part of the country. Strong exports and foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows boosted foreign reserves and stabilized the Congolese franc. However, escalating conflict in the East has increased security costs and strained the fiscal situation. While growth prospects are favorable, economic growth has yet to translate into significant poverty reduction.

Key	conditions	and	chal	lenges
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The eastern region of the DRC has faced decades of insecurity, particularly in mineral-rich areas where armed groups fuel an illicit economy of natural resource exploitation. The situation worsened with the recent loss of control over North Kivu and South Kivu, which is estimated to have contributed to about 3.7 percent of forgone government revenue (0.4 percent of GDP) in 2025. The turmoil directly affects about 14 percent of DRC's population, leading to significant human rights violations and about 7.4 million internally displaced people (IDPs).

The ongoing conflict in DRC exacerbates widespread extreme poverty and poor service delivery. Weak governance, resource exploitation by armed groups, and high socioeconomic vulnerability sustain violence and economic instability, impeding sustainable development and poverty reduction. The current escalation—particularly in North Kivu and South Kivu—has increased the fiscal burden of the government's response and risks undermining the reform agenda and macroeconomic stability. The economy was

Population <sup>1</sup> million 109.3	Poverty <sup>2</sup> millions living on less than \$3.00/day <b>81.9</b>
Life expectancy at birth <sup>3</sup> years 61.9	School enrollment <sup>4</sup> primary (% gross) <b>119.9</b>
GDP <sup>5</sup> current US\$, billion	GDP per capita <sup>6</sup> current US\$ 710.9

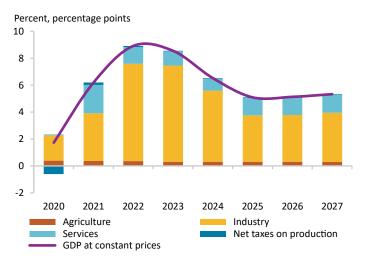
Sources: WDI, MFMod, and official data. 1/2024. 2/2020 (2021 PPPs). 3/2023. 4/2023. 5/2024. 6/2024

set to benefit from structural reforms supported by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Extended Credit Facility and Resilience and Sustainability Facility, and the World Bank's Development Policy Financing. These programs aim to enhance macroeconomic stability, financial management, public administration, the business climate, governance, and transparency. However, volatile security and heavy dependence on extractive industries expose the DRC to fluctuations in global commodity prices and demand, weighing on growth and fiscal revenue. Addressing these challenges requires significant national and international engagement to strengthen governance, bolster conflict resolution, and restore security and state authority.

## Recent developments

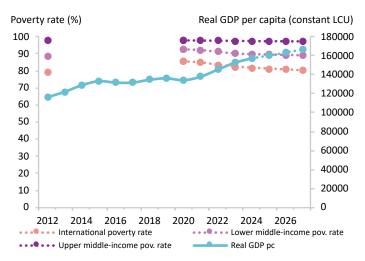
Real GDP growth is projected at 5.1 percent in 2025, down from 6.5 percent in 2024, driven by industry and services. Mining growth was subdued following the suspension of cobalt exports since February 2025, a measure intended to curb oversupply and stabilize global prices. Modest growth in non-mining sectors—particularly

FIGURE 1 / Real GDP growth and sectoral contributions to real GDP growth



Sources: Democratic Republic of Congo Statistical Authorities and World Bank.

FIGURE 2 / Actual and projected poverty rates and real GDP per capita



Source: World Bank. Notes: See footnotes in table on the next page.

services—is expected to edge up, supported by telecommunications and trade. On the demand side, private investment and exports underpinned growth. Poverty remained high at an estimated 81 percent in 2025, reflecting an extractive-driven model that has benefited only a small part of the population. The recent acceleration of the M23 rebels' offensive has likely further eroded household welfare in the eastern DRC.

The current account deficit is projected to narrow to 3.2 percent of GDP in 2025 as copper exports rise, with FDI and external financing boosting reserves to about 12 weeks of imports (from 10.1 weeks in 2024). Supported by exchange rate stability and tight Central Bank of Congo (BCC) policy, inflation eased to 7.8 percent in July 2024. The fiscal deficit is expected to widen to 2.3 percent of GDP in 2025 on account of revenue losses in conflict affected provinces and higher security outlays, financed mainly by domestic borrowing and external concessional financing. Public debt remains low at 23.5 percent of GDP, with a moderate risk of distress.

## Outlook

GDP growth is projected to average 5.2 percent in 2026-27, mainly driven by the mining output. Non-mining sectors are anticipated to gradually contribute, led by construction and infrastructure activities. Private investment and mining exports will also support growth. External pressures should ease in 2026-27 as strong export earnings from favorable commodity prices offset moderate import bills, reducing the current account deficit to 2.2 percent of GDP by 2027. A solid external position and no BCC deficit financing should underpin a stable currency and keep inflation at the 7 percent medium-term target. Foreign direct investment and external financing are set to lift reserves to slightly above three months of imports by 2027.

The fiscal deficit is projected to narrow to 1.8 percent of GDP by 2027, supported by higher mining revenues and fiscal consolidation through expenditure control and tax administration measures.

Despite the favorable macroeconomic outlook, extreme poverty is expected to remain high at over 80 percent in 2026. Stronger poverty reduction will require improved security, strengthened public service delivery, and economic diversification. The agricultural transformation agenda will be critical to raise productivity, link farmers to markets, and reduce dependence on food imports. Risks are tilted to the downside: declines in commodity prices, protracted conflict in the east, and persistent health outbreaks (such as mpox) could further strain public spending.

Recent history and projections	2022	2023	2024	2025e	2026f	2027f
Real GDP growth, at constant market prices	8.9	8.6	6.5	5.1	5.1	5.3
Private consumption		3.5	3.7	3.9	4.2	4.5
Government consumption		-12.9	9.1	9.2	9.0	8.7
Gross fixed capital investment		98.0	11.3	5.5	5.5	6.2
Exports, goods and services		15.7	12.9	5.6	6.5	7.1
Imports, goods and services		85.6	11.6	5.3	5.6	6.4
Real GDP growth, at constant factor prices	8.9	8.6	6.5	5.1	5.1	5.3
Agriculture	2.4	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.5
Industry	15.7	14.6	10.2	6.4	6.4	6.7
Services	3.3	3.0	2.6	3.9	4.0	4.2
Employment rate (% of working-age population, 15 years+)	62.7	62.8	62.8	62.8	62.8	62.8
Inflation (consumer price index)	9.3	19.9	17.7	8.9	7.5	7.0
Current account balance (% of GDP)	-4.9	-6.3	-3.4	-3.2	-2.4	-2.2
Fiscal balance (% of GDP) <sup>1</sup>	-0.8	-2.3	-1.7	-2.3	-1.9	-1.8
Revenues (% of GDP)	16.6	15.1	15.3	15.0	15.4	15.6
Debt (% of GDP)	21.8	27.4	22.8	23.5	23.8	24.1
Primary balance (% of GDP)	-0.5	-1.3	-0.7	-1.4	-0.8	-0.7
International poverty rate (\$3.00 in 2021 PPP) <sup>2,3</sup>	83.4	82.4	81.7	81.1	80.6	80.1
Lower middle-income poverty rate (\$4.20 in 2021 PPP) <sup>2,3</sup>	91.1	90.2	89.8	89.6	89.3	89.1
Upper middle-income poverty rate (\$8.30 in 2021 PPP) <sup>2,3</sup>	97.7	97.5	97.4	97.2	97.2	97.1
GHG emissions growth (mtCO2e)	-0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3

Source: World Bank, Poverty and Economic Policy Global Departments. Emissions data sourced from CAIT and OECD.

Notes: e = estimate, f = forecast. Data in annual percent change unless indicated otherwise. 1/ Fiscal balance figures are reported on a cash basis (% of GDP).

<sup>2/</sup> Calculations based on 2020-EGI-ODD. Actual data: 2020. Nowcast: 2021-2024. Forecasts are from 2025 to 2027.

<sup>3/</sup> Projection using neutral distribution (2020) with pass-through = 0.87 (Med (0.87)) based on GDP per capita in constant LCU.