

Ghana



KEY FACTS

Joined Commonwealth:	1957
Population:	24,966,000 (2011)
GDP p.c. growth:	2.5% p.a. 1990–2011
UN HDI 2011:	world ranking 135
Official language:	English
Time:	GMT
Currency:	cedi (¢)

Geography

Area:	238,537 sq km
Coastline:	539km
Capital:	Accra

The Republic of Ghana, formerly the Gold Coast, is a West African country lying on the Gulf of Guinea. It is surrounded (clockwise, from the west) by Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Togo.

Ghana has ten regions: Greater Accra, Ashanti, Brong Ahafo, Central, Eastern, Northern, Upper East, Upper West, Volta and

Western. After Greater Accra, Ashanti is the most populated region; Upper West, the least.

Topography: The Black Volta, Red Volta and White Volta rivers merge into one river Volta, which has been dammed at Akosombo to form Lake Volta (approximately 8,482 sq km). There are hills to the north (averaging 500m), but the country is generally flat. The central forest area is broken up into ridges and valleys. There are lagoons on the coast, and many sandy beaches with coconut trees.

Climate: Tropical; warm and fairly dry in northern areas, hot and humid on the coastal belt. Temperatures usually range between 21°C and 32°C. Annual rainfall varies from 700mm to 2,150mm. In 2007, large parts of West Africa were the subject of severe flooding. Ghana was the worst hit with more than 300,000 of its people made homeless.

Environment: The most significant environmental issues are deforestation, overgrazing, soil erosion; drought in the north; poaching and habitat destruction threatening wildlife populations; and water pollution and inadequate supplies of drinking water.

Vegetation: Grass occurs on much of the central plain, dense rainforest in the south and west; woodland and dry savannah to the north. Forest covers 22% of the land area, having declined at 2.0% p.a. 1990–2010. Arable land comprises 19% and permanent cropland 11% of the total land area.

Wildlife: Ghana is rich in animal life and had in 2003 protected areas comprising 5.6% of the total land area. The Mole National Park comprises some 736 sq km in the western part of the northern region of Damonoyo and has many species including elephants, hippos, eagles, kites and hornbills. The Digya National Park on the shores of Lake Volta has hippos, water buck, crocodiles and manatees. There are 222 species of mammals, 14 of which are endangered, and 206 species of birds, eight endangered.

Main towns: Accra (capital, pop. 2.45m in 2010), Kumasi (Ashanti, 1.93m), Tamale (Northern, 466,700), Ashiaman (Greater



did you know?

Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of the United Nations, delivered the 3rd Annual Commonwealth Lecture, on 'Africa Wants to Trade its Way out of Poverty', in 2000.

Four Ghanaians have been regional winners in the Commonwealth Writers' Prize: Ama Ata Aidoo (1992), Lawrence Darmani (1992), Lucy Safo (1994) and Benjamin Kwakye (1999 and 2006).

Abédi Pelé, born in Accra, Ghana, in 1964, was voted African Footballer of the Year in 1991, 1992 and 1993.



A consultant in investment and business finance, oil and gas, training and management.

Gamank Investment Group is an investment brokerage boutique dedicated to inbound and outbound cross border deal solutions focused on companies in emerging markets. Our primary goal is to connect global pools of capital and new pockets of opportunity with our continually growing emerging market clientele – creating win-win solutions. What epitomises us best is our global reach, uncompromising commitment to excellence, relentless focus on bringing value to our clients and speed in delivery of results.

The firm views profits, not as a goal, but as a natural result of quality – a manifestation of client satisfaction. We view ourselves as a conduit of innovation and value creation among companies, market opportunities and investors.

Building on our core capital-raising competence, **Gamank** is today recognised for its cross border mergers and acquisitions (M&A) activity involving the emerging markets such as Ghana. We specialise in originating, developing and shepherding high value, strategic international deals – both serving emerging market companies in their global pursuits and international companies in furthering their emerging market and inorganic growth strategies.

Gamank has participated in M&A transactions valued in excess of US\$2 billion particularly in the oil and gas, and mining sectors; and has advised on equity and other financings in excess of US\$100 million in areas such as infrastructure, engineering, telecom, mining, hospitality, and many others in Africa.

Gamank positions itself today at the forefront of a new and vibrant Ghana, aiming to open doors to big ticket international finance and strategic M&A opportunities. In these challenging times, we are especially equipped to bring innovative solutions tailored to our clients' needs.

Gamank has established an impeccable reputation reflecting its superior performance and high levels of client satisfaction. The extensive experience of our executive team of investment bankers is buttressed by the stature and global insights of our eminent Board of Directors and Advisory Board.

Gamank has served clients in industries as diverse as convergence metals, natural resources, infrastructure, logistics, restaurants, hospitality, finance, aviation, technology, real estate, retail and engineering.

The intensity of our focus on the myriad nuances of emerging markets like Ghana and the depth of our professionals' experience and breadth of our relationships and influence, all enable **Gamank** to produce ground-breaking work when traditional solutions fall short of achieving client goals.

Our equity placements usually range between US\$5 million and US\$500 million although size is not a constraint for us. Debt placements tend to be much larger. Often, we cover multiple layers of the capital structure in a single transaction. For the right opportunity, there is no limit.

Pragmatic companies implementing aggressive growth plans turn to us to arrange international capital and provide quality advice. Our investor portfolio spans the entire

business spectrum from buyout funds, growth oriented private equity funds, mezzanine investors, crossover buyers, distress investment funds and family offices. We count among our close banking relationships some of the world's largest and most renowned banks.

This broad, robust and geographically diverse network of international investors and lenders is the cornerstone of our 'fast track' financial intermediation capabilities. Likewise, our network of relationships across all continents ensures a constant flow of M&A deals across a very wide range of sectors and geographies.

Simply put, your vision is our mission.

www.gamank.com

Sam Ankrah, CEO

Over 10 years' successful experience providing fiscal, strategic and operations leadership in uniquely challenging situations, with extensive business background in international, multi-cultural environments. He has repeatedly produced sustained revenue and EBITA growth in dynamic and changing markets; and possesses proven achievements in management, accounting and finance, investment banking, leasing and finance, factoring and forfeiting oil and gas, and private pension management.





Inter Maritime Services Limited, is a privately-owned company based in Tema Ghana, West Africa, is the pioneer of independent bunker trading in Ghana and one of the leading forces in the bunker industry in Ghana providing a reliable and independent bunker supply service.

Mr. David Ameble
Managing Director



Mr. Ameble is currently a holder of LLM in Business Law. He holds a Diploma in Ship Management from the United Kingdom in 1999 and also a member of International Ship Managers Association and another Diploma in International Trade from Wade World Trade Institute. David has both International and Local work experience, having started his working career in Netherlands as an independent agent for Socar Shipping at Lelystad, VTL Shipping, Rotterdam, Netherlands for three years.

Introduction

INTERMARITIME SERVICES LIMITED GHANA is a House hold name in Marine bunkering and support services in Ghana and West African sub region. We have been doing real business in servicing and supplying various fleets of vessels with marine fuels, lubricants and total logistics support operations.

Incorporated on October 25th 1995, under Ghana's company code, 1963 Act [197] as a private limited liability company. IMSL has carved a niche for its self in operational service delivery with a recent breakthrough as the first indigenous company to service FPSO vessel Kwame Nkrumah with lubricants.

Vision, Mission & Values

OUR VISION is to be a global Oil & Gas industry's premier facilities and infrastructure provider, admired by customers and employees for consistently delivery and rewarding excellence, technocracy into smart engineering solutions.

OUR MISSION is to deliver services to customer specification, fit for purpose, on schedule, and to the right quality, thereby elimination unscheduled downtime.

OUR VALUES at INTERMARITIME SERVICES LTD is a culturally diverse indigenous company, united by shared values of honesty respect and hard work with strong emphasis on human asset development.

Some of our lubricants we do supply

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hydraulic Oil | <input type="checkbox"/> Compressor Oil | <input type="checkbox"/> Electrical Oil |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transmission Oil | <input type="checkbox"/> Brake Fluid | <input type="checkbox"/> Drilling Oil |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gear Oil | <input type="checkbox"/> Petrol Engine Oils | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greases | <input type="checkbox"/> Diesel Engine Oil | |



SCOPE OF SERVICES

Ship Management

We provide fuels, lubricants and related technical services to the shipping industry through a network in Africa. It supplies about 200 customers involved in a broad range of shipping operations.

Upstream Services

Inter maritime locates and provides underground or underwater reserves for the extraction of raw materials. Additionally, the upstream process in this industry involves bringing oil and gas to the surface.

Bunkering

We specialise in providing bunker in all Ghanaian ports and offer an all round service, a rapid response time and proactive logistics solutions. Inter Maritime is the authorised Shell lubricant distributor in Ghana.

International trade expert

Inter maritime provides the exchange of capital, goods, and services across international borders or territories. In most countries, such trade represents a significant share of gross domestic product (GDP). While international trade has been present throughout much of history, its economic, social, and political importance has been on the rise in recent centuries.

Office Location

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Authorized Shell Distributor

Accra, 289,100), Takoradi (Western, 273,900), Cape Coast (Central, 182,900), Teshie (Greater Accra, 182,100), Tema (Greater Accra, 178,800), Obuasi (Ashanti, 173,100), Sekondi (Western, 156,200), Madina (Greater Accra, 140,800), Koforidua (Eastern, 111,700), Wa (Upper West, 96,500), Techiman (Brong Ahafo, 91,400), Nungua (Greater Accra, 89,100), Tema New Town (Greater Accra, 87,400), Ho (Volta, 83,700), Sunyani (Brong Ahafo, 83,600), Bawku (Upper East, 66,200) and Bolgatanga (Upper East, 63,500).

Transport: There are 57,610km of roads, 15% paved, and a 953-km railway network, connecting Accra, Kumasi and Takoradi, originally built mainly to link mining centres to the ports but also provides passenger services.

Main ports are at Tema, near Accra, and Takoradi, and the main international airport is at Accra (Kotoka), 10km to the north of the city; other airports are at Takoradi, Kumasi, Sunyani and Tamale.

Society

KEY FACTS 2011

Population per sq km:	105
Life expectancy:	64 years
Net primary enrolment:	84%

Population: 24,966,000 (2011); 52% lives in urban areas and 17% in urban agglomerations of more than 1 million people; growth 2.5% p.a. 1990–2011; birth rate 31 per 1,000 people (47 in 1970); life expectancy 64 years (49 in 1970).

The population is predominantly of African groups: Akan (45% in 2000 census), Mole–Dagbani (15%), Ewe (12%), Ga-Adangbe (7%), Guan (4%), Gurma (4%), Grusi (3%). There are very small minorities of other races.

Language: The official language is English. The principal indigenous language group is Akan, of which Twi and Fanti are the most commonly used forms. Ga is spoken in the Accra region, Ewe in Volta, and the Mole–Dagbani language group in northern Ghana.

Religion: Christians 69% in 2000 census, Muslims 16%, and traditional animist religions are often practised alongside both of these religions.

Health: Public spending on health was 3% of GDP in 2010. Public hospital and other medical care is provided at nominal rates. As well as public hospitals and clinics, some are private and some operated by religious missions. 86% of the population uses an improved drinking water source and 14% have adequate sanitation facilities (2010). Infant mortality was 52 per 1,000 live births in 2011 (126 in 1960). AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis pose serious problems, and there have been cases of yellow fever, bilharzia and intestinal worms in rural areas. In 2011, 1.5% of people aged 15–49 were HIV positive.

Education: Public spending on education was 8.2% of GDP in 2011. There are eight years of compulsory education starting at age six. Primary school comprises six years and secondary six, with two cycles each of three years. Some 72% of pupils complete primary school (2008). The school year starts in September. For those proceeding to tertiary education, the nine years of basic education are followed by three years of senior secondary school.

There are six public universities: University of Ghana (Legon, Accra, established 1948); Kwame Nkrumah University of Science

and Technology (Kumasi, 1952); University of Cape Coast (1962); University for Development Studies (main campus at Tamale, 1992); University of Education (Winneba, 2004); and University of Mines and Technology (Tarkwa, 2004). Other major tertiary institutions include the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (Achimota, Accra, 1961). There are also many teacher-training colleges, polytechnics and specialised tertiary institutions; and many private universities. The female–male ratio for gross enrolment in tertiary education is 0.62:1 (2011). Literacy among people aged 15–24 is 81% (2010).

Media: *Daily Graphic* and *Ghanaian Times* (both state-owned), *The Ghanaian Chronicle* and *Daily Guide* are daily newspapers. *Ghana Palaver*, *The Independent*, *The Mail* (bi-weekly), *The Mirror* and *Sunday Herald* are weeklies.

Ghana Broadcasting Corporation is the public TV and radio provider, broadcasting in Ghanaian languages and English; many private radio stations and TV channels are also available, particularly in the urban areas.

Some 39% of households have TV sets (2007). There are 11 personal computers per 1,000 people (2008).

Communications: Country code 233; internet domain '.gh'. Mobile phone coverage is good around main towns but patchy elsewhere. Internet connections exist in most towns and speeds are increasing.

There are 11 main telephone lines, 848 mobile phone subscriptions and 141 internet users per 1,000 people (2011).

Public holidays: New Year's Day, Independence Day (6 March), Workers' Day (1 May), Africa Day (25 May), Republic Day (1 July), Farmers' Day (first Friday in December), Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

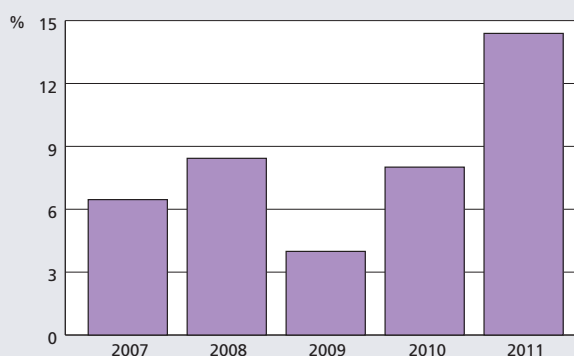
Religious and other festivals whose dates vary from year to year include Good Friday, Easter Monday, Eid al-Fitr (End of Ramadan) and Eid al-Adha (Feast of the Sacrifice).

Economy

KEY FACTS 2011

GNI:	US\$35.1bn
GNI p.c.:	US\$1,410
GDP growth:	8.2% p.a. 2007–11
Inflation:	13.1% p.a. 2007–11

Real Growth in GDP



Ahantaman Rural Bank Limited



Background

Ahantaman Rural Bank Limited (ARBL) was established in November 1984 and is licensed by the Bank of Ghana as a rural bank with headquarters at Agona Nkwanta in the Ahanta West District of the Western Region in Ghana.

The Bank currently employs 186 employees and provides both banking and microfinance services to its surrounding communities through its main office at Agona Nkwanta and 12 other branches spread across Sekondi/Takoradi, Ahanta West, Nzema East and Tarkwa-Nsuaem Metropolitan and District Assemblies.

Vision

To become the preferred financial institution in Ghana offering utmost satisfaction to all its stakeholders

Mission

To be and remain the leading rural bank in the country, meeting stakeholder's expectation. We will strengthen stakeholder relationships by providing the right solutions that combine technologies, expertise and financial strength. We will create customer loyalty, shareholder value and employee satisfaction.

Contact

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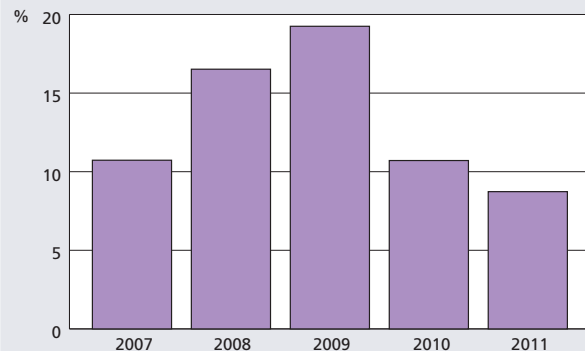
TEL: +233 31 209 1033
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2011 award from Ghana Investment Promotion Center as one of the top 100 companies in Ghana

Inflation



History

According to oral traditions, the ancestors of the Akan people, today the largest ethnic group, entered the country from the north and spread southwards between AD 1200 and 1600. The Fanti State of Denkyira was at that period already established on the coast. By 1400 the Akan had established their Bono and Buida kingdoms in the forested central region.

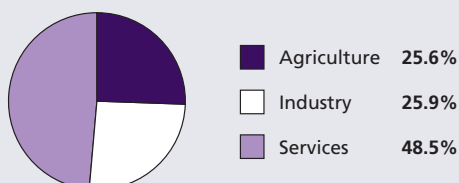
Their highly developed culture was centred on the city-state, surrounded by vassal villages, and rule by a court where the queen mother was often a more powerful figure than the king who, being sacred, was hidden from the people and consequently often politically isolated. The Akan traded gold and kola nuts for salt and cloth, in the west and north, and were also involved in the slave trade. In the 15th century, the Ashanti people waged war against the Denkyira Kingdom and by 1700 had gained control of the slave trade. They developed a powerful army and a centralised state, ruled by the Asantehene (king of the Ashanti nation).

Portuguese traders, arriving after 1450 in search of gold and ivory, named the country Gold Coast; appropriately since, by the end of the 16th century, it produced 10% of the world's gold.

From the middle of the 16th century other Europeans began arriving; in the mid-18th century there were Dutch, Danish and British settlements. The British became involved in internal conflicts when they backed the Fanti against the Ashanti who were extending their power into the coastal areas. There were four wars in the 19th century.

The Bond of 1844, entered into by Britain and the Fanti chiefs, endorsed British control of small pockets of settlement; six years later Britain set up a legislative council to govern these areas. The British took over abandoned Danish settlements in 1850 and the Dutch settlements in 1871. By Orders in Council (1901) Britain declared the southern territory a colony by settlement, the northern territory a protectorate and Ashanti a colony by conquest. In 1922 a part of the adjoining German territory of Togoland was placed under British administration by a League of Nations Mandate and after the Second World War it became a UN Trust Territory. The principle of elections was introduced under the 1925 constitution.

GDP by Sector (2011)



Ghana's formerly strong economy was badly affected by a series of military coups and failed development plans. A highly protected economy and substantial state investment created a large manufacturing sector which by the 1980s was becoming a heavy burden on national resources. While the economy depended heavily on the export of two commodities, gold and cocoa, it

would remain vulnerable to fluctuations in world commodity prices and to poor harvests.

The economic situation began to improve with government austerity programmes in the late 1980s, but the early 1990s presented new difficulties including a decline in the international price of cocoa. Donors pledged substantial aid from 1993, in support of IMF-backed economic recovery and reform programmes, which aimed to diversify exports, control public expenditure and privatise a number of state-owned enterprises.

Ghana has benefited from the G8 debt-relief programme launched at the Gleneagles Summit in Scotland, UK, in July 2005.

From the mid-1990s, there followed a period of vigorous economic growth, only dipping below 4% p.a. in 2000, when cocoa prices were weak and oil costs rising. This growth continued in 2008–12

- During the first half of the 20th century, there was growing national pressure for self-determination, and the UK gradually surrendered control. The 1946 constitution required the legislative council to have an African majority. Following civic disturbances in 1948, the UK agreed that a committee consisting entirely of Africans should examine the structure of the country's government.

In 1949, Kwame Nkrumah set up the Convention People's Party (CPP) to campaign for independence. Elections took place in 1951, and the following year Nkrumah became the country's first premier. The 1954 constitution provided for a legislative assembly of 104 directly elected members, and an all-African Cabinet; the UK kept responsibility for foreign affairs and defence. The CPP campaigned for full independence. The general election of 1956 returned the CPP with a big majority.

Modern-day Ghana was formed when the British-administered part of Togoland voted to join the Gold Coast in an independent state, in a UN-supervised plebiscite in May 1956. Ghana achieved independence within the Commonwealth on 6 March 1957.

In 1960 Ghana became a republic, with Nkrumah as president, and in 1964 a one-party state, the CPP being the sole authorised party. However, less than a year later, Nkrumah was removed by military coup, the first of four coups.

The army and police set up a National Liberation Council, which dissolved the legislative assembly and suspended the constitution while a new one was drafted. Political activity was permitted again in 1969; a general election followed in August. It returned the Progress Party; its leader Dr Kofi Busia became prime minister, with the National Alliance of Liberals as the opposition.

In 1972, another military coup led by Colonel Ignatius Acheampong overthrew Busia's government and set up a National Redemption Council. In 1978 Acheampong was replaced by General Frederick Akuffo, who promised civilian rule by the middle of the following year.

Two weeks before the elections were to be held in June 1979, a military coup led by junior officers ousted the government. Flt-Lt Jerry J Rawlings and the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council declared that they had assumed power, in order that an honest election could take place. Elections were held as scheduled; they

returned the People's National Party, whose leader Dr Hilla Limann took office as president in September 1979.

Another coup, in 1981, put Rawlings back in power. He suspended the constitution and banned political parties. From December 1981 until November 1992 Ghana was ruled by a Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC).

In May 1991 the PNDC government set up a 260-member consultative assembly to oversee the restoration of multiparty democracy. A committee of constitutional experts was appointed to draft a new constitution for submission to this assembly. In April 1992 the draft constitution was overwhelmingly approved in a referendum; political associations were unbanned; and six opposition movements were granted legal recognition. The National Democratic Congress (NDC) was formed to contest the elections on behalf of the PNDC.

The November 1992 presidential election (witnessed by Commonwealth observers, and considered 'overall free and fair') returned Jerry Rawlings (with 58.3% of the vote). The parliamentary elections of December 1992 returned the NDC with 189 of 200 seats in the new Parliament. The NDC united with the National Convention Party (NCP) and the Every Ghanaian Living Everywhere Party to form the Progressive Alliance. In January 1993 Rawlings was sworn in as president, and the Fourth Republic was inaugurated. In May 1995, the NCP left the coalition.

In the December 1996 elections, President Rawlings was re-elected with 58% of the votes. Turnout was 75%. His party, the NDC, won 133 seats. The opposition alliance of the New Patriotic Party and the People's Convention Party won 66 seats, just reaching the level at which they could successfully oppose constitutional changes (which need a two-thirds majority). The elections were seen as a step towards full multiparty democracy; the opposition had boycotted the 1992 parliamentary elections, but accepted defeat the second time round. Ghana thus acquired a significant legislative opposition for the first time in 15 years.

After Rawlings was chosen as 'life chairman' of the party in December 1998, the NDC suffered a serious split in its ranks with the formation by some of its founding members of the National Reform Party, which was registered in July 1999.

(reaching 14.4% in 2011) in the teeth of the global economic downturn. Keeping inflation under control, however, proved more challenging.

Mining

Gold and diamonds are the main mineral exports. There are large reserves of bauxite and manganese. Ghana's aluminium smelter was closed in 2007. The government assumed ownership of the operating company, Valco, in 2010 and announced plans to rehabilitate it and establish a domestic aluminium industry.

Oil and gas

Significant discoveries of offshore oil were announced in 2007. Oil production began in December 2010 at a rate of 55,000 barrels a day and was at some 105,000 barrels a day by the latter part of 2012. As new wells come on stream, production was expected to rise rapidly. In 2012 the country was set to become a major gas producer too.

Constitution

Status:	Republic with executive president
Legislature:	Parliament
Independence:	6 March 1957

A new constitution, based on the US model, was approved by national referendum in April 1992. Ghana is a unitary republic with an executive presidency and a multiparty political system. The national legislature is the unicameral Parliament, whose 275 members are elected by universal adult suffrage every four years. Parliament was enlarged from 230 to 275 members before the elections of 7–8 December 2012.

The president, who is head of state and commander-in-chief of the armed forces, is elected by universal suffrage for a maximum of two four-year terms. If no presidential candidate receives more than 50% of votes, a new election between the two leading candidates must take place within 21 days.

The president appoints a vice-president and nominates a council of ministers, subject to approval by the parliament. The constitution also provides for two advisory bodies to the president: a 25-member council of state, composed mainly of regional representatives and presidential nominees, and a 20-member national security council, chaired by the vice-president.

Ten regional ministers, one for each region, are each assisted by a regional co-ordinating council. There are 138 administrative districts, each having a district assembly, headed by a district chief executive. Regional colleges, which comprise representatives selected by the district assemblies and by regional houses of chiefs, elect a number of representatives to the council of state.

Politics

Last elections:	7–8 December 2012 (presidential and legislative)
Next elections:	2016/2017 (presidential and legislative)
Head of state:	President John Dramani Mahama
Head of government:	the president
Ruling party:	National Democratic Congress

After 19 years at the helm, President Jerry Rawlings was barred by the constitution from seeking another term of office in the December 2000 presidential election. For the first time in Ghana's history there was a democratic transfer of power, after National Democratic Congress (NDC) candidate Vice-President John Atta Mills was defeated in the second round of the presidential contest by New Patriotic Party (NPP) leader, John Kufuor. The NPP also won the parliamentary elections held on the same day in December 2000 as the first round of the presidential election.

Kufuor won the December 2004 presidential election gaining an outright majority in the first round with 53.4% of the votes. His main rival, Atta Mills of the NDC, received 43.7% and the turnout was 83%. In parliamentary elections on the same day the NPP took 128 seats, the NDC 94, People's National Convention (PNC) four and Convention People's Party (CPP) three. Kufuor promised to make reducing poverty his priority in his second term.

The parliamentary and presidential elections in December 2008 were very close. The NDC won the general election but just fell short of an overall majority; the NDC took 115 seats, NPP 108, PNC two, CPP one and independents four. In the second round of the presidential election, the NDC's Atta Mills (50.2%) narrowly beat the NPP's Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo (49.8%), reversing the first-round result of Akufo-Addo 49.1% and Atta Mills 47.9%. Commonwealth observers were present.

Following the death of President Atta Mills on 24 July 2012, Vice-President John Dramani Mahama was sworn in as president, in accordance with the law.

At the December 2012 elections, when turnout was more than 80%, the NDC won 148 of 275 seats in the enlarged Parliament and the NPP 123. The NDC's candidate, the incumbent President Mahama, won a very close presidential contest in the first round with 50.7% of votes cast, the NPP's Akufo-Addo securing 47.7% and the other six candidates the remaining 1.6%. The elections were conducted in the presence of Commonwealth observers led by former Lesotho PM Pakalitha Mosisili, who said that the election had been generally peaceful but that the level of women's participation as candidates, and thus as representatives, was very low.

International relations

Ghana is a member of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, African Union, Economic Community of West African States, Non-Aligned Movement, Organisation internationale de la Francophonie, United Nations and World Trade Organization.

Traveller information

Immigration and customs: Passports must be valid for at least six months from the date of visa application. Visas are required by most Commonwealth nationals. A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from all travellers aged over 9 months.

Travel within the country: Traffic drives on the right. An international driving permit is required to drive in Ghana. Seatbelts are compulsory and drink-driving is illegal. Grass or leaves strewn across the road indicates an accident or hazard ahead.

There are domestic flights between Accra, Kumasi and Tamale. The rail network forms a 965-km loop in the south of the country,

connecting Accra, Takoradi and Kumasi. Taxis are available in the main towns. Tro-tros (small private buses) are abundant.

Travel health: Prevalent diseases where appropriate precautionary measures are recommended include cholera, diphtheria, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, malaria, meningococcal meningitis, rabies, schistosomiasis (bilharzia), typhoid and yellow fever. The World Health Organization has recommended vaccination against yellow fever.

There were 931,000 tourist arrivals in 2010.

Further information

Ghana Tourism: www.touringghana.com

Government of Ghana: www.ghana.gov.gh

Electoral Commission: www.ec.gov.gh

Parliament: www.parliament.gh

Bank of Ghana: www.bog.gov.gh

Commonwealth Secretariat: www.thecommonwealth.org

Commonwealth of Nations:
www.commonwealthofnations.org/country/ghana