



Ghana

KEY FACTS

Joined Commonwealth:	1957
Population:	24,966,000 (2011)
GNI p.c.:	US\$1,410 (2011)
UN HDI 2011:	world ranking 135

Geography

Area:	238,537 sq km
Coastline:	539 km
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.

Constitution

Status:	Republic with executive President
Legislature:	Parliament of Ghana
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 per cent 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.

Judicial system

Supreme court:	Supreme Court of Ghana
Ministry:	Justice and Attorney-General

The justice system is broadly based on English common law, and the law relating to personal relationships and contracts is rooted in Ghanaian customary law. The Supreme Court is



NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION AUTHORITY, GHANA



The Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), the core platform technology for the NIS, will enable accurate and prompt fingerprint matching with real-time accessibility when completed. The AFIS boasts world-class fingerprint identification accuracy of at least 99.9% and exceptional performance in terms of system processing speed.



www.nia.gov.gh

The National Identification Authority (NIA) was set up in 2003 under the Office of the President with the mandate to register all Ghanaians and foreign nationals permanently resident in Ghana and manage the National Identification System (NIS).

National Identification System

To fulfill its mandate, the NIA has established a National Identification System (NIS) which is a multi-purpose, national electronic biometric database of all Ghanaian citizens living in and out of the country and all foreign nationals permanently resident in Ghana. The countrywide Mass Registration Exercise is being done on a regional basis. NIA has identified and uses registration centres in various locations within the regions/districts. Working in collaboration with government institutions such as district assemblies and security agencies, which provide secure environments for the distribution of the cards by staff, the authority is gradually making strides in ensuring that the *Ghanacard* is in the hand of every registered applicant in the Greater Accra Region.

The NIS is made up of the following components

- A national register (electronic database)
- A process of registration to collect personal information and biometric data
- A process of randomly generating and assigning a unique PIN to each individual linked to their personal data
- National Identity Cards (*Ghanacard*)
- Mechanisms to verify and authenticate identity

The very purpose of the NIS is to provide reliable personal information about a person. Towards the achievement of this goal the NIS has three main functionalities that it has to implement and these are:

- Registration (Initial Mass Registration and Continuous Registration)
- Information storage/update
- Information revelation/sharing

Mission

To use technological and communication advances in the Digital Economy and the enabling Acts and Regulations in order to establish a secure National Identification System in support of social, political and economic development of Ghana.

Vision

To make the National Identification Authority the Backbone for National Transformation, Good governance, the Deepening of Democracy and sustainable development.

In 2009, Dr William Ahadzie began his appointment as the Executive Secretary.



the final court of appeal and has jurisdiction over constitutional issues. The Court of Appeal deals with appeals from the High Court, which has jurisdiction over all civil and criminal cases except where they concern treason.

All but the most serious civil and criminal cases, and cases under family law, are heard in the circuit courts. These courts also deal with appeals arising from the district courts within their region. The least serious civil cases and most criminal cases come, in the first instance, before the district courts in which magistrates preside. There are also juvenile courts for those under 17 years of age.

The chief justice of the Supreme Court is nominated by the President of the republic and approved by parliament.

Government and 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 per cent of the votes. His main rival, Atta Mills of the NDC, received 43.7 per cent and the turnout was 83 per cent. 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 per cent) narrowly beat the NPP's Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo (49.8 per cent), reversing the first-round result of Akufo-Addo 49.1 per cent and Atta Mills 47.9 per cent. 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 per cent, 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 per cent of votes cast, the NPP's Akufo-Addo securing 47.7 per cent and the other six candidates the remaining 1.6 per cent. 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.

Local government

Ministry:	Local Government and Rural Development
Association:	National Association of Local Authorities of Ghana

Ghana has ten regions: Greater Accra, Ashanti, Brong Ahafo, Central, Eastern, Northern, Upper East, Upper West, Volta and Western. Each region is represented in central government by a minister.

Local government is provided for by the Local Government Act 1993, and it is enshrined in the constitution. Local government is delivered by metropolitan, municipal and district assemblies. In each assembly area there are elected councils and unit committees onto which service delivery is devolved. Local elections are held every four years.

The assemblies have revenue-raising powers, and they receive transfers from national government including the District Assemblies' Common Fund, whereby at least 7.5 per cent of GDP must be transferred to the assemblies each year. The assemblies are responsible for public health; environmental protection; sanitation; and basic education (national government determines educational policy). Responsibility for social welfare is shared between central and local government.

National development plan

The Co-ordinated Programme of Economic and Social Development Policies 2010–16 underpins the preparation of development plans and annual budgets at the sector and district levels throughout the country.

Policy

The long-term objective of the Co-ordinated Programme is the creation of a just, free and prosperous society in which:

- Extreme forms of deprivation, such as hunger, homelessness and poverty, are eliminated



GHANA PORTS AND HARBOURS AUTHORITY



The Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority (GPHA) is responsible for the development, management and regulation of Ghana's seaports, providing the necessary infrastructure and equipment to facilitate the movement of trade and the development of the country's industries. Presently, GPHA owns, manages and operates the two semi-autonomous commercial ports: Tema and Takoradi.

About Our Ports

Tema Port, the larger of the two seaports in Ghana, is located 28 km east of the capital city, Accra and comprises 14 berths with drafts ranging from 8.0-11.5 m. The two deepest berths each constitute our dedicated container terminal privately operated by Meridian Port Services. The other berths include multi-purpose berths, liquid and dry bulk berths, an oil jetty and a private berth operated by the Volta Aluminium Company.

The Port of Takoradi is strategically located in the Western Region. The Port has six berths with draughts between 8.4-10 m in addition to dedicated manganese, bauxite and oil berths.

Both ports are complemented by fishing harbours and dry docks.

Our Markets

Our markets span all of Ghana and the neighbouring landlocked countries of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger to continents all over the world.

Our Focus

- Re-positioning the seaports to make them effective tools in the national and regional development agenda.
- To transform Tema into the preferred container hub of West Africa; and Takoradi as the dominant oil and gas services hub of Africa.

The Future

Plans for container terminals; expansion in ICT; the prospect of further rehabilitation and expansion of rail facilities; dedicated bulk terminals; and a modern maritime hospital to serve the port and its community are just a few of the projects for the days ahead.

We look forward to contributing to the continued growth of your business and ask that you contact us with your requests, comments and enquiries via our website www.ghanaports.gov.gh.

Reasons to do Business Through Ghana Ports

- Strategic geographical location in the centre of West Africa
- Ideally positioned for transit and transshipment trade
- Customer-friendly
- State-of-the-art cargo-handling equipment and storage facilities
- Competitive tariffs
- 75% stevedoring activities privatised to encourage competition and efficiency
- Safe navigation and environmentally friendly
- Peaceful industrial relations
- Professional, well-trained and motivated workforce
- 24-hour security surveillance
- Political stability
- Safe, secure and conducive marine environment
- High safety security consciousness for personnel and cargo-reputed as the best in the West African sub-region
- Strong, dynamic and vibrant stakeholder community.

Port of TEMA - The preferred port

Dredging of basin and access channel: 16m draft

- New container terminals
- New passenger terminal
- New food and fruit terminals
- New RoRo terminal
- New transshipment terminals
- New transit terminal
- New break/dry/liquid bulk terminals

Upcoming Projects



Port of TAKORADI - The ideal gateway

Dredging new berths to 14-16m

- Dedicated container terminal
- Port facilities for rail transport of containers and general cargo
- Port facilities for oil services vessels: repair and fabrication yards
- Provision of advanced cargo clearance and tracking systems
- Oil service terminal
- New oil berth
- Bulk cargo terminals
- Large open storage area for pipes, plant and machinery

- Economic growth is environmentally sensitive and public policy will ensure that it is equitable across sectors, administrative regions and socio-economic groups
- The economy is driven by industrial production with full participation of Ghanaians in a stable macroeconomic environment
- Health care is available and affordable, and education prepares people for purposeful life
- Science, technology and innovation underpin development
- All citizens participate in and share equitably the benefits of development

Governance

Major institutions established to deal with abuses of public office include the Economic and Organised Crimes Office (Act 804 of 2010); the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (Act 456 of 1993); the Internal Audit Agency (Act 658 of 2003); the Public Procurement Authority (Act 663 of 2003); and Public Account Committee of Parliament.

The National Development Planning Commission advises the President on national development policies and strategies. It is the central co-ordinating agency of the nation's decentralised planning system. It provides a national policy framework and is responsible for preparing development policies and plans, and for monitoring and evaluating their implementation.

Further information

Government of Ghana: www.ghana.gov.gh

Commonwealth Secretariat: www.thecommonwealth.org

Commonwealth Governance:

www.commonwealthgovernance.org

Governance institutions

Electoral Commission: www.ec.gov.gh

Parliament of Ghana: www.parliament.gh

Judicial Service: www.judicial.gov.gh

Public Procurement Authority: www.ppbghana.org

Internal Audit Agency: www.iaa.gov.gh

Office of the President: www.presidency.gov.gh

Ministry for Local Government and Rural Development: mlgrdghanagov.com

Ministry of Finance: www.mofep.gov.gh

Ministry of Trade and Industry: www.moti.gov.gh

Bank of Ghana: www.bog.gov.gh

Ghana Stock Exchange: www.gse.com.gh

Standards Authority: www.gsa.gov.gh

National Communications Authority: www.nca.org.gh

Energy Commission: www.energycom.gov.gh

Public Utilities Regulatory Commission: www.purc.com.gh

Ports and Harbours Authority: www.ghanaports.gov.gh