

# doing business in São Tomé and Príncipe



CURRENCY  
SAO TOMEAN  
DOBRA (STD)



country profile	
<b>government structure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Executive:</b> The president is the chief of state and the prime minister is the head of government. The president is directly elected by absolute majority popular vote, in two rounds if needed, for a five-year term and is eligible for a second term. Cabinet is proposed by the prime minister and appointed by the president.</li> <li>• <b>Legislative:</b> São Tomé and Príncipe has a unicameral National Assembly.</li> <li>• <b>Judicial:</b> The highest courts are the Supreme Court and the Constitutional Court. The subordinate courts are the Court of First Instance and the Audit Court.</li> <li>• <b>Next presidential elections:</b> July 2026.</li> </ul>
<b>economic data</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nominal GDP (USD billions): 0.61</li> <li>• GDP per capita (USD): 2 574.11</li> <li>• Inflation rate (% change): 3.00</li> <li>• Government revenue (% of GDP): 22.68</li> <li>• Government gross debt (% of GDP): 55.06</li> </ul> <p><i>*Source: IMF (January 2024 estimates)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The economy of São Tomé and Príncipe is mainly driven by agricultural production. The main agricultural products include plantains, oil palm fruit, coconuts, taro, fruit, cocoa, yams, cassava and maize.</li> <li>• There is considerable potential for the development of tourism, as well as the development of petroleum resources in the country's territorial waters in the oil-rich Gulf of Guinea.</li> <li>• The main industries include light construction, textiles, soap, beer, fish processing, and timber.</li> <li>• São Tomé and Príncipe's main export partners are Singapore, Switzerland, France, Poland, Belgium, and the United States. The main export commodities include gas turbines, cocoa beans, aircraft parts, iron products, and chocolate.</li> <li>• São Tomé and Príncipe's main import partners are Portugal, Angola, and China. The main import commodities include refined petroleum, cars, rice, flavoured water, and postage stamps.</li> </ul>
<b>risk ratings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• S&amp;P Global Overall Country Risk (Q1 2024): 130/211</li> <li>• Corruption Perceptions Index (2022): 65/180</li> </ul>

international treaties and memberships	
<b>international and regional organisations and customs unions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement</li> <li>• African Development Bank Group</li> <li>• African Union</li> <li>• Alliance of Small Island States</li> <li>• Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (<i>Comunidade dos Países de Língua Portuguesa</i>)</li> <li>• Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)</li> <li>• Group of 77</li> <li>• International Monetary Fund</li> <li>• International Organization of the French-speaking World (<i>Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie</i>)</li> <li>• Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States ("OACPS")</li> <li>• United Nations</li> <li>• World Bank Group</li> <li>• World Customs Organization</li> <li>• São Tomé and Príncipe receives preferential treatment under the agreements listed here: <a href="http://ptadb.wto.org/Country.aspx?code=678">http://ptadb.wto.org/Country.aspx?code=678</a></li> </ul>
<b>bilateral investment treaties</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Treaties have been signed with Angola, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Mauritius, and Portugal but these have not yet entered into force.</li> </ul>
<b>investment-related agreements / institutions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• African Growth and Opportunity Act</li> <li>• Cotonou Agreement (may be succeeded by the European Union and OACPS Partnership Agreement)</li> <li>• Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency</li> <li>• World Trade Organization (Observer)</li> </ul>
<b>dispute resolution</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of Other States (ICSID Convention)</li> <li>• Permanent Court of Arbitration</li> <li>• United Nations Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (New York Convention)</li> </ul>
<b>intellectual property ("IP") treaties</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A comprehensive list of IP-related treaties signed by São Tomé and Príncipe is available at: <a href="https://wipolex.wipo.int/en/legislation/members/profile/ST?collection=treaties">https://wipolex.wipo.int/en/legislation/members/profile/ST?collection=treaties</a></li> </ul>

# doing business in São Tomé and Príncipe

POPULATION  
0.2M



CURRENCY  
SAO TOMEAN  
DOBRA (STD)

GMT



OFFICIAL LANGUAGE  
PORTUGUESE

ENS is a full-service law firm with significant experience and specialist expertise that spans all commercial areas of law, tax, forensics and IP across Africa. For more information or assistance please contact:

**Celia Becker**

Executive | Africa regulatory and business intelligence  
cbecker@ENSafrica.com

*This document contains general information and no information provided herein may in any way be construed as legal advice from ENS, any of its personnel and/or its correspondent firms. Professional advice must be sought from ENS before any action is taken based on the information provided herein. This document is the property of ENS, and consent must be obtained from ENS before the information provided herein is reproduced and/or distributed in any way.*

LAST UPDATED JANUARY 2024