

# U.S. Country Commercial Guides



Chad  
2020

## Table of Contents

<b><i>Doing Business in Chad</i></b>	<b>4</b>
Market Overview	4
Market Challenges	5
Market Opportunities	5
Market Entry Strategy	5
<b><i>Leading Sectors for U.S. Exports and Investment</i></b>	<b>7</b>
Oil and Gas	7
Renewable Energy and Electricity Infrastructure	9
Mining and Precious Metals	10
Agricultural Sector	11
Livestock	12
Telecommunications	13
Construction	14
<b><i>Customs, Regulations and Standards</i></b>	<b>14</b>
Trade Barriers	14
Import Tariffs	14
Import Requirements and Documentation	15
Labeling and Marking Requirements	15
U.S. Export Controls	15
Temporary Entry	16
Prohibited and Restricted Imports	16
Customs Regulations	17
Standards for Trade	17
Licensing Requirements for Professional Services	19
<b><i>Selling U.S. Products and Services</i></b>	<b>19</b>
Distribution & Sales Channels	19
eCommerce	20
Selling Factors & Techniques	20
Trade Financing	21
Protecting Intellectual Property	22
Selling to the Public Sector	23
<b><i>Business Travel</i></b>	<b>25</b>
<b><i>Investment Climate Statement (ICS)</i></b>	<b>29</b>

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## Doing Business in Chad

### Market Overview

With rich natural resources, minimally developed agriculture and meat processing sectors, ample sunshine, increasing telecommunications coverage, and a rapidly growing population, Chad presents an opportunity for targeted engagement in key sectors. Despite numerous challenges, the success of several foreign investors and exporters in Chad illustrates the business opportunities for experienced, dedicated, and patient investors. ExxonMobil inaugurated Chad's oil sector, which will mark 20 years of operations in 2023. Olam International entered Chad's cotton market in 2018 and dramatically increased national cotton production. Formidable challenges including poor infrastructure, low consumer purchasing power, weak human capital, and bureaucracy and corruption can be overcome with sound business plans, use of local agents, strong relationships with key actors, and patience.

Chad is Africa's fifth largest country by geographical area with a rapidly growing population of 15.81 million (2019 estimate). It has a per capita gross domestic product (GDP) of USD 1,645 at purchasing power parity (PPP) in 2019 according to the World Bank. Chad has the tenth largest oil reserves in Africa, the largest population of camels in the world, and ranks in or near the top ten global populations of goats, sheep, and cattle. Gold mining is an emerging economic sector.

Chad is landlocked, bordering Libya to the north, Sudan to the east, Central African Republic (CAR) to the south, and Cameroon, Nigeria, and Niger to the west (with which it shares Lake Chad). Chad is a member of the Central African Monetary and Economic Community (CEMAC) comprised of Cameroon, the Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, the Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, and Gabon.

Oil and agriculture drive Chad's economy. Oil constitutes the bulk of export earnings and government revenues. Gold, gum arabic, sesame, cattle, and cotton are Chad's primary non-oil exports. A majority of Chad's population relies on subsistence farming and livestock rearing. The government continues plans to diversify the economy, increase export of value-added products, and develop a formal economy by 2030 despite persistent low global oil prices and a 2016-2017 economic crisis that reduced investment spending. COVID-19 impeded regional trade and negatively impacted consumer purchasing power in 2020.

As of 2018, China supplied the largest share of Chad's imports at 23 percent, followed by the United Arab Emirates at 14 percent, France at 11 percent, the United States at 7 percent, and Qatar, Turkey, India, and the Netherlands at 4 percent, according to the International Trade Centre. Chad's primary export partner is largely dependent on who imports Chad's oil. Chad's primary export partners in 2018 included India with 30 percent, the United States with 29 percent, the Netherlands with 23 percent, the United Arab Emirates with 8 percent, and China with 5 percent, according to the International Trade Centre. Preliminary data for 2019 indicated China was Chad's most important export partner with 42 percent, almost entirely oil exports. Some regional trade may not be captured in official data.

In 2019, Chad ranked No. 146 in U.S. total trade value with a total of \$217.5 million, according to the United States Census Bureau. U.S. exports totaled \$84.6 million and imports totaled \$132.8 million, a deficit of \$48.2 million. The top five U.S. exports to Chad by value – electrical machinery, tanning or dyeing extracts, vehicles, edible preparations, and chemical products – accounted for 76.6 percent of total exports to Chad. The top two U.S. imports from Chad by value – oil and gum arabic – accounted for 99.0 percent of all inbound shipments.

The United States and Chad have no bilateral trade or investment agreements. Chad is eligible for the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), receiving trade preferences including quota and duty-free entry for certain goods.

U.S. companies should consider exporting to Chad due to a strong appreciation for the quality of U.S. goods and services, an undersaturated market, and a young and growing population, and first-mover potential in many sectors.

## **Market Challenges**

The biggest challenges to U.S. companies operating in Chad include the country's dependence on global oil prices, low consumer purchasing power, difficult business and investment climate, and underdeveloped capital market.

Government spending and consumer purchasing power are highly dependent on global commodity prices. Chad's economy remains heavily reliant on oil production and agriculture and is highly vulnerable to external factors, such as global oil and food prices and drought. Chad has struggled to build economic momentum since oil prices fell in 2014. The COVID-19 pandemic halted Chad's modest economic recovery following a 2016-2017 recession caused by low global oil prices and onerous debt payments.

Chad's business and investment climate is challenging. Private sector development is hindered by poor transport infrastructure, lack of skilled labor, minimal and unreliable electricity supply, limited telecommunications infrastructure, government bureaucracy, weak contract enforcement, corruption, and high tax burdens on private enterprises. Frequent border closures with neighboring countries, exacerbated by COVID-19 restrictions, complicate international trade. Recurring rotations of key ministers and overzealous customs inspectors present further roadblocks. Skilled labor is extremely limited and companies that try to bring experts for projects face strict limits on the employment of foreigners. Article 31 of the 2020 Finance Law requires companies to provide a reimbursable deposit of up to 0.5 percent of expected annual revenue to the GOC to complete registration.

Chad's capital market is underdeveloped. Less than 10 percent of personal and small business financial transactions pass through formal banking systems. Private sector financing is limited, and low GDP growth constrains government investment and private sector spending.

## **Market Opportunities**

Chad's ongoing development presents opportunities for medium and large-scale projects in oil exploration, power generation and distribution (especially solar), mining, livestock, agribusiness, telecommunications, and infrastructure. There are opportunities in niche markets such as gum arabic and natural products like shea butter, spirulina, and moringa, as well as opportunities to develop value-added products, such as meat products and other processed agricultural goods.

Despite numerous challenges, the success of several foreign investments into Chad illustrates the business opportunities for experienced, dedicated, and patient investors. The oil sector will mark 20 years of operations in 2023 and features several prominent American international oil companies, including ExxonMobil. Olam International entered Chad's cotton market in 2018 and dramatically increased national cotton production. With rich natural resources, minimally developed agriculture and meat processing sectors, ample sunshine, increasing telecommunications coverage, and a rapidly growing population, Chad presents an opportunity for targeted investment in key sectors for enterprises of all sizes.

The Government of Chad's Investment Charter offers investment incentives to foreign companies establishing operations in Chad, including tax-free status for up to five years. Eligible economic activities are limited to the industrial, mining, agricultural, forestry, and real estate sectors. They may not compete with existing enterprises already operating in a satisfactory manner (Articles 16 and 118 of the National Investment Charter). For 2020, the government authorized tax credits for renewable energy investments, including solar power projects. In addition, the Government of Chad's National Investment and Exporting Agency (ANIE) has a "one-stop-shop" (*Guichet Unique*) for registering international and national businesses.

## **Market Entry Strategy**

Companies interested in investing in Chad should thoroughly research the business, environment, legal, and regulatory frameworks. Investors find consultations with established U.S. and other foreign firms useful. Interested U.S. firms should also visit Chad and meet potential business partners and key decision makers in the government. Prospective

investors may contact the National Agency for Investment and Exports (ANIE), the Ministry of Industrial and Commercial Development and Private Sector Promotion, or the Chamber of Commerce for information and guidance on investing in Chad.

Successful investors often operate with trusted local partners to navigate the challenges of operating in Chad. U.S. firms should consider placing a representative, agent, or attorney in Chad throughout negotiations to solidify contracts and establish a presence. To be effective, the representative should speak French; Chadian Arabic is also helpful.

There is a small U.S. business community, concentrated in the oil and equipment sectors. There is no American Chamber of Commerce.

## Leading Sectors for U.S. Exports and Investment

Chad's leading sectors offering opportunities for U.S. exports and investment include:

- Oil and Gas; and Oil and Gas Machinery
- Renewable Energy; and Electricity Infrastructure
- Precious Metals; Metals; and Mining Equipment and Machinery
- Agricultural Commodities; Agricultural Equipment and Machinery; and Food Processing Equipment
- Livestock; and Meat Processing
- Telecommunications; Cybersecurity; Information Services; and Information Technology Services
- Construction Equipment and Machinery; and Design and Construction Services

## Oil and Gas

### Overview

Chad ranks as the tenth-largest oil reserve holder among African countries, with 1.5 billion barrels of proven reserves as of 2018 and production of over 140,000 barrels per day in 2020. Petroleum is Chad's primary source of public revenue, and around 90 percent of oil production is exported. Chad's oil production is dominated by the China National Petroleum Company in Chad (CNPCIC), the ExxonMobil-led Esso Exploration & Production Chad Inc. (EEPCI) consortium, Glencore, and Taiwanese Chinese Petroleum Corp (operating as OPIC). Other oil companies are exploring new blocs. EEPCI inaugurated Chadian oil production in 2003 and owns a controlling stake in the 1,100 km Chad-Cameroon pipeline through which all Chadian oil exports reach the port of Douala, Cameroon. A joint venture between CNPCIC and the Government of Chad's state-owned oil company, Société des Hydrocarbures du Tchad (SHT), refines petroleum for export and domestic consumption at a 20,000 barrel-per-day refinery 40 km outside N'Djamena. Chad's natural gas sector is nascent. Stranded gas is flared.

Oil	2017	2018	2019	2020 (Q1)
Total Production	113,710	128,493	140,000	149,231
Total Exports	99,306	109,863	129,589	133,846
Total Imports	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Market Size	14,404	18,630	10,411	15,385

(total market size = (total local production + imports) - exports)

Units: barrels per day (bpd)

Source: Chad Ministry of Finance and Budget (<https://www.finances.gouv.td/>)

### Leading Sub-Sectors

Leading sub-sectors in oil and gas exploration include: geological surveying; oil facility maintenance; oil drilling rigs and accessories; oil exploration; pipeline construction/maintenance; security fences and other security measures; seismic mapping; storage tanks; and trucks, cranes, and related equipment. In addition, some U.S. companies have expressed interest in fuel marketing and distribution.

### Opportunities

There are opportunities for petroleum exploration, production, and refining, as well as natural gas exploration. With oil majors increasingly focus on mega-projects, Chad's moderate deposits are best suited for small and medium enterprises. Companies interested in oil exploration in Chad should contact the Minister of Oil and Mines directly with a detailed proposal and evidence of past experience. There are opportunities to contract for various stages of production.

**Resources**

Ministry of Oil and Mines: <http://www.minpe-tchad.org/index.php>

CIA World Fact Book on Chad: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/resources/the-world-factbook/geos/cd.html>

For further information, please contact the U.S. Embassy in N'Djamena at [Ndjamena-Commercial@state.gov](mailto:Ndjamenacommercial@state.gov).



## **Renewable Energy and Electricity Infrastructure**

### **Overview**

The Government of Chad and development partners like the World Bank are prioritizing electrification to promote economic growth and inclusion. Per capita electricity consumption is one of the lowest in the world and tariffs are among the highest. According to the CIA World Factbook, Chad possessed only 48,000 kW of installed electricity generation capacity as of 2016. Chad's electric grid is limited to N'Djamena and suffers frequent outages, and the country lacks a national electric power strategy. Power generation remains highly localized. The National Electricity Company SNE lacks technical and human capacity to meet growing demand because of aging infrastructure and lack of financing.

### **Leading Sub-Sectors**

Leading sub-sectors in renewable energy include solar power and electricity generation and distribution. Chad's location in the Sahel, which features brilliant sunshine especially during the dry season, and lack of alternate fuel sources such as coal make solar power an attractive export and investment sector. Chad currently generates electricity by consuming oil. With the declining cost of new solar generation plants, the Government of Chad and development partners have prioritized solar power throughout the country. Machinery and parts for electricity transmission and distribution are also in demand.

### **Opportunities**

U.S. companies are already pursuing projects in solar energy as well as power plants fired by stranded natural gas. There are also opportunities to collaborate with the Government of Chad on developing a national power strategy. In March 2019, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), a U.S. Government development finance institution, committed \$10 million to support the introduction of off-grid solar kits and appliances in Chad. OPIC's loan will help FinLux Ellen Sarl distribute solar kits and appliances to individuals, schools, health clinics and small businesses in Chad, providing them with an affordable source of reliable electricity.

In 2020, the World Bank announced an electricity interconnection between hydropower produced in Cameroon and N'Djamena's electric grid. Upcoming projects funded by multilateral development banks will focus on electrification and solar power generation.

### **Power Africa**

Power Africa is a market-driven, U.S. Government-led public-private partnership aiming to double access to electricity in Africa. It offers private sector entities tools and resources to facilitate doing business in Africa's power sector.

In 2016, the Electrify Africa Act institutionalized Power Africa. Learn more about the full [Power Africa toolbox](#) or other [opportunities offered by Power Africa](#).

Power Africa facilitated financing from the African Development Bank and other partners for the [Djermaya Solar](#) project, with planned capacity of 60MWp. The project will be one of Chad's first Independent Power Producers and commercial-scale solar plants.

### **Resources**

Energy projects fall under the purview of the Ministry of Energy, though other Ministry's may also be involved. For further information, please contact the U.S. Embassy in N'Djamena at [Ndjamena-Commercial@state.gov](mailto:Ndjamena-Commercial@state.gov).

## Mining and Precious Metals

### Overview

The Government of Chad identified mining as a priority investment sector. Government interlocutors seek to develop Chad's heretofore artisanal mining industry using the transformational ExxonMobil investment as an example for U.S. mining companies to follow. Chad's mining sector is underdeveloped, and the country's mineral resources are underexplored. According to a 2010 geologic survey by the Government of Chad, Chad may contain deposits of gold, silver, diamonds, quartz, bauxite, granite, tin, tungsten, uranium, limestone, sand, gravel, kaolin, and salt. Limited seismic exploration has been completed.

Precious Metals	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total Exports	100.8	137.5	N/A	N/A

Units: US dollar million

Source: International Trade Centre (<https://www.trademap.org/Index.aspx>)

### Leading Sub-Sectors

Gold mining is an emerging sector, with \$137 million exported from Chad in 2018, primarily to Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Most mining is artisanal. Sodium carbonate derived from limestone, also known as natron, is also exported.

Mining equipment and machinery also show export promise, though substantial demand for these products relies on the start of industrial mining projects.

### Opportunities

Government interlocutors seek to develop Chad's heretofore artisanal mining industry using the transformational ExxonMobil investment as an example for U.S. mining companies to follow. Small and medium enterprises may seek smaller exploration and production projects.

The Government of Chad created the National Mining and Geology Company (SONAMIG) with the aim to boost the mining sector. SONAMIG is intended to accompany foreign investors to ensure safety standards, complete geological mapping, and establish national centers of gold exchange and sale.

### Resources

SONAMIG: <https://www.facebook.com/sonamig.td/>

U.S. Geological Survey 2012 Report on Chad: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/country/2012/myb3-2012-cd.pdf>

For further information, please contact the U.S. Embassy in N'Djamena at [Ndjamena-Commercial@state.gov](mailto:Ndjamena-Commercial@state.gov).

## **Agricultural Sector**

### **Overview**

By most estimates, 80 percent of Chad's population relies on agriculture, livestock, or fishing. The market is primarily domestic, and Chad imports a significant number of foodstuffs from Cameroon. There is little value-added production of agricultural products. Chad's primary agricultural exports include gum arabic, sesame, and cotton. The Government of Chad prioritized industrialization of agriculture and boosting exports in its 2017 - 2021 national development plan to reduce dependence on oil exports and increase tax revenue. Chad exported USD 33.8 million of sesame seeds and USD 21.5 million of gum Arabic in 2019, according to the International Trade Centre. Other potential export crops include peanuts, shea butter, hibiscus, cashews, dates, moringa, and spirulina.

### **Leading Sub-Sectors**

Leading sub-sectors in agriculture include: seeds; farm tractors; fertilizers; farming implements; irrigation systems; harvesting equipment; and food processing and packaging equipment.

### **Opportunities**

The Government of Chad and Chadian entrepreneurs seek to improve agricultural production in Chad through modernization, mechanization, better seeds, improved irrigation, and food processing and packaging. There is demand for agricultural equipment and inputs from both the government and private sector. Lack of access to capital is a constraint in this area.

Chad is the second largest global producer of premium grade gum arabic. Chadian producers currently sell to intermediaries and wholesalers to export to the United States, China, and Europe. Producers are interested in exporting directly to the United States. Chadian partners seek relationships with U.S. importers to facilitate direct exports.

Chad is one of the world's largest suppliers of sesame seed. White and black sesame seeds are grown in southern and central Chad. Other foods, e.g. mangos, cashews, peanuts, and dates, are widely grown in Chad but are not packaged, processed, or exported. This presents an opportunity for U.S. investment.

There is a growing market for natural products from Chad. At least one U.S. company is exporting Chadian shea butter to the United States and China. There is small-scale production of moringa, spirulina, karaya gum, hibiscus, and other natural products. Chadian producers and intermediaries seek new markets for these goods, and there are opportunities for export and investment in value-added processing and packaging.

### **Resources**

Chad Ministry of Agriculture: [www.minagri-tchad.org](http://www.minagri-tchad.org)

SAFAGRI: <http://safagri.cilss.int/index.php/safagri-2019/>

For further information, please contact the U.S. Embassy in N'Djamena at [Ndjamena-Commercial@state.gov](mailto:Ndjamena-Commercial@state.gov).

## **Livestock**

### **Overview**

Chad is a leading producer of livestock on the continent. Chad refers to itself as a livestock country “par excellence” and is the fourth largest African producer of livestock (defined as camels, cattle, goats, sheep, and pigs). Data from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations estimated Chad possessed 107 million heads of livestock in 2018: 37 million goats, 31 million sheep, 29 million cattle, and 8 million camels. Chad has relatively small populations of pigs and chickens, ranking 27th and 35th out of 54 African countries, respectively.

Despite a massive livestock population, Chad currently has no functional industrial abattoirs (slaughterhouses) and makes limited use of valued-added animal products such as leather and buttons due to limited electricity and poor infrastructure. There are significant opportunities for intrepid American investors in the production and transformation of the flocks and herds of animals that flourish in Chad’s vast plains.

### **Leading Sub-Sectors**

Sub-sectors include meat processing equipment, leather production, animal health and vaccines, and milk production and processing.

### **Opportunities**

Livestock, including cattle, camels, and goats, present manifold opportunities for investment, particularly construction of feedlots and slaughterhouses, including smaller mobile facilities, meeting the standards of the World Organization for Animal Health, as well as improving laboratories and resuscitating Chad’s capacity to produce animal vaccines. Chad has no operational commercial abattoirs as of August 2020 and minimal value-added processing of animal products into leather, buttons, and other final products. Opportunities for investment also include livestock breeding and feed production.

### **Resources**

For further information, please contact the U.S. Embassy in N’Djamena at [Ndjamena-Commercial@state.gov](mailto:Ndjamena-Commercial@state.gov).

## **Telecommunications**

### **Overview**

Chad's telecommunications market is one of the least developed in the world but is seeing rapid growth and investment. The Government of Chad and foreign investors are focused on developing mobile cellular technology and fiberoptic infrastructure to improve web connectivity and digitize documents and services. Fixed telephone lines are rarely used and broadband internet is extremely limited. Most users rely on mobile internet connections. Huawei broke ground on a national data center in July 2020 and is building out a 4G network and fiberoptic cables through a concessional loan provided by China EXIM Bank.

Chad's mobile sector consists of a duopoly, with Airtel (owned by Indian Bharti Airtel) comprising 47% of the market and Tigo (owned by Maroc Telecom) comprising the other 53%. The national telecom and fixed-line operator, Sotel Tchad, has licenses to operate a mobile network but is not present in the market. Mobile networks offer basic mobile data services using GPRS and EDGE technology as well as 3G/4G.

Maintaining cellular networks in Chad is difficult and expensive due to harsh weather conditions and erratic electricity. The supply of handsets and tablets has not kept up with growing demand. Inexpensive handsets from Asia sold on the informal market are most common. Informal imports of Apple, Android, and Windows products from France, Saudi Arabia, and the United States are increasingly common.

### **Leading Sub-Sectors**

Leading sub-sectors in telecommunications include: cybersecurity; mobile phone service providers; mobile network maintenance; satellite communications service providers; internet service providers; information services; internet services; and low-cost, high-quality mobile handsets, tablets, and computers.

### **Opportunities**

There are opportunities for American companies in cybersecurity, mobile networks, fiberoptic cables, and internet service provision. Engineers and technical experts are in demand. There are also market opportunities for authorized retailers of consumer electronics as Chadians are looking for alternatives to non-durable Chinese electronics. In 2020, the Government of Chad eliminated an 18% excise duty tax on telecom services to reduce consumer costs and support mobile network penetration.

### **Resources**

Agency for the Development of Information and Communication Technologies: [www.adetic.td](http://www.adetic.td)

Ministry of Posts and New Information Technologies: <https://www.mpntic.gouv.td/>

Regulatory Authority for Electronic Communications and Posts: <https://arcep.td/>

For further information, please contact the U.S. Embassy in N'Djamena at [Ndjamena-Commercial@state.gov](mailto:Ndjamena-Commercial@state.gov).

## **Construction**

### **Overview**

Since the collapse of global oil prices in 2014, much of Chad's construction is multilateral bank financed. Many government-funded projects remain unfinished. There is some private construction. Waste management and water management services are embryonic. Prices of concrete and other building materials are high, and most construction materials must be imported from neighboring countries. Projects financed by multilateral banks include a bridge over the Logone river connecting Chad and Cameroon, an electricity interconnection between Chad and Cameroon, a fiberoptic connection between Chad and Niger, solar power plants, and roads.

### **Leading Sub-Sectors**

Leading sub-sectors in construction include: architectural design and engineering for large projects; concrete mixers and trucks; construction management and contracting services; cranes, bulldozers, and other heavy machinery; electrical services; landscaping design services; pre-fabricated home construction; road and bridge engineering and construction; road paving equipment; scaffolding; waste and water treatment.

### **Opportunities**

Priority sectors for the government are transportation, housing, public facilities, tourism, hospitals, schools, and other large infrastructure projects. Other projected projects include improving the road network, housing, renovating government facilities, and urban initiatives in N'Djamena. The Chadian government publishes construction tenders in local and occasionally international media. Multilateral lending institutions issue their own requests for proposals (RFPs).

### **Resources**

Chad Ministry of Infrastructure and Transportation Website: <http://infrastructures-tchad.org/>

For further information, please contact the U.S. Embassy in N'Djamena at [Ndjamena-Commercial@state.gov](mailto:Ndjamena-Commercial@state.gov).

## **Customs, Regulations and Standards**

### **Trade Barriers**

Chad does not have quantitative restrictions on imports, tariff protections, or import licensing requirements.

### **Import Tariffs**

Chad applies the CEMAC Common External Tariff (CET). Like other CEMAC countries, Chad collects the Community Integration Levy (TCI), the Organization for Harmonization of Business Laws in Africa (OHADA) levy, and the Community Integration Contribution (CCI). These charges amount to 1.45 percent of import value. Other levies include the 0.4 percent Community Preference Levy (TPC) on fish, meat, dairy, and other animal products; Advance Corporation Tax (IS) or Personal Income Tax (IRPP) of 4 percent of import value; and the Rural Intervention Fund (FIR) duty of 1-4 percent on agricultural products.

Products imported from outside the CEMAC region are subject to customs duties falling under four tariff rate categories:

- Products of First Necessity (e.g. flour, rice, etc.): 5 percent
- Primary Materials and Equipment: 10 percent
- Intermediate Goods (e.g. tools, tires, etc.): 20 percent
- Consumer Goods (e.g. Canned foods, electronics, etc.): 30 percent

In addition to the above customs duties, there are other supplementary taxes, including excise taxes of 20 percent on luxury products (such as televisions, audiovisual equipment, air conditioners, automobile radios, CD laser discs, home

appliances, etc.), 25 percent on alcoholic beverages and tobacco, 51 percent on new automobiles, and 0.2 percent for the African Union.

The GOC applies a 2 percent “statistical tax” to all goods entering or leaving Chad.

The GOC applies an 18 percent VAT to all local and imported goods and services. There are VAT exemptions for inputs for livestock breeding and fishery products used by producers; materials, equipment and services needed to produce and export cotton; materials, equipment and services for the production and distribution of water and electricity; locally-made fired bricks; and interest on real estate loans granted by financial institutions.

## **Import Requirements and Documentation**

The following documents must be filed with Ministry of Industrial and Commercial Development and Private Sector Promotion prior to importation of goods:

- **Commercial Invoice:** Four copies, preferably in French or with a French translation and description of the goods. All invoices must contain the names of the exporter(s), consignee(s), the product name(s), quantity of each unit, declared value of each unit, gross weight, net weight, and total declared value.
- **Certificate of Origin:** Two copies, preferably in French or other language with the French translation. The certificate of origin must be issued or notarized and certified by an official Chamber of Commerce in the country of the product’s origin, or by the local Chadian branch of the foreign Chamber of Commerce. If applicable, the Chadian consulate in the manufacturing country could authenticate the certificate of origin.
- **Packing list:** Packing lists should include the number and quantity per carton and be in numeric series. A packing list is not required, but if it is missing, customs clearance may be delayed.
- **Bill of lading/Air waybill:** Documents should include the name and address of the consignee/importer of the goods. Identification numbers on bills of lading, air waybills and invoices must be full and correct.
- **Halal Certificate:** Certificate that states that the fresh or frozen meat or poultry products were slaughtered in accordance with Islamic law. Certification by an appropriate Chamber of Commerce is required.
- **Special Requirements for Pharmaceuticals:** Special import certification may be required for pharmaceuticals. The CEMAC’s public health body, the Organization for Coordination of the Fight against Endemic Diseases in Central Africa (OCEAC), is overseeing the process of harmonization of national pharmaceutical policies. Health and pre-shipment inspection regulations are available at the Ministry of Public Health and National Solidarity.

## **Labeling and Marking Requirements**

There is no specific requirement for products to be labeled with the country of origin nor are there regulations on language markings on imported or local food products.

## **U.S. Export Controls**

The United States imposes export controls to protect national security interests and promote foreign policy objectives related to dual-use goods through implementation of the Export Administration Regulations (EAR). The Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) is comprised of two elements: Export Administration (EA), which is responsible for processing license applications, counselling exporters, and drafting and publishing changes to the [Export Administration Regulations](#); and Export Enforcement (EE), which is responsible for the enforcement of the EAR. BIS works closely with U.S. embassies, foreign governments, industry, and trade associations to ensure that exports from the United States are secure and comply with the EAR. BIS officials conduct site visits, known as End-Use Checks (EUCs), globally with end-users, consignees, and/or other parties to transactions involving items subject to the EAR to verify compliance.

An EUC is an on-site verification of a non-U.S. party to a transaction to determine whether the party is a reliable recipient of U.S. items. EUCs are conducted as part of BIS’s licensing process, as well as its compliance program, to

determine if items were exported in accordance with a valid BIS authorization or otherwise consistent with the EAR. Specifically, an EUC verifies the *bona fides* of transactions subject to the EAR, to include: confirming the legitimacy and reliability of the end use and end user; monitoring compliance with license conditions; and ensuring items are used, re-exported or transferred (in-country) in accordance with the EAR. These checks might be completed prior to the export of items pursuant to a BIS export license in the form of a Pre-License Check (PLC), or following an export from the U.S. during a Post-Shipment Verification (PSV).

BIS officials rely on EUCs to safeguard items subject to the EAR from diversion to unauthorized end uses/users. The verification of a foreign party's reliability facilitates future trade, including pursuant to BIS license reviews. If BIS is unable to verify the reliability of the company or is prevented from accomplishing an EUC, the company may receive, for example, more regulatory scrutiny during license application reviews or be designated on BIS's Unverified List or Entity List, as applicable.

BIS has developed a list of "red flags", or warning signs, and compiled "Know Your Customer" guidance intended to aid exporters in identifying possible violations of the EAR. Both of these resources are publicly available, and their dissemination to industry members is highly encouraged to help promote EAR compliance.

BIS also provides a variety of training sessions to U.S. exporters throughout the year. These sessions range from one to two-day seminars that focus on the basics of exporting to coverage of more advanced, industry specific topics. Interested parties can check a [list of upcoming seminars and webinars](#) or reference BIS provided [online training](#).

BIS and the EAR regulate transactions involving the export of "dual-use" U.S. goods, services, and technologies. For advice and regulatory requirements, exporters should consult the other U.S. Government agencies which regulate more specialized items. For example, the U.S. Department of State's Directorate of Defense Trade Controls has authority over defense articles and services, or munitions. A list of other agencies involved in export control can be found on the [BIS website](#) or in Supplement No. 3 to Part 730 of the EAR.

The EAR is available on the [BIS website](#) and on the e-CFR (Electronic Code of Federal Regulations) and is updated as needed.

The [Consolidated Screening List](#) (CSL) is a list of parties for which the United States Government maintains restrictions on certain exports, reexports or transfers of items. The CSL consolidates eleven export screening lists of the Departments of Commerce, State and the Treasury into a single data feed as an aid to industry in conducting electronic screens of parties to regulated transactions. Exporters are encouraged to classify their items prior to export, as well as consult the CSL to determine if any parties to the transaction may be subject to specific license requirements.

## **Temporary Entry**

The Ministry of Industrial and Commercial Development and Private Sector Promotion requires completion of Form D18 "Request for Temporary Admission" for temporary entry of goods. Permission is granted for one year and can be extended for an additional year.

## **Prohibited and Restricted Imports**

Under Chadian regulations, several products are ineligible for import or subject to import restrictions:

- Arms and munitions
- Pornography
- Narcotics
- Illicit drugs and explosives
- Charcoal
- Plastic bags (there is currently a ban on plastic bags in N'Djamena)

Live animals require vaccination and must be accompanied by international or national proof of vaccination.



## **Customs Regulations**

U.S. companies and investors operating in Chad must navigate a customs clearance process where significant processing and clearance delays are frequent. Customs data in Chad is analog, nearly all customs forms are stored on paper instead of digitally, and legal changes are not always transmitted to customs agents. Working with a customs broker may be beneficial, especially to new market entrants.

For more information on customs regulations, please contact:

### **Direction Générale de la Douane et des Droits Indirects**

B.P: 144 Ndjamen, Tchad

Tel: (235) 22 51 54 94 / (235) 22 51 44 22 / (235) 22 51 90 82 / (235) 22 52 23 04

### **N'Djamena Airport Customs**

Tel: (235) 22 52 56 14, (235) 22 52 35 19

## **Standards for Trade**

### **Overview**

The metric system is used for weights and measures. Norms usually follow French/European standards and ISO 9000 series of standards. Inspection Certificates are not required.

### **Standards**

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### **Testing, Inspection, and Certification**

Chad's only testing organization is the Center for Quality Control of Foodstuffs (CECOQDA, *Centre de Contrôle de la Qualité des Denrées Alimentaires*). At present, it does not meet Food and Drug Administration guidelines to test food quality for export to the United States. While no U.S. businesses directly export foodstuffs to Chad, certification requirements would not likely pose undue burdens.

### **Contact Information**

CECOQDA: Contact the U.S. Embassy in N'Djamena

#### Ministry of Finance and Budget, Customs Office

B.P. 144 Avenue Félix Eboué, N'Djamena, Chad

Tel: (235) 22 51 54 94 / (235) 22 51 44 22

N'Djamena Airport Customs: Tel: (235) 22 52 56 14, (235) 22 52 35 19

N'Djamena Airport Health Control Office: Tel: (235) 22 52 20 74

#### Ministry of Environment, Water and Fisheries

B.P. 441, N'Djamena, Tchad

Tel: (235) 22 52 21 48/ 6683-9515

Fax: (235) 22 52 51 19

#### Ministry of Public Health

B.P. 898, N'Djamena, Tchad

Tel: (235) 22 51 48 21/6629-5099

[Central African Monetary and Economic Community \(CEMAC\)](#)

[The Economic Community of Central African States \(CEEAC\)](#)

[The World Trade Organization \(WTO\)](#)

[National Agency for Investment and Exports \(ANIE\)](#)

Members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) are required under the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement) to notify to the WTO proposed technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures that could affect trade. **Notify U.S.** ([www.nist.gov/notifyus](http://www.nist.gov/notifyus)) is a free, web-based e-mail registration service that captures and makes available for review and comment key information on draft regulations and conformity assessment procedures. Users receive customized e-mail alerts when new notifications are added by selected country or countries and industry sector(s) of interest and can also request full texts of regulations. This service and its associated web site are managed and operated by the USA WTO TBT Inquiry Point housed within the National Institute of Standards and Technology, part of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

For further information, please contact the U.S. Embassy in N'Djamena at [Ndjamena-Commercial@state.gov](mailto:Ndjamena-Commercial@state.gov).

## **Trade Agreements**

Chad is a member of the Central African Monetary and Economic Community, CEMAC, which was formerly the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa (UDEAC). Chad is a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO). Chad was eligible for the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) in 2020, receiving trade preferences including quota and duty-free entry for certain goods.

## **Licensing Requirements for Professional Services**

U.S. professional services companies wishing to establish an office in Chad should register with ANIE to obtain and file the necessary legal forms.

## **Selling U.S. Products and Services**

### **Distribution & Sales Channels**

#### **Overview**

There are two primary ways for U.S. goods to enter Chad. The first is via Douala, Cameroon, the nearest ocean port. Goods arrive by ship and are transported to Chad by road transport. Poor road infrastructure and slow customs clearance pose challenges to importers. The other is air freight to the international airport in N'Djamena. Goods also enter Chad from Sudan, and borders with Libya, Niger, Nigeria, and CAR also facilitate the exchange of goods. Goods are distributed within Chad by road transport, and many roads are in poor condition. There is no rail service.

Many Chadian retailers procure goods in neighboring Libya, Cameroon, Sudan, and Nigeria, while others import from Europe, China, India, Saudi Arabia and other Middle Eastern countries, and North America. Most imported goods in this landlocked country transit the port of Douala (Cameroon), with some passing through Cotonou (Benin) and El Geneina (Sudan).

Retailing is predominantly informal. Retailers in N'Djamena and other major cities distribute durable goods such as new vehicles, machinery, and household appliances.

#### **Using an Agent or Distributor**

Most U.S. products sold in Chad are marketed through agents or distributors, though it is not legally required to do so. U.S. products sold in Chad through distributors include CAT equipment, Ford vehicles, and Valvoline products. Coca-Cola distributes a complete range of products in Chad (Coke, Fanta, Sprite, etc.) under a licensing agreement with a domestic company. Import-export companies usually serve as agents or wholesale distributors for the products they import. Most importers are N'Djamena-based, although potential partners exist in Moundou, Sarh, and Abéché.

#### **Establishing an Office**

Prior to establishing an office, consult a lawyer. The [National Agency for Investment and Exports \(ANIE\)](#) is another useful resource for new entrants to Chad.

#### **Franchising**

There are few franchising agreements in Chad. The most prominent include Total gas stations, various banks, and international hotel brands. Contact the [National Agency for Investment and Exports \(ANIE\)](#) for more information.

#### **Direct Marketing**

Direct marketing is permitted in Chad.

#### **Joint Ventures/Licensing**

The Government of Chad seeks joint ventures in targeted industries, including mining, abattoirs, oil exploration, and agriculture. The government holds a stake in both the ExxonMobil-led Esso Exploration & Production Chad Inc. (EEPCI) consortium and the country's lone refinery and seeks to develop local expertise and capital through joint

ventures in major new projects. Small and medium enterprises are less likely to be required to enter into joint venture arrangements.

### **Express Delivery**

FedEx and DHL provide express delivery services in Chad. Due to poor road and transport infrastructure, express delivery is only practical to N'Djamena and several regional hubs with airports. Lengthy and cumbersome customs clearances may cause significant delays. Such delivery services are expensive.

### **Due Diligence**

U.S. businesses should conduct appropriate due diligence on their business partners and agents. The U.S. Commercial Service completes background checks via the [International Company Profile](#) service.

### **eCommerce**

#### **Assessment of Current Buyer Behavior in Market**

eCommerce remains extremely limited in Chad. Limited internet penetration, unreliable connections, high costs, low literacy rates, occasional protracted internet outages, and nascent delivery services pose significant challenges to entrepreneurs. Recent and ongoing investment in telecommunications offer investors and exporters new resources upon which to build a first mover advantage.

There is currently no cross-border or B2B eCommerce in Chad. Online payment is not yet available.

Tigo Cash and Airtel Money allow consumers to pay their electric bills, pay for purchases at shops, and make transactions (money transfers) using mobile telephones. Alipay and WeChat Pay are other mobile payment options.

#### **Local eCommerce Sales Rules & Regulations**

The government passed the following laws affecting cyber security and online transactions in 2015:

- Law No. 07 / PR / 2015 of 10 February 2015 on the protection of personal data
- Law No. 08 / PR / 2015 of 10 February 2015 concerning electronic transactions
- Act No. 09 / PR / 2015 of 10 February 2015, on cyber security and cybercrime

In practice, the government has limited capacity and resources to implement cyber security protocols.

The country's only online marketplace, MossoSouk, was launched in 2016 and offers car rentals and small items for purchase. The service is currently limited to Ndjamen. Chad's popular eCommerce portals are <http://mossosouk.com/> and <https://www.darishop.com/>.

### **Selling Factors & Techniques**

#### **Overview**

Chadian culture emphasizes personal contact to build mutual trust and develop personal relationships before doing business. U.S. companies should make efforts to visit Chadian clients in person, understand traditions, and learn the commercial environment. English is not widely spoken in Chad. Companies should prepare all sales material in French and/or Arabic. Even if using an interpreter to conduct business, it is helpful to learn simple pleasantries in French or Chadian Arabic. Internet connectivity is rising in Chad, but telephone and face-to-face contacts are more effective communications than e-mail.

#### **Trade Promotion and Advertising**

Advertisements are placed in newspapers, on billboards, through radio stations, and increasingly online, including on social media. Social media sites such as Facebook and WhatsApp are popular in Chad, and the vast majority of Chadians (well over 90 percent) access social media through mobile phones.

## **Pricing**

An 18 percent VAT applies to sales of all goods and services. While many Chadians are used to price negotiations common in large open markets, the concept of fixed prices has taken hold at large stores and for expensive equipment and appliances.

## **Sales Service/Customer Support**

Sales service and customer support should be offered in at least French, though preferably also in Chadian Arabic.

## **Principal Business Associations**

The [Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Agriculture, Mines and Crafts](#) (CCIAMA, Chambre de Commerce, d'Industrie, d'Agriculture, des Mines et d'Artisanat du Tchad) is dedicated to facilitating and improving administrative procedures for business creation, improving the security environment, monitoring market prices, and facilitating tax collection, with the eventual goal of transitioning the informal economy to the formal economy.

The [National Agency for Investment and Exports](#) (ANIE) facilitates trade and investment and hosts a “one-stop-shop” for registering international and national businesses.

The Chadian National Council of Business Owners (CNPT, Conseil National du Patronat Tchadien) serves as an interface between relevant government authorities and employers and business owners. It participates in collective bargaining with representatives of workers' organizations, designates Employer representatives in the organizations in which employers' representation is desired, and conducts studies on general economic and social issues in Chad.

The Chadian American Economic Chamber (CAEC, known in French as Chambre Economique Tchado Americaine or CETA) is an organization dedicated to developing trade ties between Chad and the United States, with representatives in Chad, the United States, and Canada.

For further information, please contact the U.S. Embassy in N'Djamena at [Ndjamena-Commercial@state.gov](mailto:Ndjamena-Commercial@state.gov).

## **Trade Financing**

### **Methods of Payment**

Chad has a largely cash-based economy. Credit cards and personal or company checks will generally not be accepted as methods of payment. Some hotels and restaurants now accept international credit card payments. Traditional financial instruments, including letters of credit, collections, and funds transfers, are available within Chad or in conjunction with foreign banks. Short, medium, and long-term financing is available through commercial banks. For more information about the methods of payment or other trade finance options, please read the Trade Finance Guide available at [www.Export.gov/TradeFinanceGuide](http://www.Export.gov/TradeFinanceGuide).

### **Banking Systems**

Chad's banking system is limited in size and available services. Financial instruments available to the private sector include letters of credit; short, medium, and long-term loans; foreign exchange operations; and some long-term savings instruments. There are currently ten commercial banks operating in Chad. Credit is available from commercial banks on market terms, which average 16 to 25 percent for short-term loans.

The banking sector is regulated by Commission de Banque de l'Afrique Centrale (COBAC), a regional banking agency. Chad is a member of the CFA (Communauté Financière Africaine) zone, as well as the Central African Monetary Union (CEMAC), which guarantees the convertibility of the Central African CFA Franc (FCFA) into Euro at a fixed rate of one Euro to 655.957 FCFA. Exchange rates with the USD vary according to the strength of the dollar versus the Euro. The average exchange rate in 2019 was 592.73 FCFA per U.S. dollar.

### **Foreign Exchange Controls**

There are no restrictions on the transfer of funds into Chad. Several restrictions apply to money departing Chad. Individuals transferring more than \$1,000 out of Chad should provide documentation of the source and purpose of the transfer to the bank. Transactions of \$10, 000 or more for individuals and \$50, 000 or more for companies are automatically notified to the COBAC. Additional requirements exist for companies transferring more than \$800,000 out of the country. Approvals are routine, although the Central Bank has occasionally temporarily restricted capital outflows. During periods of low oil prices, there may be high demand for USD and foreign currency in the country.

New legislation further restricting foreign exchange holdings and cash outflows set for implementation in 2019 was delayed in 2020. Holding large sums of foreign currency in Chad raises risks of government appropriation through legal procedures.

### **U.S. Banks & Local Correspondent Banks**

There are no U.S. banks currently operating in Chad. Several local banks have correspondent banks in the U.S. and Europe and can facilitate international transfers. The following banks have Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) identification codes and have arrangements with correspondent banks:

- Société Générale des Banques (former BTCD) has arrangements with Société Générale of New York; Standard Chartered Bank of New York; the Bank of New York.
- Banque Commerciale du Chari has arrangements with Arab Intercontinental Bank (French: Banque Intercontinentale Arabe), Paris; Union des Banques Arabes et Françaises, Paris.
- Ecobank Tchad has arrangements with NATXIS, Paris; Citibank, New York.
- Orabank (former Financial Bank Tchad) has arrangements with NATXIS, Paris; Credit Agricole, Paris; ING, Belgium, UBS, Barclays London, Bank of Montreal.
- Commercial Bank Tchad, former Banque de Développement du Tchad (BDT) has arrangements with Citibank, New York; the United Bank for Africa (UBA).
- Banque Agricole et Commerciale has arrangements with Citibank, New York; the United Bank for Africa (UBA).
- Banque Sahelo Saharienne pour L'investissement et le Commerce (Tchad) S.A. has arrangements with ING Belgium SA; Commerzbank, Germany; BNP Paribas, Switzerland; British Arab Commercial Bank Ltd.
- United Bank for Africa (UBA) Tchad has arrangements with NATXIS, Paris; United Bank for Africa (UBA), New York, London and Paris.

Banque de l'Habitat du Tchad started operations in 2017. It provides traditional banking services with a focus on home loans. It is backed by the Government of Chad (50 percent), the national oil company (SHT, *Société des Hydrocarbures Tchad*) (25 percent), and the national social security agency (CNPS, *Caisse Nationale de Prévoyance Sociale*) (25 percent).

### **Protecting Intellectual Property**

The Ministry of Industrial and Commercial Development and Private Sector Promotion's Office of Intellectual Property Rights, Trademarks, and Patents handles patents and copyrights in Chad. Chad is a member of the African Intellectual Property Office (OAPI), based in Yaoundé, Cameroon. OAPI aims to ensure the publication and protection of patent rights, encourage creativity and transfer of technology, and create favorable conditions for research. Under OAPI, Chad acceded to a number of international agreements on patents and intellectual property, including the Paris Convention, the Berne Convention, and the Convention Establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Intellectual property rights with respect to eCommerce have not yet been codified.

In any foreign market companies should consider several general principles for effective protection of their intellectual property. For background, link to our article on [Protecting Intellectual Property](#) and [Stopfakes.gov](#) for more resources.

## Selling to the Public Sector

### Selling to the Government

There are export opportunities in renewable energy including solar power, electricity generation and distribution, and infrastructure development and construction. The Government of Chad is also sometimes an investor in commercial projects, including through state owned enterprises.

The Chadian government publishes procurement tenders in the local press and occasionally in the international press. The Ministry requesting the procurement issues the tender, in collaboration with the Public Procurement Office, which is under the Secretary General of the Government (SGG). The SGG may also receive and approve tenders on behalf of the requesting Ministries.

Historically, Chad has prioritized the cost of infrastructure, limiting opportunities for sustainable and high-quality U.S. products and services.

Chad is not a signatory to the [WTO Agreement on Government Procurement](#) or a party to a free trade agreement (FTA) with the United States that contains commitments on government procurement.

U.S. companies bidding on Government tenders may also qualify for U.S. Government advocacy. A unit of the U.S. Commerce Department's International Trade Administration, the Advocacy Center coordinates U.S. Government interagency advocacy efforts on behalf of U.S. exporters bidding on public sector contracts with international governments and government agencies. The Advocacy Center works closely with our network of the U.S. Commercial Service worldwide and inter-agency partners to ensure that exporters of U.S. products and services have the best possible chance of winning government contracts. Advocacy assistance can take many forms but often involves the U.S. Embassy or other U.S. Government agencies expressing support for the U.S. bidders directly to the foreign government. Consult [Advocacy for Foreign Government Contracts](#) for additional information.

### Financing of Projects

Multilateral lending institutions including the World Bank, African Development Bank (BAD), European Development Fund (FED), and Islamic Development Bank finance a significant portion of public sector investment. The World Bank has a resident representative in N'Djamena, and its affiliate, the International Finance Corporation (IFC), maintains a regional office in Douala (Cameroon) for borrowers in Central Africa. The African Development Bank (AfDB) and the African Development Fund (ADF) have financed agricultural, industrial, and infrastructure projects in both the public and private sectors. The U.S. [Development Finance Corporation](#) is active in Chad.

**Multilateral Development Banks and Financing Government Sales.** Price, payment terms, and financing can be a significant factor in winning a government contract. Many governments finance public works projects through borrowing from the Multilateral Development Banks (MDB). A helpful guide for working with the MDBs is the [Guide to Doing Business with the Multilateral Development Banks](#). The U.S. Department of Commerce's (USDOC) International Trade Administration (ITA) has a Foreign Commercial Service Officer stationed at each of the five different Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs): the African Development Bank; the Asian Development Bank; the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; the Inter-American Development Bank; and the World Bank.

Learn more by contacting the:

- Commercial Liaison Office to the [African Development Bank](#)
- Commercial Liaison Office to the [World Bank](#)

The Government of Chad has had limited funds for infrastructure and commercial investment projects since global oil prices collapsed in 2014.

Foreign investors can obtain local financing for investment and trade purposes on non-discriminatory terms, but most borrow from foreign sources due to Chad's comparatively high interest rates. Because local sources of financing are limited and expensive, competitive credit terms may be more appealing to a potential buyer than other factors.

## **Trade Financing**

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- Ecobank Tchad has arrangements with NATXIS, Paris; Citibank, New York.
- Orabank (former Financial Bank Tchad) has arrangements with NATXIS, Paris; Credit Agricole, Paris; ING, Belgium, UBS, Barclays London, Bank of Montreal.



- Commercial Bank Tchad, former Banque de Développement du Tchad (BDT) has arrangements with Citibank, New York; the United Bank for Africa (UBA).
- Banque Agricole et Commerciale has arrangements with Citibank, New York; the United Bank for Africa (UBA).
- Banque Sahelo Saharienne pour L'investissement et le Commerce (Tchad) S.A. has arrangements with ING Belgium SA; Commerzbank, Germany; BNP Paribas, Switzerland; British Arab Commercial Bank Ltd.
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## **Business Travel**

### **Business Customs**

Chadians appreciate an opportunity to “get to know” potential partners before beginning concrete discussions. Meetings usually begin with polite inquiries about personal and family health before getting down to business. It is helpful in Chad to supplement written communication with as many face-to-face contacts as possible. Patience and persistence are necessary to do business in Chad.

The use of the Internet is still very limited, and few companies have websites, though this is changing among the younger generation of Chadians.

### **Travel Advisory**

For up-to-date travel advisories, consult the State Department [travel page for Chad](#). COVID-19 restrictions may remain in place for a substantial period.

### **Visa Requirements**

U.S. citizens require a visa to enter Chad. Travelers must obtain a Chadian visa in advance and should not count on obtaining a visa at the airport upon landing. U.S. visitors must register with the National Police at the Commissariat Central on Rue du Colonel Moll in N'Djamena within 72 hours after arrival. Travelers are advised to carry their passports at all times, since authorities often request identification. Long-term visas (*Visa de Long Séjour*) are also available, valid for up to one year.

U.S. travelers can obtain tourist, business, and diplomatic visas from the Embassy of the Republic of Chad, 2002 R Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20009. Telephone: (202) 462-4009; fax: (202) 265-1937. Entry visas are also available at Chadian embassies or consulates in Algeria, Belgium, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, China, Republic of Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, France, Gabon, Germany, India, Italy, Kuwait, Libya, Niger, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sudan, Russia, United Arab Emirates, and Qatar.

U.S. companies that require travel of foreign businesspersons to the United States are advised that security evaluations are handled via an interagency process. Visa applicants should go to the following link: [State Department Visa Website](#).

### **Currency**

Chad uses the Central African CFA Franc (FCFA), which is pegged to the Euro at a fixed rate of one Euro to 655.957 FCFA. Exchange rates with the USD vary according to the strength of the dollar versus the Euro. The average

exchange rate in 2019 was 592.73 FCFA per U.S. dollar. Increasingly, ATMs in N'Djamena and other large cities accept U.S. ATM networks. Travelers checks may be accepted at international hotel brands.

### **Telecommunications/Electronics**

Internet accessibility in Chad is limited but increasing. Visitors to N'Djamena generally obtain 3G/4G mobile phone coverage, with worse coverage outside the capital and large cities. Visitors should bring a GSM-compatible with a removable SIM card to utilize the local network, though some U.S. network permit roaming. SIM cards are relatively inexpensive and easy to purchase. Wi-Fi is present in some hotels. Voltage is 220V and electrical outlet plugs are Type C or F, as commonly found in Europe. Most vehicles are manual transmission.

### **Transportation**

N'Djamena International Airport is administered by the International Agency for Air Navigation Security in Africa (ASECNA). International flights operate between N'Djamena and Paris, Addis Ababa, Istanbul, Yaoundé, and Cairo, among others. N'Djamena is served by several international carriers, including Air France, ASKY Airlines, EgyptAir, Ethiopian Airlines, Royal Air Maroc, Turkish Airlines, and the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS). Some domestic flights operate between N'Djamena and provincial capitals Moundou and Abéché, among others. Several small companies offer chartered flights to domestic cities and Zakouma National Park in southeast Chad. Cargo service is offered to Africa, Europe, and the Middle East. Air travel from Chad to other African countries can be costly and time-consuming.

Most domestic travel is conducted by road. Beware poor travel infrastructure and avoid travel at night. Many investors hire a driver in N'Djamena. Road conditions in Chad and the region are challenging. Many primary roads are paved; other roads are dirt and sand. During the rainy season (May to October) many roads become impassable or are restricted by flooding. It is imperative to watch for pedestrians, bicyclists, motorcyclists, and livestock, as they may not be visible until they are in very close proximity.

In cities, motorists share the roads with bicycles, motor scooters, pedestrians, and non-motorized carts. Rush hours are generally 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday; and 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Friday. Drivers are urged to be particularly observant at these times. There are only a few traffic lights in N'Djamena and they are often out of service. Drivers are supposed to yield to traffic on their right, particularly when other cars are entering traffic circles.

In rural areas, drivers should watch for livestock crossing the roads, and for large birds that rest on the roads. Drivers should be alert to older trucks, which do not always have functioning headlights.

Emergency services are poor, so drivers should exercise extreme caution. Travelers should always wear seat belts. When traveling by car, be sure to carry a spare tire. Professional roadside service is not available. When traveling outside the capital, it is imperative to carry sufficient quantities of drinking water. Drivers should ensure that their gas tanks are at least half-full at all times, as gas stations are not widely available. Unleaded Gasoline may be purchased in an emergency from roadside stands, but it is of poor quality.

Travelers on roads in all areas of the country are subject to attack by armed bandits.

There is no rail or water transport in Chad. The nearest port is Douala, Cameroon, 1,800 km (1,120 miles) from N'Djamena.

Please visit the State Department [travel page for Chad](#) for additional information.

### **Language**

French and Arabic are the official languages of Chad. Chadian Arabic varies considerably from Classical Arabic. Chadians may be able to understand the latter, while speakers of Classical Arabic may have difficulty understanding Chadian Arabic. Although there is a growing number of English speakers in the government and business communities, proficiency in French remains important.

## Health

Medical facilities are limited throughout the country. In the capital, International SOS offers limited U.S. standard medical and emergency care including ambulances, referrals, and evacuation. Membership is required and should be purchased prior to arrival in country. There are five hospitals in N'Djamena. Hopital de la Renaissance is the only one recommended for use by U.S. citizens; however, adequate care is contingent upon personnel availability, some medical equipment is nonoperational and medical supplies and medical personnel can vary.

Malaria is widespread and malaria prophylaxis is strongly recommended. The following diseases are prevalent: African trypanosomiasis, chikungunya, diarrheal illnesses, hepatitis A, malaria, and upper respiratory infections. Yellow fever and cholera vaccination are required for entry. Vaccinations against typhoid, tetanus, diphtheria, meningitis, and hepatitis are recommended. Please visit the State Department [travel page for Chad](#) for additional information.

## Local Time, Business Hours, and Holidays

Chad lies entirely in the West African time zone (WAT), which is one hour ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT+1). Chad does not observe Daylight Savings Time. Chad observes the following public holidays:

<u>HOLIDAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>
New Year's Day	January 1
Maouloud-AI Nebi (M)	Variable
Easter Monday	Variable
Labor Day	May 1
Eid-AI-Fitr (M)	Variable
Chad Independence Day	August 11
Eid-AI-Adha (Tabaski) (M)	Variable
All Saints Day	November 1
Proclamation of the Republic	November 28
Freedom & Democracy Day	December 1
Christmas Day	December 25

Note: (M) - Muslim holidays are based on the lunar calendar, and the exact dates may vary in different countries. Travelers may want to confirm the dates of these holidays before traveling.

For government offices, working time is usually Monday through Thursday from 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM, with a 30-minute break at 12:00, and Friday from 7:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Commercial working hours vary but in general are from 8:00 AM to 12:30 PM and from 4:00 to 8:00 PM. Offices close Friday afternoons. Offices are closed on Sundays, but markets and restaurants are usually open seven days a week.

## Temporary Entry of Materials and Personal Belongings

Articles such as clothing and other personal effects along with professional tools and devices, musical instruments, and other personal items may be allowed duty-free entry for short- and long-term residents. Foreigners wishing to import personal vehicles have two alternatives:

- (1) Those intending to stay for a predetermined length of time can obtain a Form D18 from the Chadian Customs office. The form allows for temporary admission of a vehicle for up to two years. The vehicle will receive temporary transit tags along with an assigned validity date; the vehicle must then be re-exported at the end of the stipulated period.
- (2) Those intending to stay in Chad for a longer period must present their vehicles to Customs, who will determine duty based on the invoice value or, in the absence of an invoice, the estimated value calculated by the Customs office. Customs duties are based on the following duty schedule: 30 percent Import Tariff; VAT Tax of 18 percent, 2 percent

for a license fee ("*redevance*") and 4 percent Income Tax. Upon payment of duties, the vehicle is inspected by the Bureau of Transportation and receives a tag number.

## **Investment Climate Statement (ICS)**

The U.S. Department of State's Investment Climate Statements provide information on the business climates of more than 170 economies and are prepared by economic officers stationed in embassies and posts around the world. They analyze a variety of economies that are or could be markets for U.S. businesses.

Topics include Openness to Investment, Legal and Regulatory systems, Dispute Resolution, Intellectual Property Rights, Transparency, Performance Requirements, State-Owned Enterprises, Responsible Business Conduct, and Corruption.

These statements highlight persistent barriers to further U.S. investment. Addressing these barriers would expand high-quality, private sector-led investment in infrastructure, further women's economic empowerment, and facilitate a healthy business environment for the digital economy. To access the ICS, visit the U.S. Department of State's [Investment Climate Statement](#) website.

## **Political Environment**

Learn more about Chad's political environment on the [Chad "Countries & Areas"](#) webpage.