

# **Republic of SENEGAL**

## **Public Administration Country Profile**

Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM)  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)  
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Table of Contents .....	1
Senegal .....	2
1. General Information .....	4
1.1 People.....	4
1.2 Economy .....	4
1.3 Public Spending .....	5
1.4 Public Sector Employment and Wages.....	5
2. Legal Structure .....	6
2.1 Legislative Branch.....	6
2.2 Executive Branch .....	7
2.3 Judiciary Branch .....	7
2.4 Local Government.....	7
3. The State and Civil Society .....	9
3.1 Ombudsperson .....	9
3.2 Civil Society and NGO participation.....	9
4. Civil Service .....	11
4.1 Legal basis.....	11
4.2 Recruitment .....	11
4.3 Promotion.....	11
4.4 Remuneration .....	11
4.5 Training.....	12
4.6 Gender.....	12
5. Ethics and Civil Service .....	13
5.1 Corruption .....	13
5.2 Ethics.....	13
6. e-Government .....	15
7. Links .....	16
7.1 National sites .....	16
7.2 Miscellaneous sites.....	16



# Senegal

[Click here](#) for detailed map



Source: The World Factbook - Senegal

## **Government type**

Republic

## **Independence**

4 April 1960 (from France)  
Complete independence  
achieved upon dissolution of  
federation with Mali on 20  
August 1960

## **Constitution**

7 January 2001

## **Legal system**

Civil law system; accepts  
compulsory ICJ jurisdiction  
with reservations

## **Administrative divisions**

11 regions, 34 departments,  
320 rural councils

Source: The World Factbook - Senegal;  
U.S. Department of State Background  
Note - Senegal (March 2007)

Senegal is the westernmost country on the African continent, and is situated between Mauritania and Guinea-Bissau. The country also borders on Gambia, which is almost an enclave within Senegal, Guinea, Mali, and the North Atlantic Ocean. Predominantly rural and with limited natural resources, Senegal earns foreign exchange from fish, phosphates, peanuts, tourism, and services. Its economy is highly vulnerable to variations in rainfall and changes in world commodity prices.

Of Senegal's estimated 12.5 million people, approximately 51% live in rural areas. French is the official language, but it is used regularly only by the country's literate minority. All Senegalese speak an indigenous language; of these Wolof is the one most commonly used. Other commonly spoken indigenous languages include Pulaar, Jola, and Mandinka. Ninety-four percent of Senegal's population is Muslim. The remaining 6 percent of the population adhered to the tenets of Christianity (5 percent) or indigenous beliefs (1 percent).

Senegal was once part of the Mali Federation, which integrated Senegal and the French Soudan into one political entity. This Federation, formed in January 1959, became fully independent in on 20 June 1960, as a result of France's signature on a transfer of power agreement. Internal political difficulties caused the Federation to dissolve on 20 August 1960. The French Soudan (renamed the Republic of Mali) and Senegal declared independence. That same month, Leopold Senghor was elected to be Senegal's first president.

President Senghor, a member of the Socialist Party, governed together with Mamadou Dia under a parliamentary system. In December 1962, the political rivalry between this pair escalated, leading to an attempted coup by Prime Minister Dia. Dia was soon arrested and imprisoned, and Senegal adopted a new constitution in which the President's power was consolidated. In 1980 President Senghor decided to retire from politics, and in 1981 he handed over power to his handpicked successor, Abdou Diouf. Diouf served as president until 2000, and remained committed to democracy and human rights throughout his 4 terms. Diouf was defeated in the free and fair 2000 presidential election by opposition leader Abdoulaye Wade. Senegal experienced its second peaceful transition of power, and its first from one political party to another. President Wade was reelected in February 2007, with 55.9 percent of the population voting in his favor.

The most significant threat within Senegal since the 1980s has been led by the Movement of Democratic Forces in the Casamance (MFDC), a violent separatist movement. Although a peace agreement was signed in December 2004, internal rifts continue to keep the peace process deadlocked. Nevertheless, Senegal remains one of the most stable democracies in Africa.

Source: The World Factbook - Senegal; Foreign & Commonwealth Office: Country Profiles - Senegal

# 1. General Information

1.1 People	Senegal	Guinea-Bissau	Mauritania	1
<b>Population</b>				a
Total estimated population (,000), 2007	12,378.5	1,695.0	3,123.8	
Female estimated population (,000), 2007	6,217.2	857.4	1,542.9	
Male estimated population (,000), 2007	6,161.4	837.7	1,581.0	
Sex ratio (males per 100 females), 2007	99	98	102	
Average annual rate of change of pop. (%), 2005-2010	2.46	2.98	2.53	
<b>Youth and Elderly Population</b>				b
Total population under age 15 (%), 2005	43	48	43	
Female population aged 60+ (%), 2005	5	5	6	
Male population aged 60+ (%), 2005	4	4	5	
<b>Human Settlements</b>				c
Urban population (%), 2005	41.6	29.6	40.4	
Rural population (%), 2005	58.4	70.4	59.6	
Urban average annual rate of change in pop. (%), '00-'05	2.8	2.9	3.2	
Rural average annual rate of change in pop/ (%), '00-'05	2.1	3.0	2.8	
<b>Education</b>				d
Total school life expectancy, 2000/2004	6	5 <sup>i</sup>	7	1
Female school life expectancy, 2003/2004	---	4 <sup>i</sup>	7	1
Male school life expectancy, 2003/2004	---	7 <sup>i</sup>	8	1
Female estimated adult (15+) illiteracy rate (%), 2000	57.9	---	58.2 <sup>ii</sup>	2
Male estimated adult (15+) illiteracy rate (%), 2000	37.7	---	42.6 <sup>ii</sup>	2
<b>Employment</b>				e
Unemployment rate (15+) (%), 1999	---	---	---	1
Female adult (+15) economic activity rate (%), 1995/2002	61	57	64	2
Male adult (+15) economic activity rate (%), 1995/2002	86	92	86	2

Notes: <sup>i</sup>2000/2001; <sup>ii</sup>2000-2004.

1.2 Economy	Senegal	Guinea-Bissau	Mauritania	2
<b>GDP</b>				a
GDP total (US\$), 2005	8.2 billion	282.4 million	1.9 billion	
GNI per capita (US\$), 2005	700.0	180.0	580.0	
PPP GDP total (millions international \$), 2005	20,891	1,312	6,857	
PPP GDP per capita (international \$), 2005	1,792	827	2,234	
<b>Sectors</b>				b
Value added in agriculture (% of GDP), 2005	17.9	60.3	23.7	
Value added in industry (% of GDP), 2005	18.9	11.7	29.3	
Value added in services (% of GDP), 2005	63.2	28.1	47.0	
<b>Miscellaneous</b>				c
GDP implicit price deflator (annual % growth), 2005	2.6	7.6	18.9	
Private consumption (% of GDP), 2005	---	84.6	92.4	
Government consumption (% of GDP), 2005	13.4	18.2	22.5	

<sup>1</sup> United Nations Statistics Division:

<sup>a</sup> [Statistics Division and Population Division of the UN Secretariat](#); <sup>b</sup> [Statistics Division and Population Division of the UN Secretariat](#); <sup>c</sup> [Population Division of the UN Secretariat](#); <sup>d1</sup> [UNESCO](#); <sup>d2</sup> [UNESCO](#); <sup>e1</sup> [ILO](#); <sup>e2</sup> [ILO/OECD](#)

<sup>2</sup> [World Bank - Data and Statistics](#):

<sup>a</sup> [Quick Reference Tables](#); <sup>b</sup> [Data Profile Tables](#); <sup>c</sup> [Country at a Glance](#)

1.3 Public Spending	Senegal	Guinea-Bissau	Mauritania	
<b>Public expenditures</b>				3
Education (% of GNP), 1991	3.9	---	4.6	a
Education (% of GNP), 2002-2004	4.0	---	3.4	a
Health (% of GDP), 2003-2004	2.1	2.6	3.2	
Military (% of GDP), 1990	2.0	---	3.8	b
Military (% of GDP), 2004	1.4	---	1.4	b
Total debt service (% of GDP), 1990	5.7	3.4	14.3	
Total debt service (% of GDP), 2004	4.3	16.0	3.7	

1.4 Public Sector Employment and Wages						
<i>Data from the latest year available</i>		Senegal 1991-1995	Senegal 1996-2000	Sub-Saharan Africa average <sup>4</sup> 1996-2000	Francophone average <sup>4</sup> 1996-2000	Low income group average <sup>4</sup> 1996-2000
<b>Employment</b>						
Civilian Central Government <sup>5</sup>	(,000)	32	---			
	(% pop.)	0.4	---	0.3	0.1	0.5
Sub-national Government <sup>5</sup>	(,000)	5	---			
	(% pop.)	0.2	---	0.3	0.1	0.5
Education employees	(,000)	24	---			
	(% pop.)	0.3	---	0.6	0.3	0.9
Health employees	(,000)	5	---			
	(% pop.)	0.1	---	0.3	0.4	0.6
Police	(,000)	---	---			
	(% pop.)	---	---	0.07	0.05	0.3
Armed forces	(,000)	13	11			
	(% pop.)	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.3
SOE Employees	(,000)	---	---			
	(% pop.)	---	---	---	---	13.1
Total Public Employment	(,000)	---	---			
	(% pop.)	---	---	---	---	---
<b>Wages</b>						
Total Central gov't wage bill	(% of GDP)	9.1	6.1	6.1	5.3	5.4
Total Central gov't wage bill	(% of exp)	---	---	28.9	31.8	24.7
Average gov't wage	(,000 LCU)	2,444	1,437			
Real ave. gov't wage ('97 price)	(,000 LCU)	2,757	1,437			
Average gov't wage to per capita GDP ratio		9.8	4.9	4.8	6.2	4.4

Source: [World Bank](#) - [Public Sector Employment and Wages](#)

<sup>3</sup> [UNDP - HDR 2006](#)

<sup>a</sup> Data refer to total public expenditure on education, including current and capital expenditures.

<sup>b</sup> As a result of a number of limitations in the data, comparisons of military expenditure data over time and across countries should be made with caution. For detailed notes on the data see SIPRI.

<sup>4</sup> Averages for regions and sub regions are only generated if data is available for at least 35% of the countries in that region or sub region.

<sup>5</sup> Excluding education, health and police – if available (view [Country Sources](#) for further explanations).

## 2. Legal Structure

Senegal's legal structure is based on the French civil law system. Judicial review of legislative acts occurs in Constitutional Court, and the government's accounting office is audited by the Council of State. Senegal is a secular republic with a strong presidency, weak legislature, weak judiciary, and multiple political parties.

Source: The World Factbook - Senegal

### 2.1 Legislative Branch

Unicameral National Assembly or Assemblée Nationale (120 seats).<sup>6</sup>

*Women in parliament:* 23 out of 120 seats: (19.2%).<sup>7</sup>

The Legislative Branch is formed by the unicameral National Assembly of 120 seats. In late 2006 deputies voted to increase the number of members in the National Assembly to 140, but elections are yet to be held to put this into effect. Members are elected by popular vote to serve 5-year terms, and the most current members were elected in April 2001. However, in December 2005 the National Assembly voted to postpone legislative elections originally scheduled for 2006; parliamentary elections were rescheduled to coincide with the 25 February 2007 presidential elections. Parliamentary elections were then postponed once again, to an unspecified date. The current president of the National Assembly is Pape Diop.

#### Fact box:

*Elections:* last held 29 April 2001 (next to be held NA; elections have been rescheduled since 2006)

*Election results:* percent of vote by party - NA%; seats by party – SOPI Coalition 89, AFP 11, PS 10, other 10.

Source: The World Factbook - Senegal; Foreign & Commonwealth Office: Country Profiles - Senegal

Senegal's legislative branch votes on laws, and can submit written and oral inquiries to the president's office.

Source: Republic of Senegal - Official Government Site

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<sup>6</sup> Source of fact boxes if nothing else stated: The World Factbook - Senegal

<sup>7</sup> [Inter-Parliamentary Union - Women in National Parliaments](#)

## 2.2 Executive Branch

*Cabinet:* Council of Ministers appointed by the prime minister in consultation with the president

*elections:* president elected by popular vote for a 5-year term (eligible for a second term) under new 2001 constitution; elections last held 25 February 2007 (next to be held NA 2012).

*Election results:* Abdoulaye Wade reelected president; percent of vote – 55.9%

The president of Senegal is responsible for ensuring that the nation's institutions operate regularly and that the nation's independence and territorial integrity remain secure. The president chairs the Council of Ministers and is responsible for national defense. Thus, in addition to being chief of state the president serves as the commander in chief of armed forces.

### Fact box:

*Chief of state:* President

Abdoulaye Wade (since 1 April 2000);

*Head of government:* Prime Minister Macky Sall (since 21 April 2004).

Source: Republic of Senegal - Official Government Site

The last presidential election was held on 25 February 2007, with the following results: Abdoulaye Wade: 55.9 percent, Idrissa Seck 14.9 percent, Ousmane Tanor Dieng 13.6 percent; Moustapha Niasse 5.9 percent, other 9.7 percent.

In Senegal, the prime minister is appointed by the president.

Source: The World Factbook - Senegal

## 2.3 Judiciary Branch

Constitutional Court; Council of State; Court of Final Appeals or Cour de Cassation; Court of Appeals

The Court of Final Appeals Cour de Cassation and the Constitutional Council, the justices of which are named by the president, are Senegal's highest tribunals. Senegal is divided into 11 administrative regions, each headed by a governor appointed by and responsible to the president. The law on decentralization, which came into effect in January 1997, distributed significant central government authority to regional assemblies.

Source: U.S. Department of State Background Note - Senegal (March 2007)

The Constitutional Council is composed of 5 members, each of which are elected for a 6-year, nonrenewable term. These members are appointed by the president from senior magistrates and eminent academics and attorneys.

Source: Republic of Senegal - Official Government Site; Foreign & Commonwealth Office: Country Profiles - Senegal



## **2.4 Local Government**

Senegal is divided into 11 regions: Dakar, Diourbel, Fatick, kaolack, Kolda, Louga, Matam, Saint-Louis, Tambacounda, Thies, and Ziguinchor. Local administrators are all appointed by and responsible to the president. The country is further subdivided into departments, of which there are 34, and rural councils, of which there are 320.

Source: U.S. Department of State Background Note - Senegal (March 2007)

## 3. The State and Civil Society

### 3.1 Ombudsperson

The office of the Ombudsman was established in Senegal by law in 1991. The Ombudsman is responsible for dealing with complaints concerning the functioning of all administrative authorities, including the armed forces and paramilitary forces. He is empowered to make recommendations to the authorities to ensure that Senegal's laws are respected in the implementation of legislation. The Ombudsman may also make proposals to simplify and modernize administrative machinery and suggest amendments to laws and regulations. The Ombudsman operates independently, taking instructions from no other authority, and is appointed for a six-year non-renewable term. All people in Senegal, including the President, can submit complaints to the Ombudsman.

Source: ICCPR - Human Rights Committee documentation

### 3.2 Civil Society and NGO participation

Human rights groups and nongovernmental organizations operate freely in Senegal. In recent years the number of active NGOs in the country has been increasing, leading to an increased breadth of issues given attention by the NGO sector. These issues include weapons control, agricultural reform, human rights protection, AIDS awareness and prevention, access to education, IDPs, and women's rights.

Source: Freedom House - Country Report (2007); Peacebuilding Portal

Senegal is a democratic and moderate Muslim nation, and a model of religious and ethnic tolerance in an unstable region. A founder of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the country is an advocate for private sector-led growth and trade as the essential engines of Africa's economic growth. As a result of its political, social, and economic policies, Senegal is one of the few African and Muslim countries ranked as free by Freedom House. The country contains more than 10 active political parties, a vibrant civil society with a right to protest, a capacity to organize and administer free and transparent elections, and an independent and diversified media.

Source: USAID - Senegal

Freedom of expression is respected in Senegal, and the country has traditionally enjoyed one of the most unrestricted media climates in the region. Members of the independent media are often highly critical of the government and political parties. There are approximately 20 independent radio stations, some of which broadcast in rural areas. More than a dozen independent newspapers and three government-affiliated newspapers are available. The state owns the only national television station. Access to the internet is not restricted.

Source: BBC News - Senegal

Religious freedom in Senegal is respected, and the government has even provided hundreds of free plane tickets to Senegalese Muslims and Christians undertaking pilgrimages to holy sites overseas. Academic freedom is also guaranteed and respected, and even in the Casamance region a high proportion of children attend school.

Source: Freedom House - Country Report (2007)

## 4. Civil Service

### 4.1 Legal basis

Senegalese law requires that its civil service sector be impartial, independent, and fairly managed. While the Senegalese constitution has no national regulations to prevent nepotism, cronyism and patronage within the civil service, because it has ratified the relevant UN convention such restrictions are automatically part of its legal provisions. (Article 98 of the country's constitution states that legally ratified conventions have immediate effect over the law.) Under Senegalese law, civil servants convicted of corruption are prohibited from future government employment.

Source: Global Integrity

### 4.2 Recruitment

Each sector of the public service has a unit responsible for the management of public servants. The head of this unit is assisted by two or three chiefs, one of whom is solely responsible for the management and monitoring of the careers of public servants: recruitment, assignment, disciplinary sanctions, and so forth.

Public servants are briefed about the ethical standards by which they are bound during their pre-recruitment induction training. Prior to their recruitment, public servants attend a training course during which they are introduced to the values and standards concerning their future functions. It is only after satisfactory tests following such training that the public servant is given a permanent contract.

Source: Public Service Ethics in Africa (UNPAN Publication)

The Senegalese system is a combination of merit-based and loyalty-based recruitment. Merit is an important factor in this process, but personal, political and economic connections are significant as well.

Source: Global Integrity

### 4.3 Promotion

In practice, promotions in the civil service are not based on nepotism, cronyism or patronage, but are instead based on an individual's professional criteria. However, treatment can change based on the civil servant's political loyalties.

Source: Global Integrity

### 4.4 Remuneration

Civil servants are not known to receive high wages or salaries in Senegal. They do receive bonuses, but these bonuses generally constitute no more than 10 percent of total pay.

Source: Public Service Ethics in Africa ; Global Integrity

#### **4.5 Training**

Training for public officials is mandatory. Part of this training focuses on public service ethics.

Source: Public Service Ethics in Africa ; Global Integrity

#### **4.6 Gender**

Senegalese Law 61-33 of 1967 outlines the rules and conditions pertaining to health, nationality and other requirements applicable to interested civil service candidates, both men and women. There is no discrimination in the distribution of posts between men and women. In Senegal discrepancies in salary occur in the private sector, where women are usually paid by piece-work while men are paid by the hour.

University of Minnesota Human Rights Library: CEDAW Observations

## 5. Ethics and Civil Service

### 5.1 Corruption

The 2006 Corruption Perceptions Index indicates a strong correlation between corruption and poverty. The 2006 CPI Score relates to perceptions of the degree of corruption as seen by business people and country analysts and ranges between 10 (highly clean) and 0 (highly corrupt). Impoverished states tend to be concentrated at the bottom of the ranking.

Corruption Perceptions Index				
		2006 CPI Score	Surveys Used	Confidence Range
Rank	Country			
1	Highly clean	9.6	7	9.4 - 9.7
70	Senegal	3.3	5	2.8 - 3.7
163	Highly corrupt	1.8	3	1.7 - 1.8

**Surveys Used:** Refers to the number of surveys that were used to assess a country's performance. 12 surveys were used and at least 3 surveys were required for a country to be included in the CPI.

**Confidence Range:** Provides a range of possible values of the CPI score. This reflects how a country's score may vary, depending on measurement precision. Nominally, with 5 percent probability the score is above this range and with another 5 percent it is below. However, particularly when only few sources are available, an unbiased estimate of the mean coverage probability is lower than the nominal value of 90 percent.

Source: Transparency International - Corruption Perceptions Index 2006

President Wade's government is addressing Senegal's fight against corruption seriously, and has considered numerous anti-corruption proposals. Some of these proposals were developed independently in Senegal, while others were developed in collaboration with the IMF. As a result of these efforts, Senegal has many laws, regulations, penalties and agencies in place to combat corruption.

Senegal is a signatory to the UN Anticorruption Convention, and Senegalese authorities have initiated reforms to strengthen the rule of law, increase transparency, and fight corruption. Senegal's Customs authority has initiated an action plan to combat fraud. Other steps to improve the legal and judicial environment include better training for magistrates and commercial law practitioners and the establishment of an arbitration court to adopt new recovery and enforcement procedures consistent with the Harmonization of Commercial Laws in Africa (OHADA), a regional initiative to harmonize commercial codes in Africa.

Senegal has several government agencies authorized to fight corruption and fraud. These include L'Inspection Generale d'Etat, a cabinet-level office, La Commission de Verification des Comptes and La Cour des Comptes.

Source: AFROL News; U.S. Department of State: 2007 Investment Climate Report - Senegal

### 5.2 Ethics

In recent years Senegal's governmental and non-governmental sectors have worked to maintain a respected code of ethics throughout the country. As testament to these efforts, in 2006 the West African Research Center and the International Center for

Ethics, Justice and Public Life of Brandeis University chose to host the West African Judicial Colloquium in Dakar. Twelve high court judges from the sub-region, four international judges, and eight other legal specialists gathered in Dakar for the event, the aim of which was to foster an exchange of experience and expertise between national and international judges. Participants included national judges from Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Mauritania, and Togo. International judges attended from the International Criminal Court, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. Presenters included law specialists from Senegal, South Africa, Nigeria, Canada and the United States.

Source: The International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life

## 6. e-Government

The UN e-Government Readiness Knowledge Base provides extensive data and information on e-Government Readiness and e-Participation and is frequently updated. The country profile for the DRC on this database can be found at the following website: <http://www.unpan.org/egovkb/profilecountry.aspx?ID=149>



## 7. Links

### 7.1 National sites

Authority	Topic
Republic of Senegal – Official Site	<a href="http://www.gouv.sn/">http://www.gouv.sn/</a>
CIA World Factbook – Senegal	<a href="https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/sg.html">https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/sg.html</a>

### 7.2 Miscellaneous sites

Institution	Topic
African Civil Services Observatory (OFPA)	<a href="http://www.ofpa.net/">http://www.ofpa.net/</a>
African Development Bank (ADB)	<a href="http://www.afdb.org/">http://www.afdb.org/</a>
African Training and Research Centre in Administration for Development (CAFRAD)	<a href="http://www.cafrad.org/">http://www.cafrad.org/</a>
African Union (AU)	<a href="http://www.africa-union.org/">http://www.africa-union.org/</a>
BBC News – Country Profile	<a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/country_profiles/1064496.stm">http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/country_profiles/1064496.stm</a>
New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)	<a href="http://www.nepad.org/">http://www.nepad.org/</a>
Transparency International	<a href="http://www.transparency.org/">http://www.transparency.org/</a>
United Nations Development Program (UNDP)	<a href="http://www.ml.undp.org/">http://www.ml.undp.org/</a>
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)	<a href="http://www.uneca.org/">http://www.uneca.org/</a>
UNDP	<a href="http://www.undp.org">http://www.undp.org</a>
UNPAN	<a href="http://www.unpan.org/virtual_library-byregion.asp">http://www.unpan.org/virtual_library-byregion.asp</a>
Women in National Parliaments	<a href="http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm">http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm</a>
World Bank (WB)	<a href="http://www.worldbank.org/afr/ml/">http://www.worldbank.org/afr/ml/</a>