

Country profile : Bolivia

Main cities: Santa Cruz de la Sierra (2 439 945 inhab), La Paz (2 364 235 inhab), Cochabamba (1 336 210 inhab), Tarija (409 189 inhab), Sucre (363 531 inhab), Potosi (294 912 inhab), Oruro (292 442 inhab).

Urban population : 69.4%



Technology	Environmental	Economic issues	Political stability	Customs posture
<p>Bolivia has a large resource of lithium but does not have the knowledge to exploit it. Evo Morales insisted that these reserves remain in the hands of the Bolivians and could enrich them. However, today it only exports it but tends to keep it and industrialize it in Bolivia.</p>	<p>Its landlocked isolation harms trade. Exporter of organic quinoa, cocoa and rice among others. Dependence on mineral resources, especially gas. Vast resources of lithium.</p>	<p>4.3% growth in 2018. Sustained growth over the past 10 years thanks to robust internal demand and very high public spending. Inflation under control with a slight increase (4.2% in 2019). Low public debts (50.9% of GDP). Bolivia also has significant foreign exchange resources. However, Bolivia is dependent on oil prices.</p>	<p>Corruption hurts intercountry exchanges. Growing scandals around the heads of government. Delays and political interference. 40% of the population lives below the poverty line. Country destabilized following the escape of Morales (President) to Mexico and the taking of the interim presidency of its main opponent; it looks like a coup. In 2016, the government approved the National Economic and Social Development Plan 2016-2020, which focuses on infrastructure and the development of public enterprises in the energy sector, aims to maintain growth of 5% and reduce poverty. The plan, which provides for spending of 10 billion USD per year, should be financed by external debt and financial support from Bolivia's strategic partners (China, etc.). In addition, the party suffers from a decline in popularity due to a difficult economic context and the growing scandals surrounding the members of the party.</p>	<p>Bolivia is open to outside countries. Bolivia cannot surely be a full-time member of Mercosur because it supports the violence done in Venezuela and this is frowned upon by the other Mercosur countries. Bolivia has been a member of the WTO for over two decades. It is the tenth largest exporter in South America and the ninth importer. However, certain opinions of the country can make it difficult to join the trading bloc, notably its allegiance to certain undemocratic governments and its rhetoric against imperialism, which often leave the country isolated and in a difficult diplomatic situation.</p>

Who is this country already trading with?

The main partner countries of Bolivia are: Brazil, china, Argentine, India, Japan, Peru, South Korea and the USA.

What are the problems facing Bolivia today?

Bolivia wishes to:

- Overcome the problem of dependence on mineral resources;
- Reform the justice system;
- Modernize infrastructure;
- Increase the competitiveness of the workforce;
- Combating insecurity and tackling the problem of violence against women are the country's main long-term challenges.