

## Tunisia economic profile

The Tunisian economy is currently experiencing a period of rapid change and expansion praised by the International Monetary Fund for its "remarkable growth rates" and "growing diversification". It is keenly trying to win overseas investors who should be attracted by its open economy, political stability, a transparent legal framework and a judicial system independent of political control. In the past decade foreign investment rose from TD 6.3 billion in 1990 to TD 15 billion in 1999 with around 2,000 foreign companies operating inside the country and employing over 170,000 people.

### Major Achievements

The country's economic progress since it began in 1986 has been implemented in partnership with the IMF, the European Union and World Bank. The outcome has been a success story with impressive results in levels of GDP growth, controlling inflation and reducing the current account deficit. Recent major achievements have included poverty reduction; enhancing the status of women in the jobs market and social life of the country generally; and the early introduction of new advanced technologies such as the internet. An ambitious reform programme aims to create a sound economy able to respond to an increasingly competitive global market. Government objectives include developing the competitiveness of its industrial, agricultural and service sectors, as well as stimulating investment. A key target area for attracting outside investors is the high-technology sector. Measures such as privatisation and special development zones are being implemented to make the country more attractive.