



# Investing in Mauritania:

## A Comprehensive Report



### INTRODUCTION

Mauritania, a gateway between North and West Africa, is a country of immense opportunities for investment. With a population of approximately 4.9 million (2023 estimate) and a GDP exceeding \$9 billion, Mauritania is steadily positioning itself as a regional economic and investment hub. Known for its abundant natural resources, strategic geographic location, and growing economy, Mauritania offers attractive opportunities in mining, agriculture, energy, fisheries, and infrastructure development.

As a member of the African Union (AU), Arab Maghreb Union (UMA), and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Mauritania provides investors access to regional and international markets. The Mauritanian government is committed to attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) and fostering private-sector growth through investor-friendly policies, tax incentives, and a focus on infrastructure development.

Mauritania's rich natural resources, untapped markets, and government-backed reforms make it an ideal destination for investors seeking long-term growth and profitability in Africa.

### BACKGROUND

Mauritania is located in Northwest Africa, bordered by Senegal, Mali, Algeria, Western Sahara, and the Atlantic Ocean. Its capital, Nouakchott, serves as the political, economic, and cultural center of the country. Mauritania is endowed with vast natural resources, including one of the largest iron ore reserves in the world, significant gold deposits, and offshore oil and gas fields.

The country's economy is driven by mining, agriculture, fisheries, and energy. Mining accounts for approximately 30% of GDP and 50% of exports, making it a key pillar of the economy. Mauritania also has a thriving fisheries sector, with its Atlantic coastline offering some of the richest fishing grounds globally.

The government's National Development Strategy (2021-2025) focuses on economic diversification, infrastructure development, and enhancing the business environment. With ongoing reforms, Mauritania is positioning itself as a business-friendly destination with opportunities across multiple sectors.

### BENEFITS OF INVESTING IN MAURITANIA

#### Abundant Natural Resources

Mauritania is rich in minerals, including iron ore, gold, copper, and gypsum, with significant opportunities in exploration and mining. The recent discovery of offshore oil and gas reserves further enhances its energy potential.

#### Strategic Location

Mauritania is strategically located at the crossroads of North and West Africa, providing access to regional markets in ECOWAS and UMA, as well as trade routes to Europe and the Americas via the Atlantic Ocean.

#### Growing Energy Sector

The country's offshore natural gas reserves, including the Grand Tortue Ahmeyim (GTA) gas field, offer immense opportunities for energy investments. Mauritania is also investing heavily in renewable energy, particularly solar and wind power.

#### Untapped Agricultural Potential

With over 500,000 hectares of arable land and access to the Senegal River, Mauritania offers vast opportunities for agribusiness, irrigation projects, and food processing.

### Thriving Fisheries Sector

Mauritania's Atlantic coast is home to one of the richest fishing zones globally, providing opportunities for sustainable fisheries, aquaculture, and seafood processing.

### Investor-Friendly Policies

The government has introduced reforms to attract foreign investors, including streamlined business registration, tax incentives, and legal protections.

### Access to Regional and Global Markets

Through its membership in ECOWAS, UMA, and trade agreements with the EU and other global partners, Mauritania offers duty-free access to regional and international markets.

### Political Stability and Economic Growth

Mauritania has maintained political stability in recent years, creating a conducive environment for investment. Its economy is growing steadily, driven by mining, energy, and infrastructure development.

### Focus on Infrastructure Development

The government is prioritizing investments in transport, energy, and digital infrastructure, creating opportunities for public-private partnerships (PPPs).

### Renewable Energy Potential

Mauritania's abundant sunshine and wind resources make it a hotspot for solar and wind energy projects, with the government actively promoting green investments.

### RELEVANT AGENCIES

Several government agencies and organizations facilitate investment and economic development in Mauritania:

#### Mauritania Investment Promotion Agency (APIM):

The primary agency for promoting and facilitating foreign investment, providing guidance, incentives, and support to investors.

#### Ministry of Petroleum, Mines, and Energy:

Oversees the mining, oil, gas, and renewable energy sectors, offering licenses and support for resource-based investments.

#### Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy:

Promotes sustainable fisheries and supports investments in seafood processing and aquaculture.

#### Ministry of Agriculture:

Facilitates agricultural projects by providing resources, technical support, and market access.

#### Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture of Mauritania (CCIAM):

Provides networking opportunities, trade promotion, and advocacy for businesses operating in Mauritania.

#### National Industrial and Mining Company (SNIM):

Manages iron ore mining and supports private-sector participation in the mining sector.

#### Mauritanian Electricity Company (SOMELEC):

Supports investments in renewable energy projects and energy infrastructure.

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### Public-Private Partnership Unit (PPP Unit):

Facilitates collaborations between the public and private sectors in infrastructure, energy, and other key areas.

## INCENTIVES FOR INVESTORS

The Mauritanian government offers a range of incentives to attract foreign and domestic investment:

### Tax Benefits

Corporate Tax Exemptions: Tax holidays of up to 10 years for businesses in priority sectors such as mining, agriculture, and renewable energy.

Reduced corporate tax rates for investments in underdeveloped regions.

### Customs Duty Exemptions

Exemptions on import duties for equipment, machinery, and raw materials used in qualifying industries.

### Investment Protection

Legal protections under the Investment Code of Mauritania, ensuring repatriation of profits, protection against expropriation, and access to international arbitration.

### Land Access

Long-term leases of agricultural and industrial land at competitive rates.

### Renewable Energy Incentives

Subsidies, grants, and feed-in tariffs for solar, wind, and other green energy projects.

### Export Incentives

Duty-free and quota-free access to regional and international markets under trade agreements with ECOWAS, UMA, and the EU.

### Fast-Track Business Setup

Simplified business registration and licensing processes through the Mauritania Investment Promotion Agency (APIM).

### Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs):

Opportunities to collaborate with the government in infrastructure, energy, and healthcare projects.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVESTORS

### Mining and Natural Resources

Mauritania's vast mineral deposits, including iron ore, gold, copper, and phosphates, provide opportunities for exploration, extraction, and value-added processing.

### Energy and Renewables

The offshore Grand Tortue Ahmeyim (GTA) gas field and abundant solar and wind resources create opportunities for investments in oil, gas, and renewable energy projects.

### Agriculture and Agribusiness

With fertile land and access to the Senegal River, Mauritania offers opportunities in large-scale farming, irrigation, agro-processing, and exports.

### Fisheries and Aquaculture

The country's rich marine resources create opportunities in sustainable fishing, seafood processing, and aquaculture projects.

### Infrastructure Development

Mauritania's focus on upgrading transport, energy, and digital infrastructure creates opportunities for private-sector participation and PPPs.

### Tourism and Hospitality

Mauritania's unique cultural heritage, desert landscapes, and Atlantic coastline offer potential for eco-tourism, luxury resorts, and adventure tourism.

## Manufacturing and Industry

Mauritania's growing population and access to regional markets make it an ideal location for light manufacturing, textiles, and construction materials.

## ICT and Digital Economy

The government's focus on digital transformation creates opportunities in telecommunications, e-commerce, and ICT services.

## CONCLUSION

Mauritania is a land of significant potential, offering a stable and business-friendly environment with abundant opportunities across key sectors. From mining and energy to agriculture and infrastructure, Mauritania's natural resources, strategic location, and investor-friendly policies make it an attractive destination for foreign direct investment.

The government's commitment to fostering private-sector growth, improving infrastructure, and promoting renewable energy ensures long-term profitability for businesses. With its youthful workforce, competitive incentives, and access to regional and global markets, Mauritania is poised to become a leading investment destination in Africa.

Now is the time to invest in Mauritania and contribute to its journey toward economic transformation and sustainable development.

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