

# Central African Republic

Ranked 147<sup>th</sup> of 149 on the 2016 Legatum Prosperity Index<sup>™</sup>



## OVERVIEW

The Central African Republic (CAR) is the least prosperous African country, and the third least prosperous in the world.

The Prosperity Index reveals CAR's failure to deliver prosperity to its citizens, as persistent security and humanitarian crises continue to ravage the country and severely limit its growth. With the lowest GDP per capita in the countries covered by the Index, CAR suffers from very poor health and education systems, and is unable to fully exploit its abundant natural resources. Hopes are that the newly elected President will succeed in his goals of bringing reconciliation and peace to the country. This is vital if the CAR is to see any real progress in improving its prosperity.



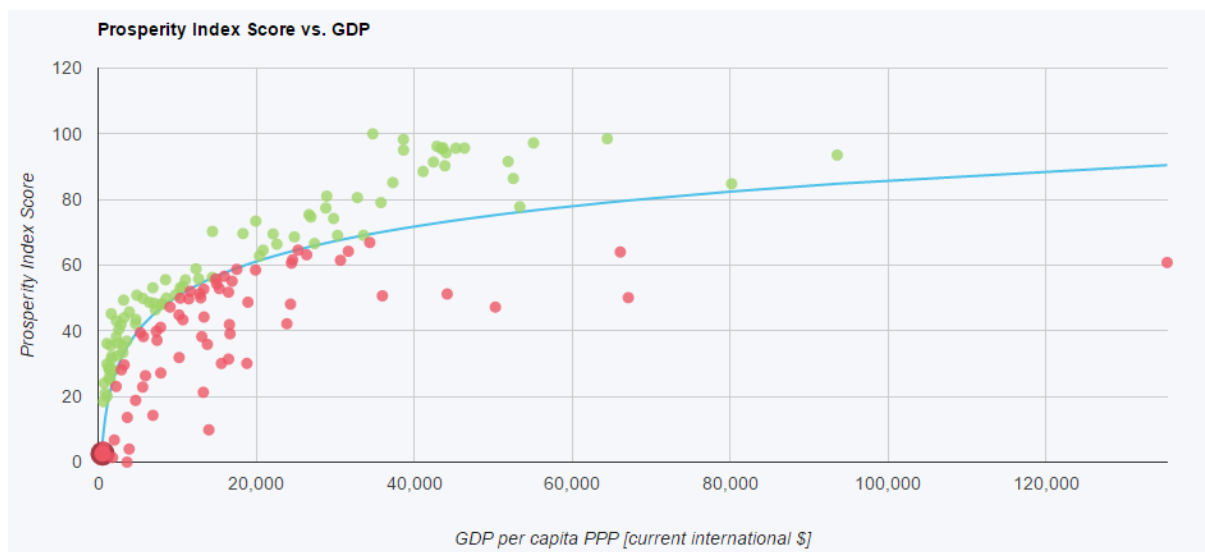
### Sub-Index Rankings

In the Prosperity Sub-Index rankings, Central African Republic performs best on **Natural Environment** and **Governance** and scores lowest on the **Safety & Security** sub-index.

Visit our [Rankings](#) table to see how Central African Republic compares to other countries.

### PROSPERITY GAP

The 'Prosperity Gap' takes a country's GDP and uses it as the yardstick to measure a nation's expected Prosperity Index ranking.



CAR is the poorest country in the 2016 Prosperity Index, so its low level of prosperity does not result in a significant prosperity deficit. Overall, CAR is delivering prosperity as expected given its wealth, although it does have two extreme performances: in the Safety & Security sub-index, CAR has its biggest prosperity deficit, whereas in the Natural Environment sub-index it has a significant prosperity surplus.

## COMMENTARY

The Index captures CAR as a country that is struggling to recover from a history of conflict and political and economic mismanagement. Particularly alarming are the Safety & Security, Education, and Health sub-index scores, which are, respectively, the lowest and second lowest scores in the world.

### An unstable security situation



The Legatum Prosperity Index™

[www.prosperity.com](http://www.prosperity.com)

#### Level of Safety & Security in CAR, Sub-Saharan Africa (av.), and the world (av.).

The level of Safety and Security in CAR is extremely low, far below the regional and world averages, with severe consequences on the country's economic, political, and social stability.

Not only has the country been ravaged by ethnic and civil unrest, both from within and outside its boundaries, but it has also confronted severe humanitarian crises that have resulted in the highest percentages recorded by the Index of people with no easy access to adequate food and shelter: 83% and 62%, respectively. The country is indeed highly dependent on foreign aid, however a general mismanagement of international assistance, as well as the difficulty in reaching out to those living in the most outlying areas has made it hard to improve the situation.





The picture does not get brighter when it comes to Education and Health: both sectors are not adequately developed, and this adds more challenges to those already existing. A skilled labour force is lacking, and many continue to die from infectious diseases that could be easily treated, were the necessary resources available. Consequently, life expectancy at birth is among the lowest in the region: 51 years, far below the Sub-Saharan African average of 59.8 years.

CAR is also struggling to deliver better governance to its population. While people's confidence in the national government is relatively high, its effectiveness as recorded by the Index is extremely poor. The country seems to suffer particularly from bad scores in regulation quality and rule of law, quite unsurprisingly when the country's history of political instability, coups d'état, military rule, and rebels' seizure of power since its independence from France in 1960 is considered.

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### Ways to make a change

Click on the Tweets to help make a change in your nation.

1. First thing's first: stabilise the security situation in the Central African Republic 
  2. Too many people in CAR with no easy access to food and shelter: time to act! 
  3. Improve CAR's health system: not child should die from measles, it is easily prevented! 
  4. Children are not soldiers: CAR must send its children to school, not to the battlefield! 
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Visit Central African Republic's [country profile](#) on [www.prosperity.com](http://www.prosperity.com).