

# Congo, Dem. Rep. Business Forecast Report Q1 2012

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## Abstracts

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### Core Views

Interest in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)'s mining sector has exploded over recent years, and we are expecting the sector to grow by an annual average of 13.7% through 2015. Investment into mining and the resulting exports are driving our real GDP growth forecasts of 6.2% in 2012 and 6.4% in 2013. The agricultural sector, which still employs the majority of the population, is expected to continue its recent growth as it benefits from increased stability in much of the country.

Although the security situation has improved drastically since the early 2000s, armed groups are still active in the east of the country. The organisational problems and violence around the 2011 election demonstrate the challenges of governing a diverse territory the size of Western Europe.

### Key Risks To Outlook

Dependence on the mining sector leaves the country vulnerable to swings in commodity prices. A significant slowdown in China, India or developed states could have a significant effect on the economy. Violence and lawlessness are real risks, particularly in the east of the country. Land disputes and ethnic rivalries remain at the heart of the country's simmering conflicts.

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Key Risks To Outlook

### **CHAPTER 1: POLITICAL OUTLOOK**

SWOT Analysis

BMI Political Risk Ratings

Domestic Politics

Flawed Elections Undermine Stability

On-the-ground observations point to the distinct possibility that the Democratic Republic of Congo's deeply flawed national elections may lead to a significant escalation of violence, with Kinshasa and the mineral-rich provinces of Katanga, Kasais, North Kivu and South Kivu particularly vulnerable.

### **CHAPTER 2: ECONOMIC OUTLOOK**

SWOT Analysis

BMI Economic Risk Ratings

Economic Activity

Mining Bonanza To Drive Growth

We are forecasting real GDP growth of 6.2% and 6.4% for the DRC in 2012 and 2013 respectively, following the 6.5% growth we expect for 2011. Economic activity should be driven by an expanding mining sector.

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Investment Climate

Some Positives Among Massive Governance Challenges

DRC has one of the worst business environments in the world. Despite slipping on several governance indicators in 2011, we identify some positives.

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