

ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

INSTITUTE OF NATIONAL PLANNING
(I.N.P)
(International Economic Relations Center)

**EXPORTS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
IN CAMEROON**
(Post graduated diploma degree)

Prepared by:

ARABO Mohamadou Sali

Supervision:

Professor Dr: MOUSTAFA AHMAD MOUSTAFA
(INSTITUTE OF NATIONAL PLANNING)

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1-Thesis Address

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2-Appreciation

I would like to express my deepest thanks and gratitude exclusively to **professor Dr. Moustafa Ahmad Moustafa** for his significant efforts, continuous preoccupation, tremendous encouragements, and for being there to provide help, checking & guiding to the success of this research.

Also my sincere thanks to **Professor Dr FADIA ABDUL SALAM** for contributing administratively as a head of the Studies Center.

Finally, I largely extend my thanks to all Institute's Professors and staff for their best participation and control.

PREFACE & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

This research is a summary of Cameroon's economic data, aims to give a general and crucial aspects on exports and economic development in Cameroon.

First, it provides a profile as a result of significant analysis of different economic factors and addresses an important & national phenomenon.

Again, it deals with an issue that agitated the minds of many Cameroonians for several years

Second, it gives a clear role of exports in economy and social context.

In order to be more precise and accurate, it also has been constructed from various and certain sources.

Statistically the conclusion emphasizes deepest social & economic development.

Third, it puts out statically the commercial balance of diversified sectors and the exports' evolution during the past years up to recent progress. It also draws attention to a trend which could have impact on the stability of the CEMAC region

Finally It is my hope then, this research would contribute to the vibrant & significant debate on the national or regional question and related issues.

One again I would like to pay warm tribute to the Intitute of National Planning, the Minister& the Ministry for their support in preparing this research.

After several discussions and formal proposal, I have every right and authority of politeness to express profound and endless gratitude to

Dr Moustafa Ahmad Moustafa who out of no time, found and scrutinized time checking and guiding the success of this research.

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COUNTRY PROFILE:

Cameroon is located in central Africa with 475.442 sq km. Its population, estimated at about 16.6 million, comprises some 250 ethnic groups and **represents more than half of the total GNP of the six nations (Cameroon, Chad, Gabon, central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Congo) Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC).**

YAOUNDÉ is the capital and Douala is the economic city

Bilingual (officially French & English), Cameroon **represents half of a regional market** of nearly 27 million inhabitants in the six countries. French dominates, however English is confined mainly to the west

The majority of the people are farmers who live in small towns and villages.

Semi-nomadic herders inhabit in the North.

About 30% is Muslim and the remaining majority is Christian.

Literacy rate is still just 79 per cent. Mission schools play an important role education and are partly subsidized by the government
-Cameroon has four distinct topographical regions: the coastal plain in the south, the plateau in the center. In the north, savanna and in the west, the high forested mountains.

-**Cameroon has a tropical climate**, humid in the south, but increasingly dry to the north, The average temperature in the south 25 C (77F), on the plateau it is 21C (70F), and in the north it is 32C (90F)

-**Agricultural activities** are the main occupation of 70% of the population

-The unit currency is CFA Franc, consisting of 100 centimes (1 US \$=500F)

-**The judicial system** is based on French system with a mixture of elements from the British system

-**The president** of the republic is chief of state and commander of the armed forces, and is elected by universal suffrage.

INTRODUCTION

For a Quarter –century following independence, Cameroon was one of the most prosperous countries in central Africa. The drop in commodity prices for its principal exports-oil, cocoa, coffee, and cotton in the mid-1980 s, combined with an over valuated currency and economy mismanagement, led to a decade-long recession.

Real per gross Domestic product (GDP) fell by more than 60% from 1986 to 1994. The current account and fiscal deficits widened and foreign debt grew.

Since 1995, THE Cameroon Economy has started to recover slowly but steadily from its earlier prolonged depression. Growth has averaged 4.7% a year over the last five fiscal years (95/96-99/00).

Over the same period, inflation and the fiscal deficit have been low. The improved performance is due mainly to the implementation of structural reforms (economic liberalization and privatization)as well as favorable external events.

IN the context, the liberalization trade is an effort in modernizing the economy.

Trade policy objectives continue to be oriented towards a more open trade regime, and **increasing market access for exports.**