



# Togo

## Togo: Current Path

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## Table of contents

Togo: Current Path	3
Togo: Current Path forecast	3
Demographics: Current Path	5
Economics: Current Path	8
Poverty: Current Path	13
Carbon Emissions/Energy: Current Path	15
Donors and Sponsors	17
Reuse our work	17
Cite this research	17



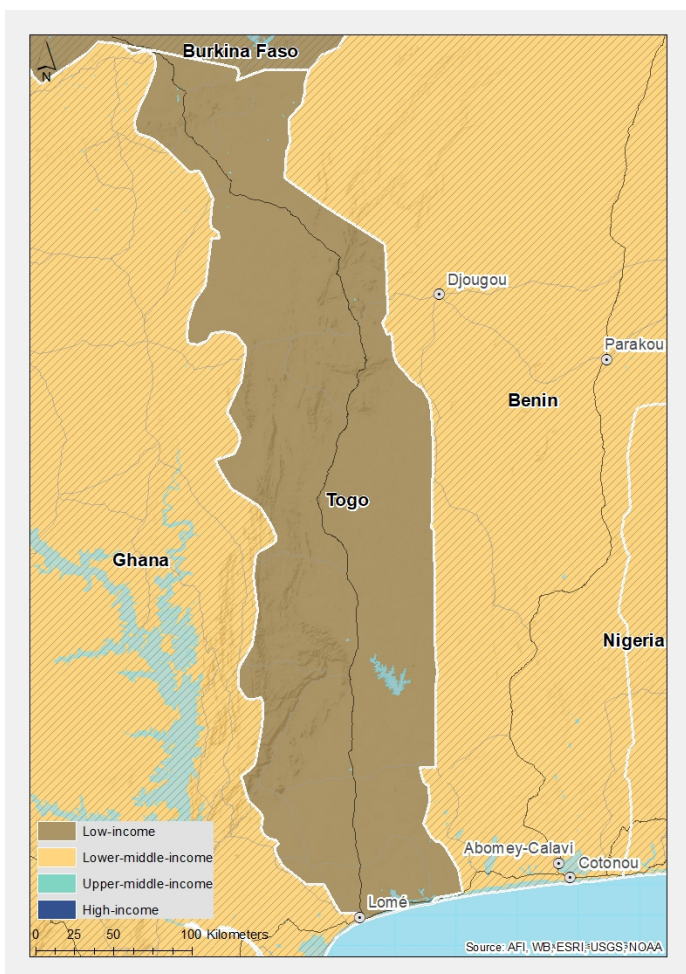
## Togo: Current Path

- Togo: Current Path forecast
- Demographics: Current Path
- Economics: Current Path
- Poverty: Current Path
- Carbon Emissions/Energy: Current Path



## Togo: Current Path forecast

Chart 1: Political map of Togo



This page provides an overview of the key characteristics of Togo along its likely (or Current Path) development trajectory. The Current Path forecast from the International Futures forecasting (IFs) platform is a dynamic scenario that imitates the continuation of current policies and environmental conditions. The Current Path is therefore in congruence with historical patterns and produces a series of dynamic forecasts endogenised in relationships across crucial global systems. We use 2019 as a standard reference year and the forecasts generally extend to 2043 to coincide with the end of the third ten-year implementation plan of the African Union’s Agenda 2063 long-term development vision.

Chart 1 shows the political map of Togo, one of 23 low-income countries in Africa. Togo is located in West Africa along the

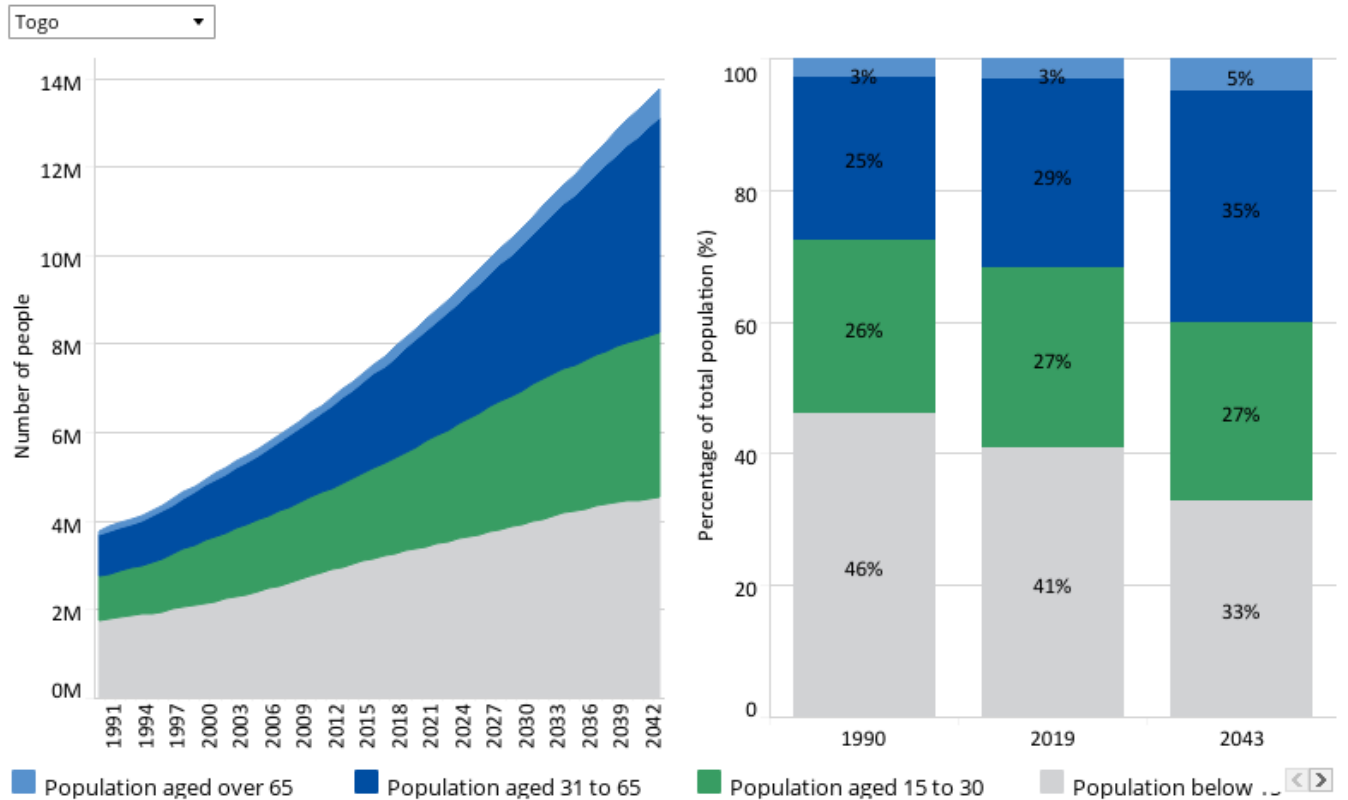
Gulf of Guinea. It is bordered by Ghana to the west, Benin to the east and Burkina Faso to the north, and it is a member of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). As one of the smallest countries in Africa, Togo has a total area of 57 000 km<sup>2</sup> and is only about 115 km wide. The climate is generally that of a tropical savanna, like in the neighbouring countries, with two seasons of rain within a year. In the south, the geography of Togo is characterised by savanna and woodland, yielding to the coast approaching the Gulf of Guinea with accompanying sandy beaches and lagoons. The northernmost part of the country is also savanna, while the central section features hillier ground. Administratively, Togo is divided into five regions that are subdivided in turn into 30 prefectures. From north to south, the regions are Savanes, Kara, Centrale, Plateaux and Maritime. The capital and largest city of the country is Lomé, located in the Maritime region of southern Togo. The most populated region by far is the Maritime region, followed by the Plateaux, Savanes, Kara, and then Centrale regions respectively. The current estimate of the total population of Togo is around 8.5 million people. Togo is a leading producer of phosphates, and phosphate mining accounts for up to 8% of the country's GDP. The nation also boasts some agricultural produce, with national exports of cotton, coffee, cocoa and groundnuts. The autonomous Port of Lomé is the only deep-water port in West Africa, serving the landlocked countries of Burkina Faso, Niger and Mali.



## Demographics: Current Path

### Chart 2: Population structure in CP, 1990–2043

By cohort and % of population



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate and World Development Indicators population data

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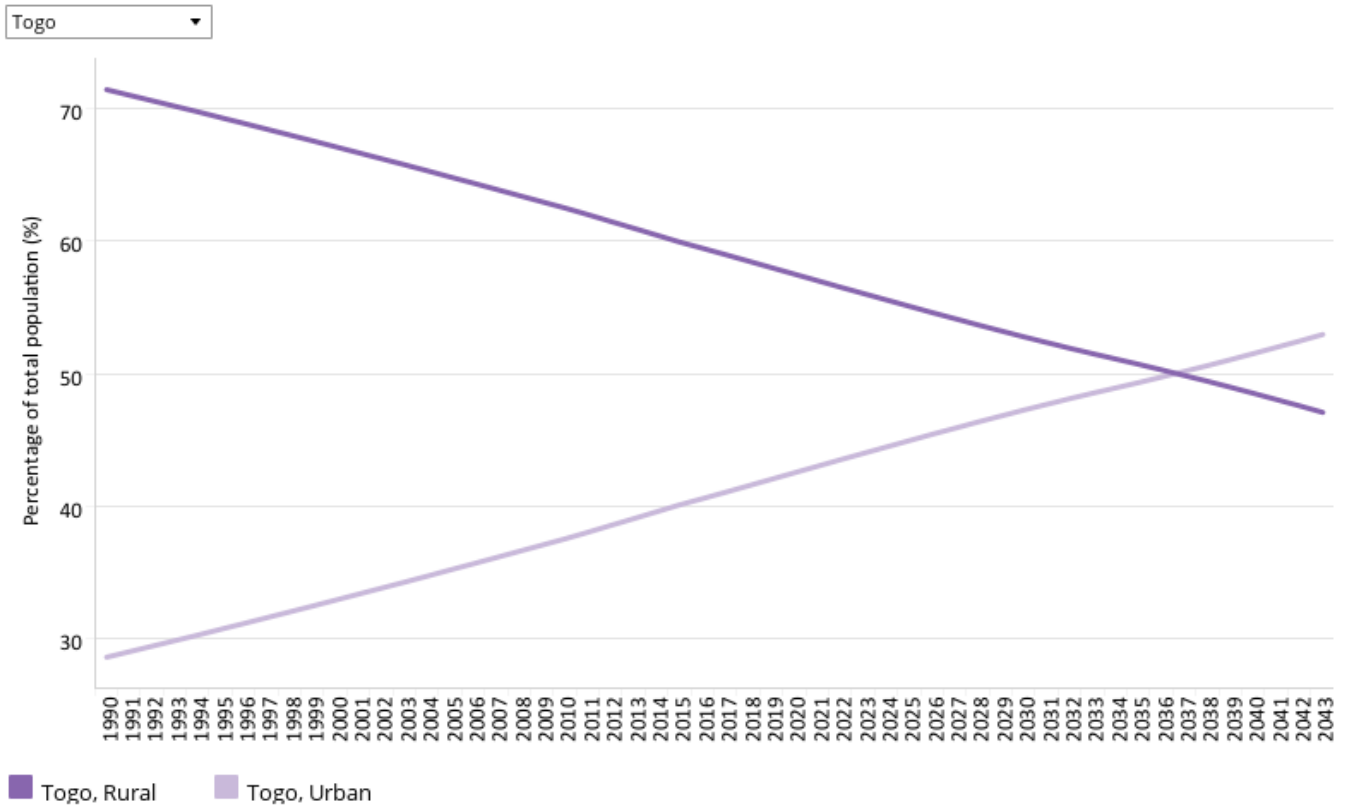
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Togo is the tenth most populous country in West Africa and the 33rd most populous in Africa, with an estimated population of 8.1 million in 2019, up from 3.8 million in 1990. This represents an increase of 113% in the country's population over the past 29 years. In the Current Path forecast, the population of Togo is projected to increase to 13.8 million by 2043, representing an approximate increase of 70.4% within the 23-year period. The relatively slower increase in the population growth rate can be attributed to the adoption of improved birth control options such as the use of contraceptives. Togo has a large youthful population with a youth bulge of 46.3% and a median age of 19.2 years in 2019. The youth bulge, defined as the ratio of the population between the ages of 15 and 29 to the total adult population, will remain above 40% in the Current Path forecast horizon. While this large youth bulge can usher in youth activism and positive political changes in a country, it can also increase the likelihood of conflicts and instability, mainly when the needs of the youth, such as employment, cannot be met.

In addition, 40.8% of the population is below the age of 15 years and 27.4% under the age of 30 years. The relatively large cohort of children under the age of 15 constrains the materialisation of the demographic dividend. With the expected decline in the fertility rate from 4.3 births per woman in 2019 to 2.9 births in 2043, it is projected that the proportion of people below the age of 15 years will fall to 32.8% over the next 24 years. This signals the likelihood of a more adult population, increasing the share of people under the age of 64 years from 28.8% in 2019 to 35.1% in 2043. The average life expectancy in Togo was 63.6 years in 2019 but is estimated to increase to 70.6 years in 2043. The relatively low life

expectancy is mainly due to a high disease burden emanating from both communicable and non-communicable diseases. With an expected decline in communicable diseases over the period, life expectancy is also projected to increase within the same period.

**Chart 3: Urban and rural population in CP, 1990–2043**  
% of population



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN World Urbanization Prospects estimate

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In 1990, the majority of the Togolese population resided in rural areas. However, over the past 29 years, the proportion of people that reside in rural areas has steadily declined by 13.4 percentage points from 71.4% in 1990 to 58% in 2019, suggesting an increase in the urban population. Between 2036 and 2037, the country is expected to achieve parity in urban-rural settlement such that by 2043, about 53% of the Togolese population is projected to live in the urban areas. Rural-urban migration from other areas mainly to the national capital Lomé in search of greener pastures significantly accounts for the high rate of urbanisation in Togo. The country has a relatively high rate of urbanisation compared to other low-income countries in Africa. Considering the associated problems of a high urbanisation rate, in 2017 the country signed a memorandum of understanding with UN-Habitat to promote sustainable and green urbanisation in order to enhance the quality of life of citizens.

Chart 4: Population density map for 2019

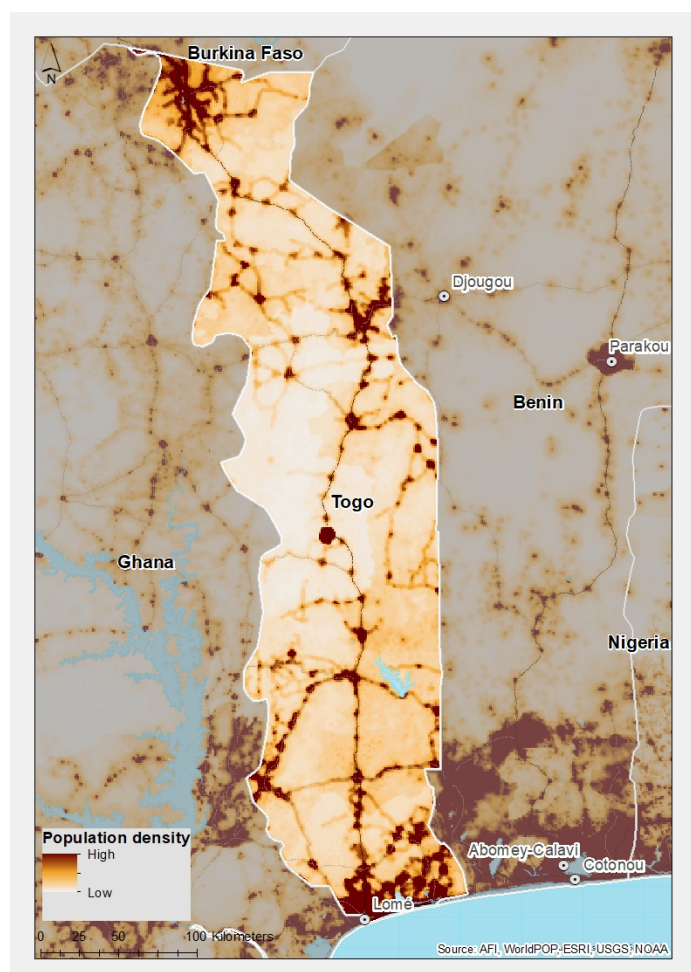


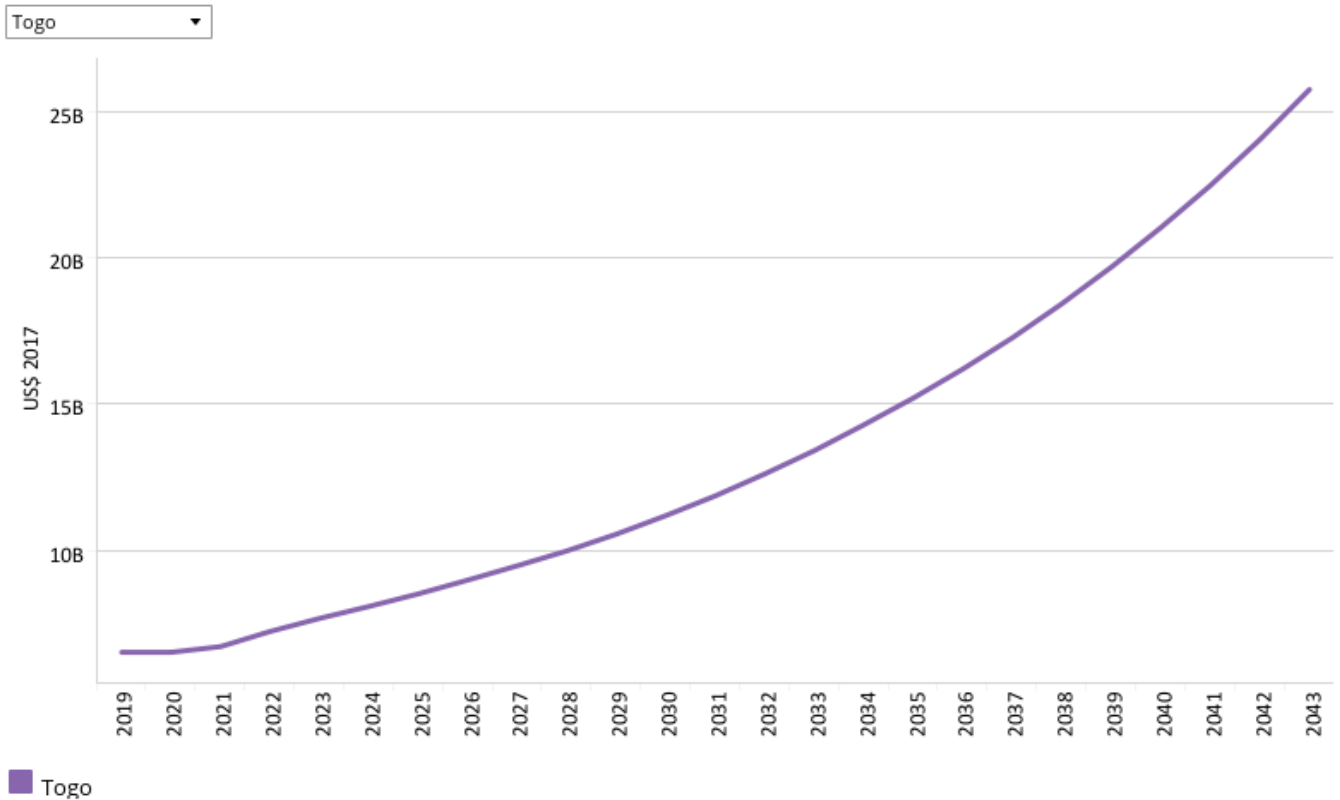
Chart 4 illustrates a map of the population distribution in Togo. Togo is the 11th most densely populated country in Africa with a population density of 152 people per square kilometre. The majority of the Togolese population lives along the coast, along which the capital and the largest city, Lomé, is also located. The majority of Togolese live in rural areas that are scattered along the coastal region. This is mainly due to the presence of the port and the economic activity that takes place along the coast, such as the export of commodities such as cocoa, coffee, cotton, phosphates and palm oil. Other densely populated areas in the country include Tsévié and Tabligbo in the lowland plateau; Kpalimé, Atakpamé, Sokodé, Bassar (Bassari) and Kara (Lama-Kara) at the base of the Togo Mountains; and Sansanné-Mango (Mango) and Dapaong in the far north. By 2043, the rural population is projected to increase by an additional 1.8 million people based on the Current Path forecast.



## Economics: Current Path

### Chart 5: GDP in CP, 1990–2043

Market exchange rates



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from International Monetary Fund World Economic Outlook database

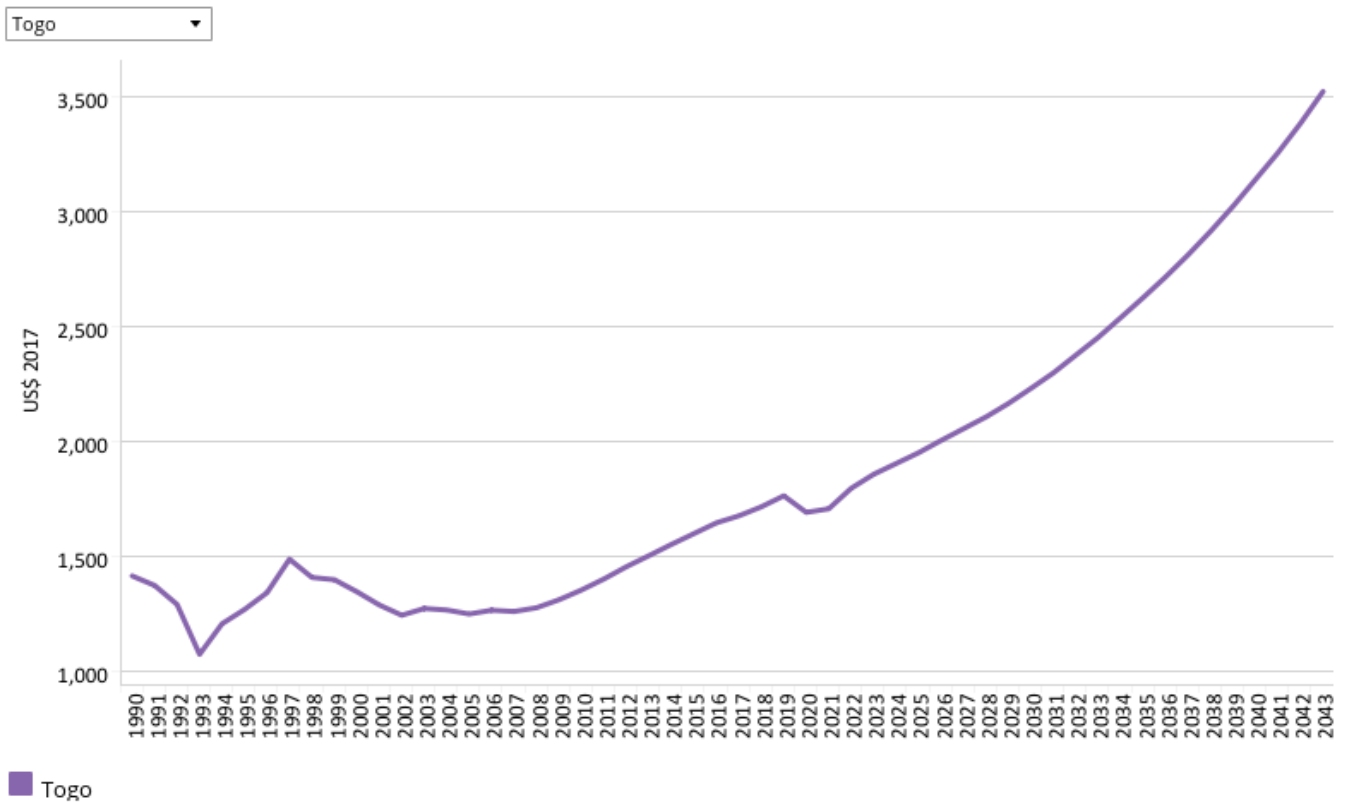
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Between 1990 and 2019, the GDP of Togo increased by nearly US\$4 billion from US\$2.6 billion in 1990 to US\$6.5 billion in 2019, representing an increase of 154% over the 29-year period. The country has had unstable growth in the past mainly due to political and social crises that led to severe restrictions in development cooperation such as the suspension of aid by donor agencies and countries since 1992. This led to low government revenue and reduced public investment within that period. GDP growth picked up from 2008 following the ratification and implementation of poverty reduction and growth facility and other internationally assisted programmes that led to debt relief. These produced results leading to a consistent GDP growth of above 5% from 2009 until 2020 before the COVID-19 pandemic began to negatively impact the economy. Over the next 22 years, Togo’s GDP is estimated to almost quadruple to US\$25.8 billion from the current figure. The increase in GDP reflects the higher economic growth expected to occur within the next 22 years as compared to previous years.



Chart 6: GDP per capita in CP, 1990–2043  
Purchasing power parity



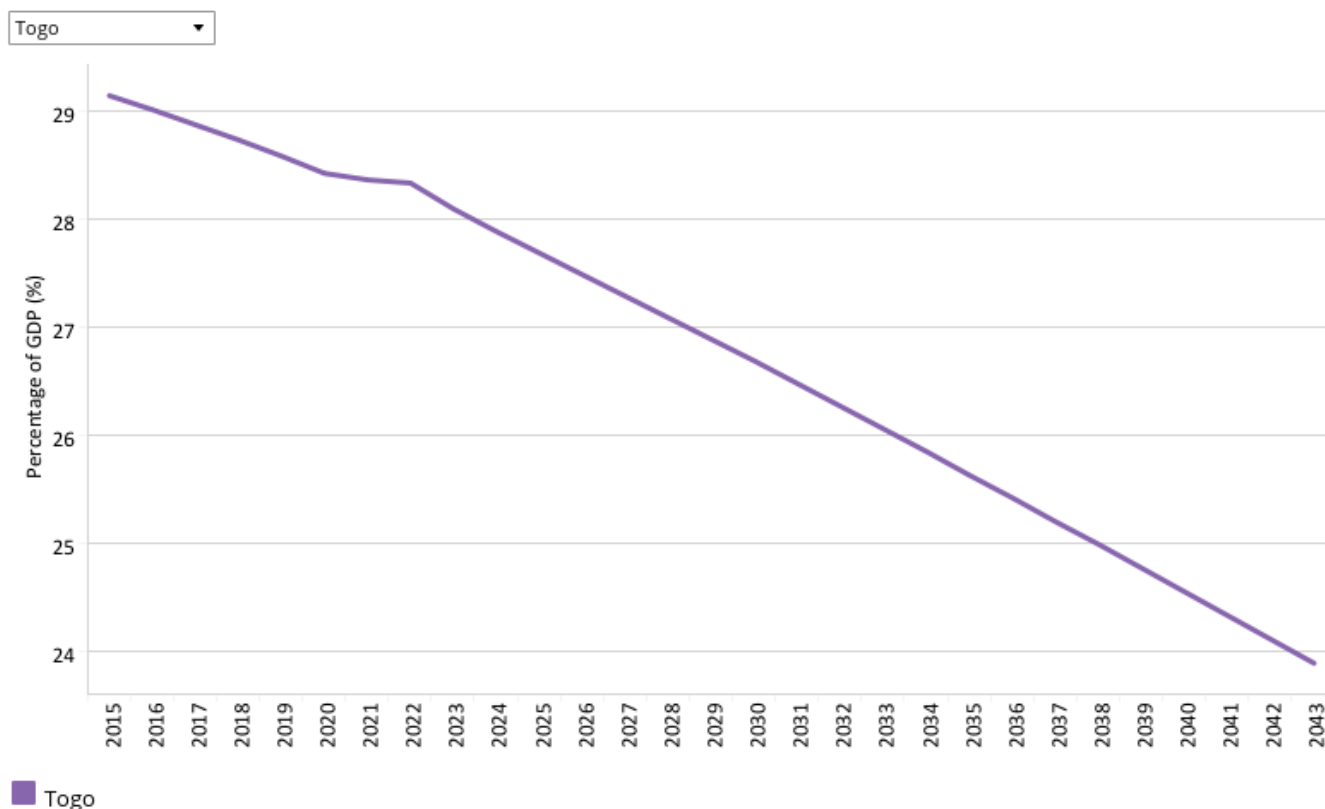
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

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Although many of the charts in the sectoral scenarios also include GDP per capita, this overview is an essential point of departure for interpreting the general economic outlook of Togo.

The GDP per capita over time has seen a steady increase despite the country's rapid population growth. The country increased its GDP per capita by 22.5% from US\$1 415 in 1990 to US\$1 733 in 2019. The marginal increase in GDP per capita reflects the relatively high GDP growth as compared to population over the period. With an expected increase in GDP and decline in fertility rates, it is projected that GDP per capita will rise, such that by 2043, the GDP per capita will more than double to US\$3 524. Although Togo's GDP per capita in 1990 was relatively higher than the average for low-income countries in Africa, the trend had reversed by 2006 so that by 2019, Togo's GDP per capita was US\$87 lower than the average for low-income countries in Africa. This gap is expected to widen to US\$266 by 2043, suggesting that Togo either has a higher population growth rate or slower economic growth compared to the average low-income country in Africa.

Chart 7: Informal sector value in CP, 2015–2043  
% of GDP



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Economic Commission for Europe [2008]; Elgin and Oztunali [2012]; Schneider and Enste [2012]

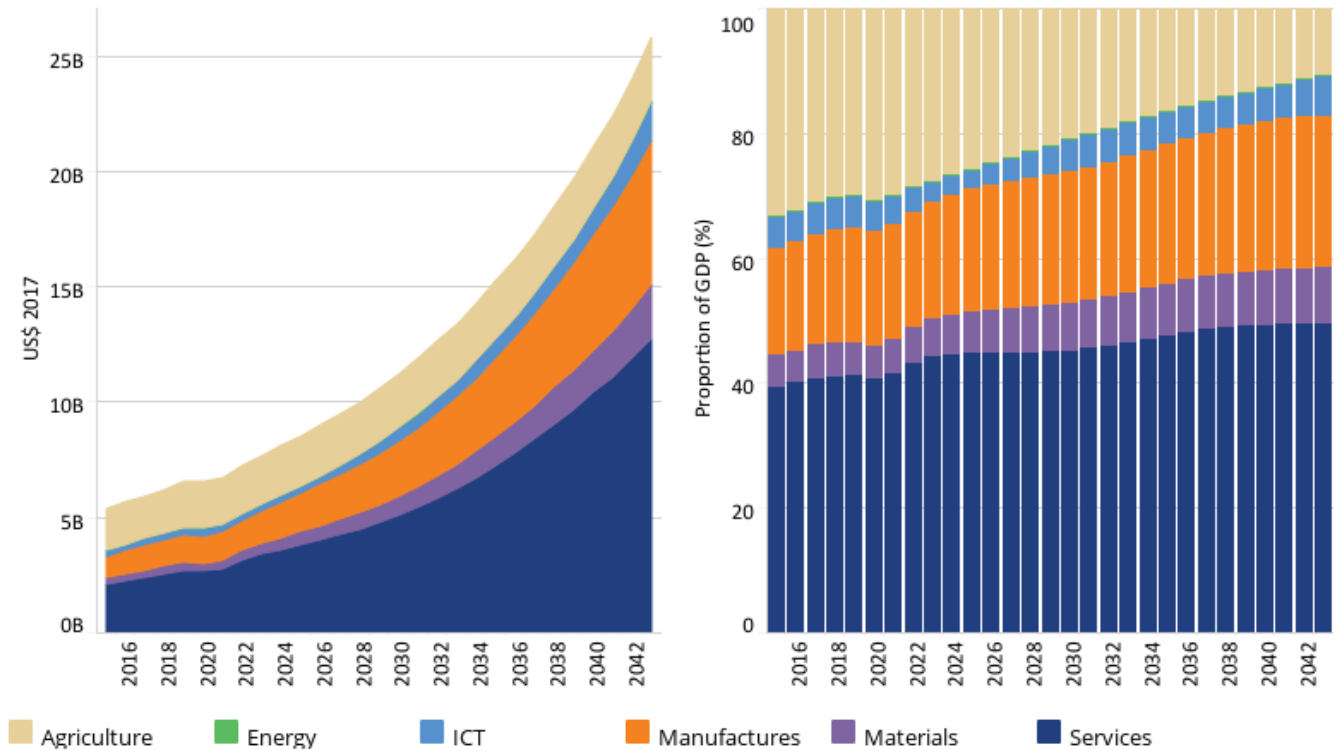
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The size of the informal sector in Togo was equivalent to 28.6% of GDP in 2019. This is expected to decline to 23.9% by 2043, constituting a 4.7 percentage-point decrease over the 22-year period. In 2019, the total number of people employed by the informal economy constituted 55.1% of the total labour force, though this is expected to decline to 41.5% in 2043. It is therefore not surprising that the level of informality will also decline within the same period. The informal sector in Togo accounts for about 90% of all jobs in the private sector and is mainly driven by the country's trade sector. This is partly due to the high taxes and social charges associated with operating within the formal sector. Throughout the period under consideration, the size of the informal sector in Togo is lower than the average for low-income African countries. This suggests that Togo has performed relatively better in formalising its economy compared to other African countries within its income group. Some of the efforts aimed at formalising the economy over the years have included launching digital campaigns to identify and formalise key players of the informal sector, improving the process of starting a business and access to public procurement, as well as adopting tax reform measures and inclusive finance.

**Chart 8: Value added by sector in CP, 2015–2043**  
Billions US\$ 2017 and % of GDP



Togo



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from International Monetary Fund World Economic Outlook database

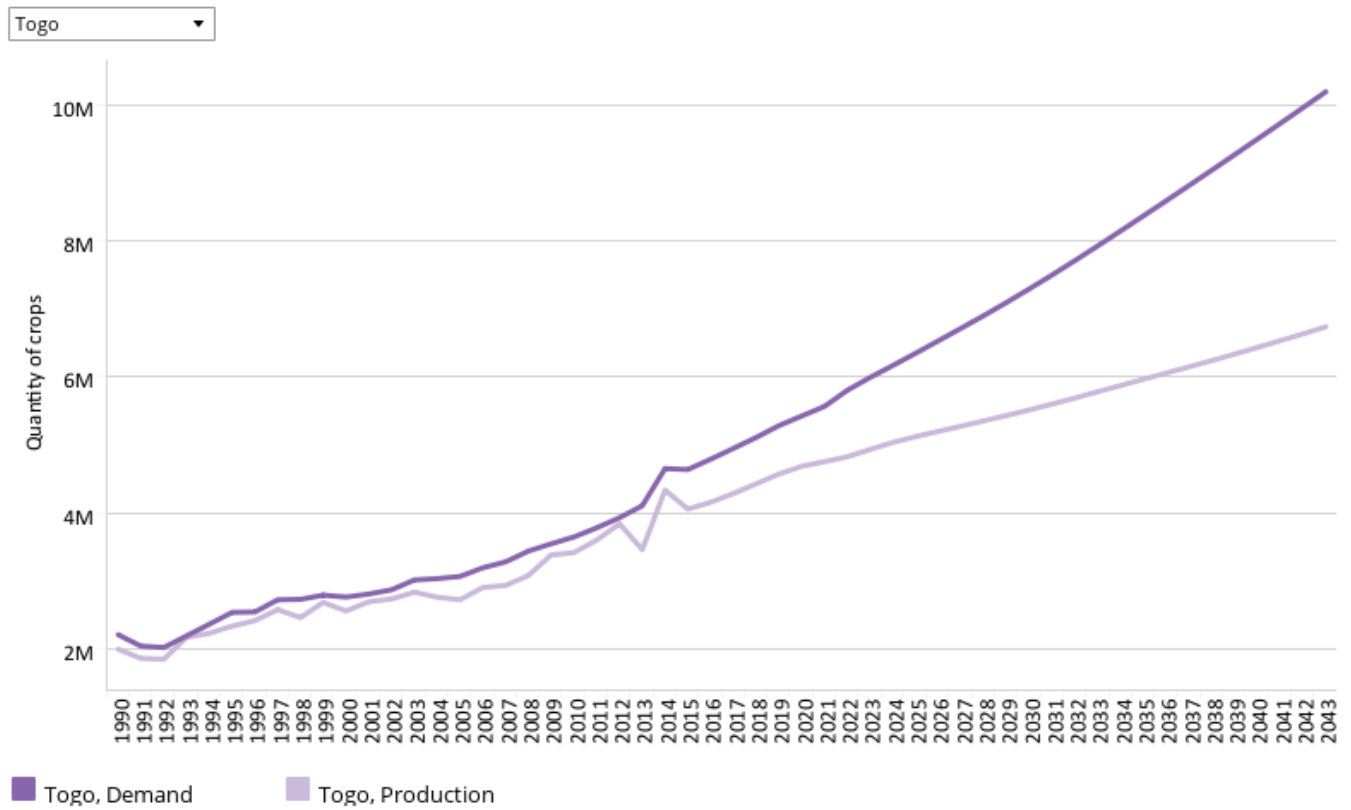
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The IFs platform uses data from the Global Trade and Analysis Project (GTAP) to classify economic activity into six sectors: agriculture, energy, materials (including mining), manufacturers, services and information and communications technology (ICT). Most other sources use a threefold distinction between only agriculture, industry and services with the result that data may differ.

The three largest contributors to GDP in Togo are services, agriculture and manufacturing respectively. In 2019, the service sector's contribution to GDP was about US\$2.7 billion, representing 41.1% of GDP. This is not surprising given that the service sector employs about half of the total labour force in the country. This is expected to increase to US\$12.7 billion by 2043, representing 49.3% of GDP. The agricultural sector, which employs about 33% of the total labour force, is currently the second largest contributor to GDP with a share of 30%, constituting about US\$2 billion in 2019. Manufacturing is the third most significant contributor to GDP with a share of 18.5%. However, it is expected that by 2030, the manufacturing sector will overtake the agricultural sector as the second largest contributor to GDP so that by 2043 the manufacturing sector will contribute 13.7 percentage points more to GDP than agriculture. While this development is consistent with the structural transformation of an economy, the slow pace of growth of the manufacturing sector, which is key to broader economic transformation and to creating decent and sustainable jobs, suggests that the country may still rely quite heavily on the service sector for job creation in coming years.

**Chart 9: Agriculture production/demand in CP, 1990–2043**  
Crops million tons



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Food and Agriculture Organization Food Balance Sheets

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The data on agricultural production and demand in the IFs forecasting platform initialises from data provided on food balances by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). IFs contains data on numerous types of agriculture but aggregates its forecast into crops, meat and fish, presented in million metric tons. Chart 9 shows agricultural production and demand as a total of all three categories.

The average crop yield for 2019 was 1.6 metric tons per hectare. In 1990, Togo’s demand for agricultural products outstripped domestic production by 0.22 million metric tons; this increased to 0.6 million metric tons in 2019 and can partly be attributed to the declining interest in the agricultural sector reflected in the share of total employment. Between 1990 and 2019, the sector’s share of total employment reduced significantly from 50.4% to 32.4%. The yield per hectare for crops is expected to increase from 1.6 metric tons per hectare in 2019 to 2 metric tons per hectare in 2043, and the gap between demand and production will widen. By 2043, demand will outstrip domestic production by about 3.5 million metric tons, representing a 475% increase over the period. This raises concerns about food security in the country within the next 22 years.



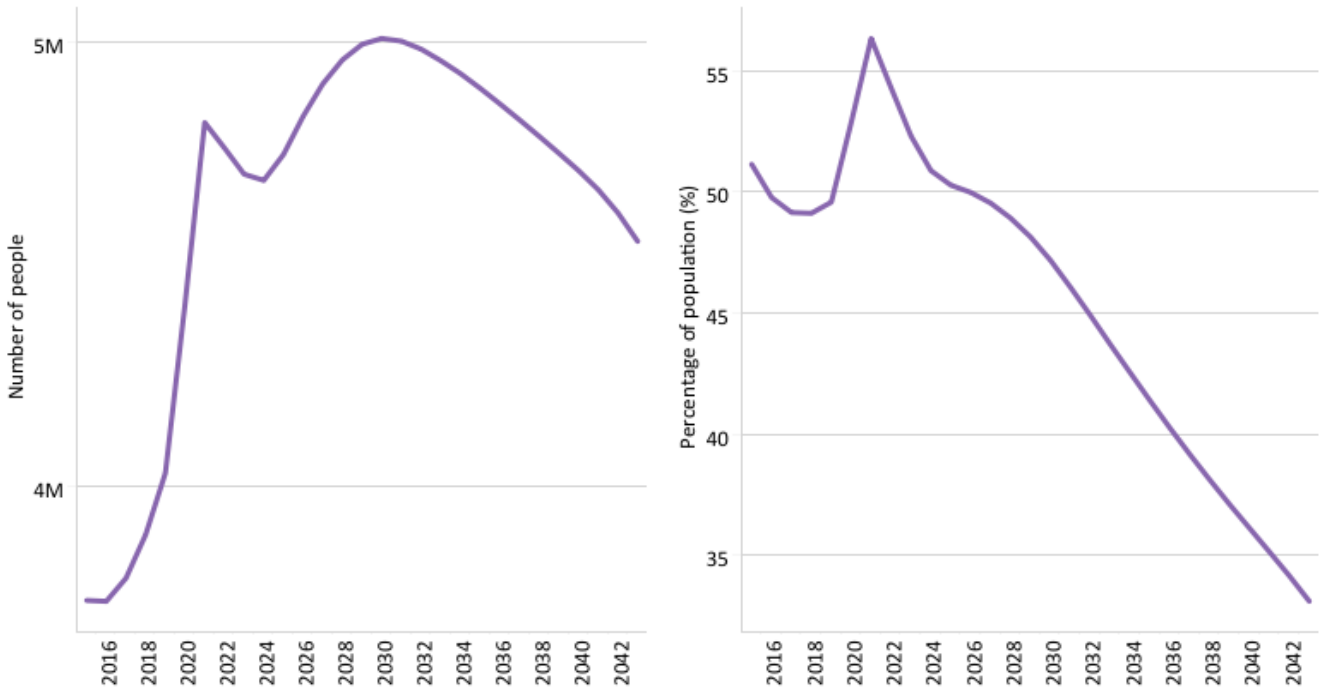


## Poverty: Current Path

Chart 10: Poverty in CP, 2015–2043  
Millions of people and % of total population



Togo \$1.90



Togo

Source: IFS 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

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There are numerous methodologies and approaches to defining poverty. We measure income poverty and use GDP per capita as a proxy. In 2015, the World Bank adopted the measure of US\$1.90 per person per day (in 2011 international prices), also used to measure progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 1 of eradicating extreme poverty. To account for extreme poverty in richer countries occurring at slightly higher levels of income than in poor countries, the World Bank introduced three additional poverty lines in 2017:

- US\$3.20 for lower middle-income countries
- US\$5.50 for upper middle-income countries
- US\$22.70 for high-income countries.

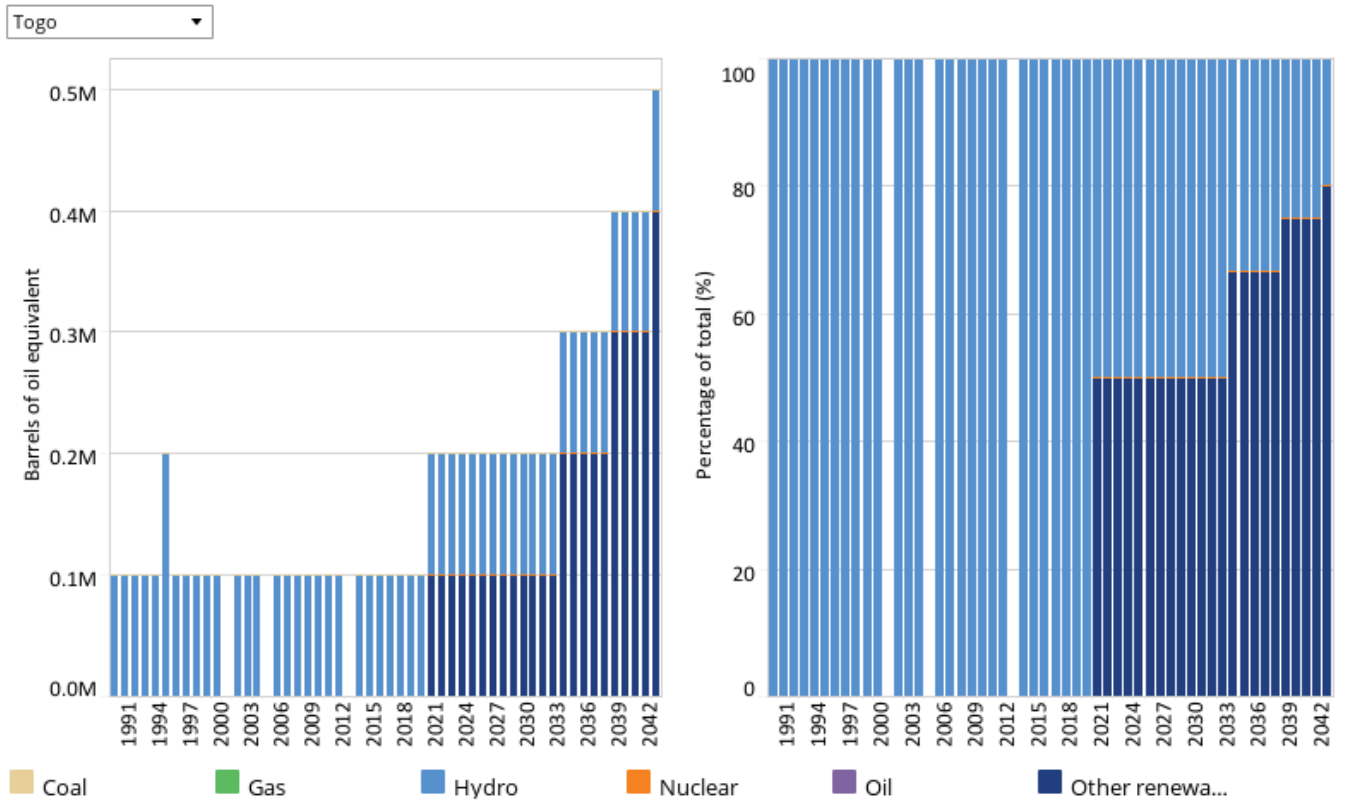
As a low-income country, Togo uses the US\$1.90 per person per day benchmark. The country is one of the poorest in Africa and in the world. As of 2019, there were still over four million people (constituting nearly half of the Togolese population) living on less than US\$1.90 per day. This is expected to increase to 4.8 million people (constituting 56.3%) in 2021, probably due the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated economic crisis, before declining marginally to 4.7 million people (50.9%) in 2024. Thereafter, it continues an upward trend until 2030 where it will peak with five million people living on less than US\$1.90 per day. By 2043, there will still be 4.6 million people (33.1% of the population) living on less than

US\$1.90 per day. This means that although the proportion of the extremely poor population will reduce by 16.5 percentage points, the absolute number of poor people in the country will be 0.6 million people more than its level in 2019 due to the population growth rate that is outpacing development progress. Throughout the period under consideration, the proportion of poor people in Togo is higher than the average for low-income countries in Africa such that by 2043, the extreme poverty rate in Togo is 9.0 percentage points above the projected average for low-income countries in Africa. Poverty in Togo is predominantly a rural phenomenon due to concentrated economic growth in the modern sectors and limited access to quality services.



## Carbon Emissions/Energy: Current Path

Chart 11: Energy production by type in CP, 1990–2043  
Barrels of oil equivalent and % of energy production



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from World Energy Outlook data

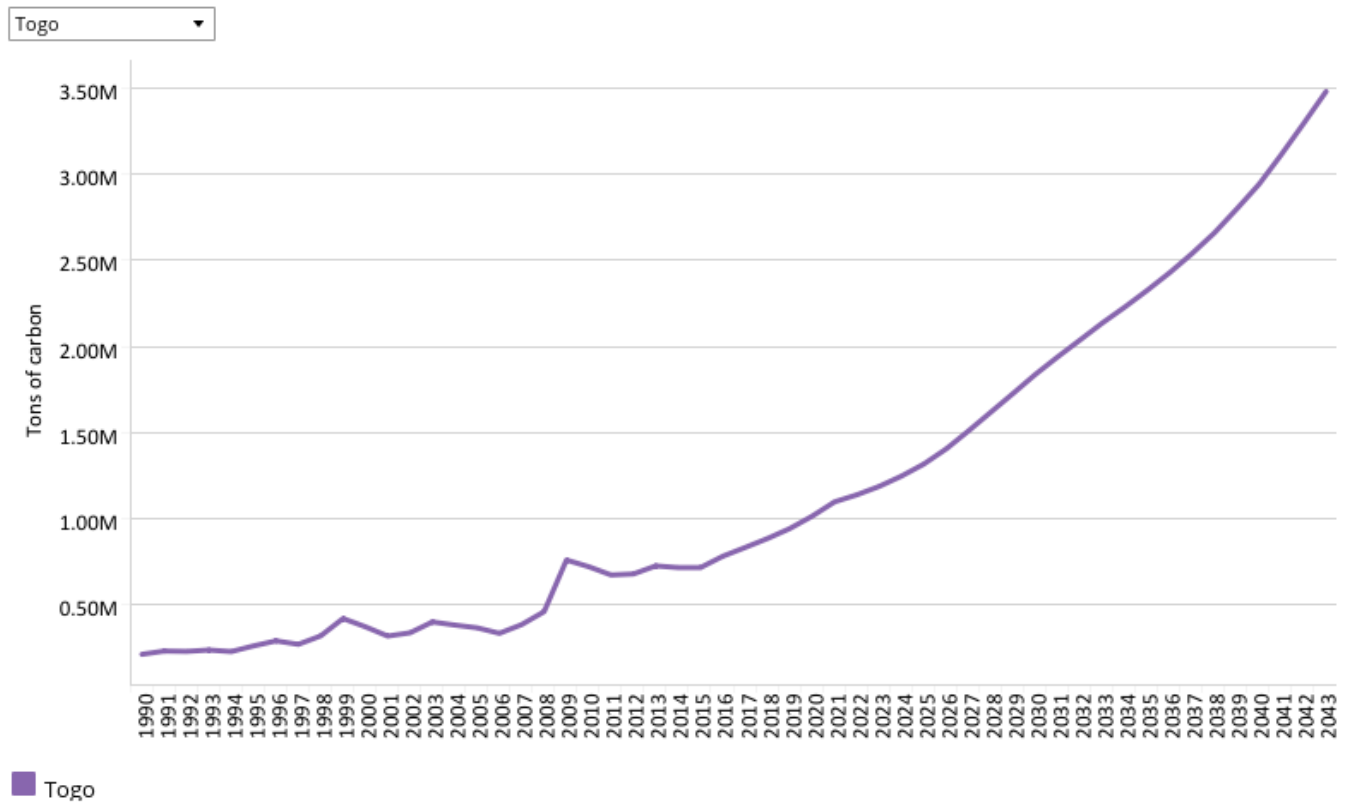
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The IFs platform forecasts six types of energy, namely oil, gas, coal, hydro, nuclear and other renewables. To allow comparisons between different types of energy, the data is converted into billion barrels of oil equivalent (BBOE). The energy contained in a barrel of oil is approximately 5.8 million British thermal units (MBTUs) or 1 700 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of energy.

Between 1990 and 2020, hydro was the sole energy produced by the country, with a total production of 0.1 million BOE in 2019. Although the country produces some of its electricity needs, it also imports the majority of its electricity consumption from Nigeria and Ghana. However, from 2021 it was expected that the country would begin production of other renewables such as solar and wind energies, so that it would constitute half of total energy production. The country has begun discussion on promoting the use of renewable energy: from 2034, solar energy is projected to be the dominant energy type with an estimated quantity of 0.2 million BOE representing 66.7% in 2034, and 0.4 million BOE constituting 80% by 2043.

**Chart 12: Carbon emissions in CP, 1990–2043**  
 Million tons of carbon (note, not CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent)



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center data

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Carbon is released in many ways, but the three most important contributors to greenhouse gases are carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), carbon monoxide (CO) and methane (CH<sub>4</sub>). Since each has a different molecular weight, IFs uses carbon. Many other sites and calculations use CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent.

Togo is one of the countries in Africa with significantly low levels of carbon emissions which can partly be attributed to the low industrial activity and reliance on solar as the only energy produced in the country. Regardless, carbon emissions increased steadily from nearly zero carbon in 1990 to 1 million tons of carbon in 2019. On the Current Path, carbon emissions are forecast to increase to 3 million tons by 2043. It is interesting to note that while the country is shifting to renewable energy such as solar, carbon emissions will continue to increase. This may be as a result of the projected increase in industrial activity in coming years.



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## About the authors

Mr Enoch Randy Aikins joined the AFI in May 2021. Before that, Enoch was a research and programmes officer at the Institute for Democratic Governance in Accra. He also worked as a research assistant (economic division) with the Institute for Statistical Social and Economic Research at the University of Ghana. Enoch's interests include African politics and governance, economic development, public sector reform, poverty and inequality. He has an MPhil in economics from the University of Ghana, Legon.

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