Ecuador

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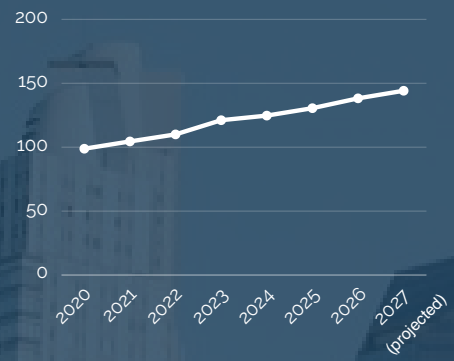
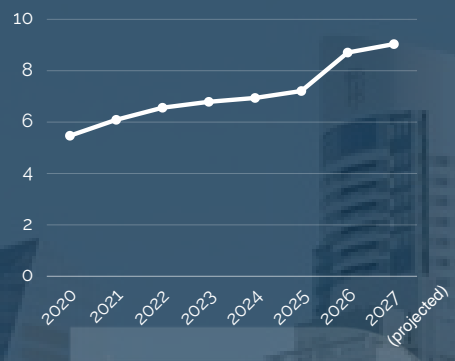
Quito
283,560 sq km
Spanish
US Dollar
18.4 million
8.8 million
Daniel Noboa
138.2 USD Billion

Economic indicators:

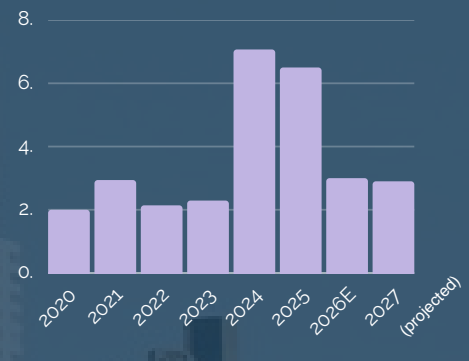
2027E inflation rate projected at 1.9%



GDP (in billion current US$)



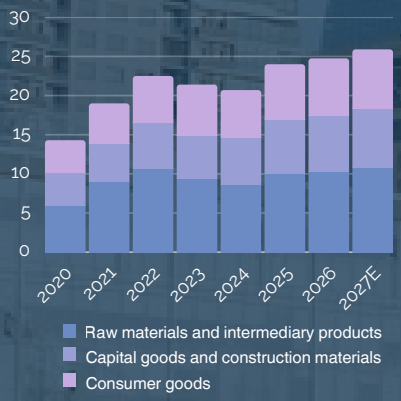
GDP per capita (in thousand current US$)



Current account balance (in billion current US$)

Imports:

Imports by sector (in billion US$)



Top import origins

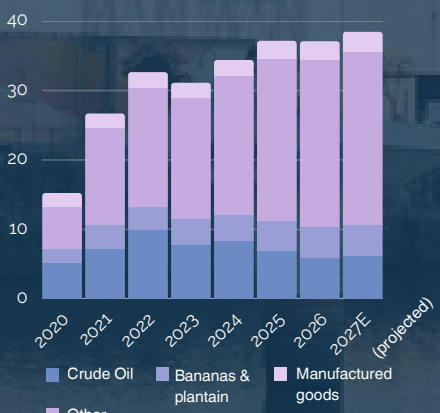
2025	2026
United States	United States
China	China
Colombia	Brazil
Brazil	Mexico

Most imported goods in 2026

1. Mineral Fuels & Oils
2. Machinery
3. Electrical Equipment
4. Vehicles
5. Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals

Exports:

Exports by sector (in billion US$)



Top export destinations

2025	2026
United States	United States
China	China
Panama	Panama
European Union	European Union

Most exported goods in 2026E

1. Fish & Crustaceans
2. Crude oil & mineral fuels
3. Fruits and nuts
4. Cocoa
5. Ores, slag & ash

Sources: Statista, World Bank National Accounts Data, Banco Central del Ecuador

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Opportunities:

Agruaculture / Shrimp / Cold Chain

• Ecuador's shrimp sector became the country's top export driver in 2025, with shrimp exports reaching a record USD 8.4 billion and surpassing oil exports.
• Opportunities exist in cold-chain logistics, shrimp feed, packaging, quality-control systems, water treatment, disease monitoring, traceability software, and value-added seafood processing.
• China remains the largest destination for Ecuadorian shrimp, while the U.S., EU, and Japan create demand for premium, certified, and processed seafood products.

Mining, energy, and commodities

- Ecuador's mining sector is still underdeveloped compared with regional peers, but copper, gold, and other mineral projects create medium-term growth potential.
- Business openings include environmental monitoring, drilling services, geospatial mapping, heavy equipment, water management, power supply, camp/logistics services, and community-compliance consulting.
- Stronger mining development could diversify Ecuador away from oil and expand demand for engineering, transport, and industrial services.

Ports, logistics, and maritime technology

- Ecuador's export economy depends heavily on ports and maritime routes for shrimp, bananas, cocoa, flowers, and oil-related products.
- Opportunities exist in port scanning, cargo security, digital customs tools, vessel tracking, inventory systems, anti-contamination controls, and export traceability platforms.
- Security and compliance tools are especially important for protecting seafood and agricultural export chains and improving access to premium international markets.

Bananas / Cocoa / Flowers / Agri-food Exports

• Ecuador remains a leading exporter of bananas, fine/flavor cocoa, cut flowers, and tropical fruits, creating demand for export compliance, post-harvest handling, and logistics services.
• Opportunities include crop monitoring, irrigation systems, fertilizer/input distribution, certification support, packaging, port storage, and digital traceability for EU/U.S. buyers.
• Cocoa, chocolate, flowers, textiles, canned tuna, ceramics, and auto parts are among sectors expected to benefit from Ecuador's commercial agreement with Canada.

Economic Outlook:

Why Ecuador?

- A dollarized economy that supports monetary stability and helps keep inflation comparatively low.
- Strong export base in shrimp, bananas, cocoa, flowers, oil, and mining-related products.
- Improved trade access through agreements and negotiations with key partners including China, the EU, Canada, and the United States.
- High biodiversity and tourism potential, with opportunities in eco-tourism, hospitality, and nature-based services.
- Continued market-oriented reforms aimed at attracting private investment and improving business conditions.

Startups and VCs

- Ecuador has a growing startup ecosystem supported by incubators, accelerators, coworking spaces, and investor networks.
- Fintech, agri-tech, health-tech, legal-tech, logistics, and aquaculture technology remain key areas for digital growth.
- Regional success stories such as Kushki continue to support Ecuador's reputation as an emerging fintech and payments hub.
- Increased internet penetration and digital adoption are creating opportunities for software, e-commerce, and business-service startups.
- Trade and export growth are creating demand for supply-chain technology, traceability tools, and cross-border payment solutions.

Future Trends

- Ecuador's economy is expected to grow more moderately after a stronger 2025 recovery, with the Banco Central del Ecuador projecting 1.8% GDP growth for 2026.
- • Shrimp and non-oil exports are becoming increasingly important, with shrimp exports surpassing oil exports in 2025.
- • Continued diversification into mining, aquaculture, cocoa, tourism, and renewable energy is expected to reduce dependence on oil over time.
- • Trade expansion with Canada, China, the EU, and the United States should support export-oriented sectors such as flowers, seafood, cocoa, textiles, and processed foods.
- • Copper and critical minerals are expected to become more important medium-term growth opportunities.

Global Position

- One of the world's leading exporters of shrimp and seafood products.
- global exporter of bananas.
- #1 global exporter of fine/flavor cocoa.
- #3 global exporter of cut flowers.
- Among the most biodiverse countries per km^2.
- Top 20 in proven oil reserves and a top 30 global oil producer.
- Expanding trade network with major partners including China, the EU, Canada, and the United States.

Sources: Statista, World Bank National Accounts Data, Banco Central del Ecuador

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