

YOUR LOCAL PARTNER

Tunisia

Do you want to expand your business? Are you looking for the right partner to support you? UIB, a subsidiary of Societe Generale, is the partner you are looking for when doing business in Tunisia. UIB will work with you to achieve your business objectives, including your international trade transactions.

ABOUT THE COUNTRY

Tunisia is a competitive economy and one that is open to the world thanks to its central location in the Mediterranean region, its economic diversity and the preferential agreements it has signed with numerous partner countries.

Tunisia offers access to a number of markets for companies seeking to develop their business. Firmly rooted at the heart of the Euro-Mediterranean region, its preferential agreements with Arab and African countries, flexible tax regime, direct and indirect tax advantages, and the high level of technical qualifications of its labour force give Tunisia a decisive competitive edge.

IDENTITY CARD

Capital: Tunis

Area: 163,610 sq.km

Population: 11.8 million

Local currency: Tunisian dinar

GDP/Capita: \$3,448/hab

PPP/Capita: \$12,661/hab

Growth rate: -2.9%

Inflation rate (average): 6.6%

Budget balance/GDP: -4.4%

Current account/GDP: -10.4%

External deficit/GDP: 93.57%

Rating: B by Standard & Poor's and B2 by Moody's

Economic sectors (as % of GDP):

Services 63.6%, Industry 24.4%, Agriculture 12%

Export partners:

France 30.5%, Italy 16.5%, Germany 11.6%, Spain 3.8%, Algeria 3.3%, Lybia 2.8%

Import partners:

Italy 15.6%, France 15%, China 9%, Germany 8%, Spain 4.5%, Algeria 3.3%

Time zone: UTC/GMT +1h

Language(s): Arabic

For more information:

www.import-export.societegenerale.fr

UIB



GRUPE SOCIETE GENERALE



Created in 1963 and privatised in 2002 on the acquisition of part of its capital by Societe Generale Group, UIB is one of the biggest private banks in Tunisia.

UIB is a universal bank that offers a complete range of products and services to all customer segments. A benchmark in its sector, the bank is able to draw upon the support and resources of Societe Generale Group to constantly reinforce its strengths and reach.

UIB currently has a network of 144 points of sale and dedicated sales resources for corporate and individual clients.

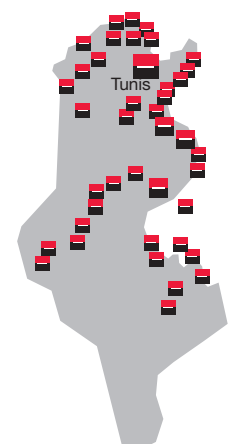
144 BRANCHES

181 ATM

779,000 CLIENTS with

3,050 CORPORATES

1,391 EMPLOYEES



YOUR CONTACT:

Nabil GATTI - nabil.gatti@uib.com.tn

www.uib.com.tn

UIB PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

DAILY BANKING

- CURRENT ACCOUNT in dinars, foreign currencies and convertible dinars
- ELECTRONIC PAYMENT SERVICES: domestic and international bank cards, electronic payment terminals
- MEANS OF PAYMENT: transfers, cheques, commercial papers, mass transfers, etc.
- CASH MANAGEMENT: remote management of your accounts, transfer/retrieval of statements

SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS

- Term deposits: term accounts, medium-term savings certificates, variable-term accounts, foreign currency investments
- Market operations: certificates of deposit, commercial debt instruments
- Asset management: money market sicav mutual funds, bond borrowings

FINANCING SOLUTIONS

- FUNDING THE OPERATING CYCLE: overdraft facilities, discounts, short-term loans in dinars or foreign currencies, deposits and guarantees
- INVESTMENT FINANCING: medium- and long-term loans, external lines of credit
- INVESTMENT BANKING: structured finance, project finance, syndication, mergers and acquisitions

WHAT TO KNOW

FOREIGN EXCHANGE REGULATIONS?

Companies are considered to be “Non-Resident” (NR) when at least 66% of their equity is held by non-resident investors (foreign currency contributions). Companies may register as wholly exporting or partially exporting companies.

Wholly exporting or partially exporting companies are considered to be a «foreign resident company»:

- if foreign equity is less than or equal to 49.99%, there are no restrictions on equity stakes,
- if foreign equity is greater than 49.99%, there are no restrictions on equity stakes except for in certain regulated sectors such as services, healthcare, education and transport.

TRANSFER, REPATRIATION AND DIVIDENDS?

Under the non-resident company regime, investors are free to transfer and repatriate funds.

Under the resident company regime, dividends (paid to non-residents) are freely transferrable.

INTERNATIONAL SERVICES

- Collection only, documentary credit/collection
- International transfers
- International guarantees, standby letters of credit
- Spot or forward forex transactions and swaps

PAYROLL MANAGEMENT

- STAFF CONVENTIONS
- PAYROLL CARDS

ADVISORY SERVICES AND EXPERTISE

- CREATING A BUSINESS
- INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- FOREIGN INVESTOR ASSISTANCE: experts in international finance; executive team advisory services for starting and running a business

FOREIGN INVESTMENT ?

Foreign investment is unrestricted in all business sectors except financial services, mining, hydrocarbons, telecom operators and retail. Foreign investors are free to acquire or lease land and facilities built in industrial zones or in tourist areas provided they agree to use the property for its original intended purpose. Prior approval is not required before transferring or retransferring invested capital or capital gains on investments. Foreign direct investment and portfolio investments are unrestricted.

ACCESS TO FINANCE?

Non-resident companies in Tunisia and in the industry and services sectors are free to finance import and export operations.

Operating loans may be granted to non-resident companies in Tunisia.

Non-resident companies must obtain the approval of the Central Bank of Tunisia prior to financing investments in dinars and foreign currencies.

No such authorisation is needed for foreign resident companies.

UIB is there to help, so ask advice from your direct contact on how to accomplish your international projects.

YOUR DIRECT CONTACT AT UIB:

Nabil GATTI - nabil.gatti@uib.com.tn

Head Office: 65, Avenue Habib Bourguiba 1000 Tunis ; Internet: www.uib.com.tn