

## Introduction

Belarus is a landlocked country in Eastern Europe that borders Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, and Ukraine. Belarus is generally flat, and forty percent is forested with marshland. The government system is a republic in name, although in fact is a dictatorship. The chief of state is the president, and the head of government is the prime minister. Belarus defines the economic system as market socialism, but it is most similar to a planned economy in which the central government directs the economy regarding the production and distribution of goods. Belarus is a member of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).



**Location:** Eastern Europe

**Capital City:** Minsk (+2 GMT)

**Chief of State:** President Aleksandr Lukashenka

**Head of Govt.:** Prime Minister Roman Golovchenko

**Currency:** Belarusian ruble (BYN)

**Major Languages:** <p>Russian (official) 71.4%, Belarusian (official) 26%, other 0.3% (includes small Polish- and Ukrainian-speaking minorities), unspecified 2.3% (2019 est.)</p>

**Primary Religions:** <p>Orthodox 48.3%, Catholic 7.1%, other 3.5%, non-believers 41.1% (2011 est.)</p>

**Calling Code:** 375

**Voltage:** 220

## Key Websites

Main Government Page: [belarus.by](http://belarus.by)

Commerce Ministry: [economy.gov.by](http://economy.gov.by)

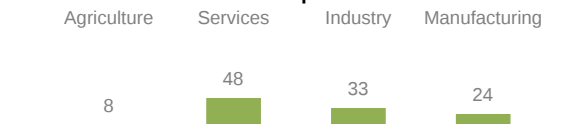
Export Promotion Agency: [export.by](http://export.by)

Investment Promotion Agency: [belarus.by](http://belarus.by)

## Key Economic Facts

|                                                                      |                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Income Level (by per capita GNI):                                    | Upper Middle Income        |
| Level of Development:                                                | In Transition              |
| GDP, PPP (current international \$):                                 | \$208.03 billion (2022)    |
| GDP growth (annual %):                                               | -4.70% (2022)              |
| GDP per capita, PPP (current international \$):                      | \$22,590.59 (2022)         |
| External debt stocks, total (DOD, current US\$):                     | \$41,653,683,788.20 (2021) |
| Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP):                               | 24.02% (2022)              |
| Current account balance (BoP, current US\$):                         | \$2.68 billion (2022)      |
| Inflation, consumer prices (annual %):                               | 15.21% (2022)              |
| Labor force, total:                                                  | 4,833,522 (2022)           |
| Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate): | 4.17% (2022)               |
| Imports of goods and services (current US\$):                        | \$42.13 billion (2022)     |
| Exports of goods and services (current US\$):                        | \$46.38 billion (2022)     |

## GDP Composition %



\*Although Manufacturing is included in the Industry figures, it is also separately reported because it plays a critical role in economy.

## Rankings

| Index                                           | Rank      |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Corruption Perceptions Index                    | 81 / 178  |
| Index of Economic Freedom                       | 144 / 176 |
| International Logistics Performance Index (LPI) | 103 / 160 |
| Inward FDI Potential Index                      | 48 / 139  |
| KOF Index of Globalization                      | 75 / 185  |

## Risk Assessment (Provided by Coface)

**Country rating: D** - A high-risk political and economic situation and an often very difficult business environment can have a very significant impact on corporate payment behavior. Corporate default probability is very high.

**Business Climate rating: D** - The business environment is very difficult. Corporate financial information is rarely available and when available usually unreliable. The legal system makes debt collection very unpredictable. The institutional framework has very serious weaknesses. Intercompany transactions can thus be very difficult to manage in the highly risky environments rated D.

### Strengths

- Member of the Eurasian Economic Union
- Relatively well trained and skilled workforce
- Large industrial sector (24% of GDP in 2024) and agricultural sector (8% of GDP)
- Low inequality and rare poverty

### Weaknesses

- Very large and growing economic dependence on Russia (energy, trade and financial)
- Low geographical and sectoral diversification of exports (90% linked to Russia)
- State plays a massive role in the economy, accounting for half of total value-added and two-thirds of total employment)
- Poor governance (dictatorship, high level of corruption, weak legal system, institutional rigidity)
- Monetary policy is not independent; the central bank reports directly to the President
- Weak foreign exchange reserves
- Decline in the working population mainly due to emigration of young people
- EU sanctions affecting several key sectors
- Decline in Belarus's innovative IT sector, with companies and employees leaving the country; the sector generated 7.3% of GDP in 2021, compared with 4.4% in 2023
- Poor availability and unreliability of statistical data since the start of the war in Ukraine

## U.S. Embassy

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