

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 Lukashenko

Head of Govt.: Prime Minister Roman Golovchenko

Currency: Belarusian ruble (BYN)

Major Languages: <p>Russian (official) 70.2%, Belarusian (official) 23.4%, other 3.1% (includes small Polish- and Ukrainian-speaking minorities), unspecified 3.3%</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

Commerce Ministry: economy.gov.by

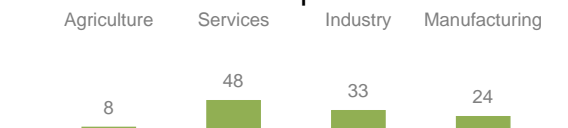
Export Promotion Agency: export.by

Investment Promotion Agency: 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

- Well-developed transport network: bridgehead for China's Silk Road, due to its favorable geographical location between Russia and Europe
- Relatively well trained and skilled workforce
- well-trained (31% of GDP in 2020) and agricultural (10% of GDP) sectors
- Little inequality and poverty is rare

Weaknesses

- Harsh sanctions by the West on the country after it gave Russia the full support for its invasion of Ukraine
- Very high political and economic (energy, trade, and financial) dependence on Russia
- Low geographical and sectoral diversification of exports
- Sensitive to the level of petroleum product prices (purchase price negotiated with Russia)
- State plays a massive role in the economy (1/2 of total value added, 2/3 of total employment)
- Poor governance (high corruption, weak legal system, institutional rigidity, absence of pluralism)
- Monetary policy is not independent, the central bank reports directly to the President
- Shrinking labor force

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