

## Introduction

Burundi is a landlocked country in the Eastern Africa Great Lakes region. Neighboring countries include Rwanda, Tanzania, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



Burundi is hilly and mountainous with access to Lac Tanganyika. The government system is a republic; the chief of state and head of government is the president. Burundi has a traditional

economic system in which the allocation of available resources is made on the basis of primitive methods, and many citizens engage in subsistence agriculture. Burundi is a member of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC), and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS).



**Location:** Eastern Africa

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

**Chief of State:** President Evariste Ndayishimiye

**Head of Govt.:** President Evariste Ndirakobuca

**Currency:** Burundian franc (BIF)

**Major Languages:** Kirundi 29.7% (official), Kirundi and other language 9.1%, French (official) and French and other language 0.3%, Swahili and Swahili and other language 0.2% (along Lake Tanganyika and in the Bujumbura area), English and English and other language 0.06%, more than 2 languages 3.7%, unspecified 56.9%

**Primary Religions:** Catholic 62.1%, Protestant 23.9% (includes Adventist 2.3% and other Protestant 21.6%), Muslim 2.5%, other 3.6%, unspecified 7.9%

**Calling Code:** 257

**Voltage:** 220

## Key Websites

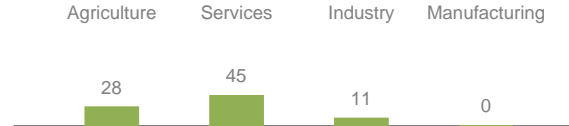
Main Government Page: [presidence.gov.bi](http://presidence.gov.bi)

Investment Promotion Agency: [investburundi.bi](http://investburundi.bi)

## Key Economic Facts

Income Level (by per capita GNI):	Low Income
Level of Development:	Developing
GDP, PPP (current international \$):	\$10.78 billion (2022)
GDP growth (annual %):	1.85% (2022)
GDP per capita, PPP (current international \$):	\$836.19 (2022)
External debt stocks, total (DOD, current US\$):	\$966,407,096.50 (2021)
Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP):	9.36% (2016)
Current account balance (BoP, current US\$):	-\$0.36 billion (2018)
Inflation, consumer prices (annual %):	18.80% (2022)
Labor force, total:	5,573,272 (2022)
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate):	1.02% (2022)
Imports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$0.72 billion (2022)
Exports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$0.15 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	166 / 178
Global Competitiveness Index	135 / 141
Global Enabling Trade Index	125 / 136
Index of Economic Freedom	170 / 176
International Logistics Performance Index (LPI)	158 / 160
KOF Index of Globalization	177 / 185
Networked Readiness Index (NRI)	138 / 139
Open Budget Index	102 / 114

## 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: E** - The highest possible risk in terms of business climate. Due to a lack of available financial information and an unpredictable legal system, doing business in this country is extremely difficult.

### Strengths

- Subsoil resources (rare earths, nickel) largely unexploited and agricultural potential (coffee, tea)
- Return of international financial support
- Progressive opening-up of the country

### Weaknesses

- Fragile political and social institutions in a country marked by putsches, authoritarianism and ethnic conflicts
- Extremely poor business environment (uncertain regulations, shortage of foreign currency and high exchange premium on the parallel market)
- Lack of diversification of the economy, which is essentially based on the primary sector
- Little productive subsistence farming concentrated around Lake Tanganyika, which is subject to frequent flooding
- Weak infrastructure (energy, water, transport, sanitation)
- Widespread extreme poverty (62% of the population in 2023)

## U.S. Embassy

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<https://bi.usembassy.gov>