

Introduction

Burundi is a landlocked country in the Great Lake regions of Eastern Africa. Neighboring countries include Rwanda, Tanzania, and 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 Pierre Nkurunziza

Head of Govt.: President Pierre Nkurunziza

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: burundi.gov.bi

Investment Promotion Agency: investburundi.bi

Key Economic Facts

Income Level (by per capita GNI):	Low Income
Level of Development:	Developing
GDP, PPP (current international \$):	\$8.38 billion (2017)
GDP growth (annual %):	0.52% (2017)
GDP per capita, PPP (current international \$):	\$770.94 (2017)
External debt stocks, total (DOD, current US\$):	\$613,403,986.80 (2017)
Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP):	9.21% (2016)
Current account balance (BoP, current US\$):	-\$0.35 billion (2016)
Inflation, consumer prices (annual %):	16.05% (2017)
Labor force, total:	4,713,453 (2017)
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate):	1.55% (2017)
Imports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$0.96 billion (2016)
Exports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$0.19 billion (2016)

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	157 / 178
Global Competitiveness Index	135 / 139
Global Enabling Trade Index	125 / 136
Index of Economic Freedom	161 / 179
International Logistics Performance Index (LPI)	158 / 160
KOF Index of Globalization	177 / 185
Networked Readiness Index (NRI)	138 / 139
Open Budget Index	99 / 115

Risk Assessment (Provided by Coface)

Country rating: E - The highest-risk political and economic situation and the most difficult business environment. Corporate default is likely.

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

- Natural resources (coffee, tea, gold)
- Cancellation of 75% of external public debt in 2009
- Membership of the East Africa Community (EAC)

Weaknesses

- Entrenchment of the political crisis which began in 2015
- Suspension on international aid following the political crisis
- Border tensions with Rwanda
- Poorly diversified economy, vulnerable to external shocks
- Geographic isolation
- Activity hampered by lack of infrastructure and limited access to electricity

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