

## Introduction

Lesotho is a small, landlocked, and mountainous country. It is an enclave entirely surrounded by South Africa. The government system is a parliamentary constitutional monarchy; the chief of state is the king, and the head of government is the prime minister. Lesotho has a market-based economy, but the tradition of direct government involvement in economic activity limits private sector development. Lesotho is a member of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).



**Location:** Southern Africa

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

**Chief of State:** King Letsie III

**Head of Govt.:** Prime Minister Ntsokoane Samuel Matekane

**Currency:** Basotho loti (LSL)

**Major Languages:** Sesotho (official) (southern Sotho), English (official), Phuthi, Xhosa, Zulu

**Primary Religions:** Protestant 47.8% (Pentecostal 23.1%, Lesotho Evangelical 17.3%, Anglican 7.4%), Roman Catholic 39.3%, other Christian 9.1%, non-Christian 1.4%, none 2.3% (2014 est.)

**Calling Code:** 266

**Voltage:** 220

## Key Websites

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

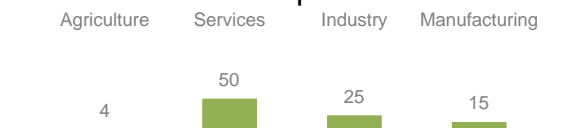
Commerce Ministry: [gov.ls](http://gov.ls)

Investment Promotion Agency: [Indc.org.ls](http://Indc.org.ls)

## Key Economic Facts

Income Level (by per capita GNI):	Lower Middle Income
Level of Development:	Developing
GDP, PPP (current international \$):	\$6.21 billion (2022)
GDP growth (annual %):	0.59% (2022)
GDP per capita, PPP (current international \$):	\$2,694.55 (2022)
External debt stocks, total (DOD, current US\$):	\$1,817,556,418.00 (2021)
Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP):	14.90% (2022)
Current account balance (BoP, current US\$):	-\$0.15 billion (2022)
Inflation, consumer prices (annual %):	8.27% (2022)
Labor force, total:	979,357 (2022)
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate):	18.04% (2022)
Imports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$2.22 billion (2021)
Exports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$1.08 billion (2021)

## 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	95 / 178
Global Competitiveness Index	131 / 141
Global Enabling Trade Index	80 / 136
Index of Economic Freedom	141 / 176
International Logistics Performance Index (LPI)	139 / 160
KOF Index of Globalization	135 / 185
Networked Readiness Index (NRI)	115 / 139
Open Budget Index	92 / 114

## U.S. Embassy

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