

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 Thomas Motsoahae Thabane

Currency: Basotho loti (LSL)

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

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

Commerce Ministry: gov.ls

Investment Promotion Agency: Indc.org.ls

Key Economic Facts

Income Level (by per capita GNI):	Lower Middle Income
Level of Development:	Developing
GDP, PPP (current international \$):	\$6.47 billion (2018)
GDP growth (annual %):	1.13% (2018)
GDP per capita, PPP (current international \$):	\$3,068.17 (2018)
External debt stocks, total (DOD, current US\$):	\$914,773,689.00 (2018)
Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP):	14.01% (2018)
Current account balance (BoP, current US\$):	\$0.00 billion (2018)
Inflation, consumer prices (annual %):	5.19% (2019)
Labor force, total:	974,814 (2019)
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate):	23.41% (2019)
Imports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$2.31 billion (2018)
Exports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$1.20 billion (2018)

GDP Composition %

Agriculture Services Industry Manufacturing



**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	78 / 180
Global Competitiveness Index	131 / 141
Global Enabling Trade Index	80 / 136
Index of Economic Freedom	141 / 179
International Logistics Performance Index (LPI)	139 / 160
KOF Index of Globalization	135 / 185
Networked Readiness Index (NRI)	115 / 139
Open Budget Index	110 / 115

U.S. Embassy

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