Introduction
Malawi is a landlocked country in southeast Africa. It is bordered by Mozambique, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe. The Great Rift Valley runs through the country, and to the east of the valley lies Lake Nyasa. The government system is a multiparty democracy; the chief of state and head of government is the president. Malawi has a traditional economic system in which the majority of the population engages in subsistence agriculture, and the allocation of available resources is made on the basis of primitive methods. Malawi is a member of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Location: Eastern Africa
Capital City: Lilongwe (+2 GMT)
Chief of State: President Lazarus Chakwera
Head of Govt.: President Lazarus Chakwera
Currency: Malawian kwacha (MWK)
Major Languages: English (official), Chewa (common), Lombye, Lomwe, Ngoni, Nkhonde, Nyakyusa, Nyanja, Sena, Tonga, Tumbuka, Yao

Primary Religions:<br />Protestant 33.5% (includes Church of Central Africa Presbyterian 14.2%, Seventh Day Adventist/Baptist 9.4%, Pentecostal 7.8%, Anglican 2.3%), Roman Catholic 17.2%, other Christian 26.6%, Muslim 13.8%, traditionalist 1.1%, other 5.6%, none 21.2%

Calling Code: 265
Voltage: 230

Key Economic Facts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Economic Fact</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income Level (by per capita GNI)</td>
<td>Low Income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level of Development</td>
<td>Developing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP, PPP (current international $)</td>
<td>$35.34 billion (2022)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP growth (annual %)</td>
<td>0.92% (2022)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP per capita, PPP (current international $)</td>
<td>$1,732.03 (2022)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External debt stocks, total (DOD, current US$)</td>
<td>$3,185,407,054.40 (2021)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP)</td>
<td>11.54% (2019)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current account balance (BoP, current US$)</td>
<td>-$1.54 billion (2021)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inflation, consumer prices (annual %)</td>
<td>20.95% (2022)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor force, total</td>
<td>7,922,748 (2022)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate)</td>
<td>5.61% (2022)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imports of goods and services (current US$)</td>
<td>$2.73 billion (2019)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exports of goods and services (current US$)</td>
<td>$2.38 billion (2019)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GDP Composition %

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Although Manufacturing is included in the Industry figures, it is also separately reported because it plays a critical role in economy.

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
• Natural resources (tobacco, tea, coffee, sugar, soybeans)
• Rapidly expanding services sector
• Resumption of support by financial donors (suspended for some time due to corruption)
• Member of Southern African Development Community (SADC) and Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)

Weaknesses
• Economy dominated by agriculture, vulnerable to weather conditions; highly affected by climate change
• Food insecurity, landlocked position
• Increase in extreme poverty (70% of the population in 2020)
• Deficient infrastructure (water, energy, transportation, education, health) and weak business environment
• Widespread corruption (water, energy, transportation, education, health)

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Lilongwe 3, Malawi
Telephone: +265 (0) 177 3166
https://mw.usembassy.gov

Key Websites
- Main Government Page: malawi.gov.mw
- Export Promotion Agency: mitc.mw
- Investment Promotion Agency: mitc.mw

Note
Chewa and Nyanja are mutually intelligible dialects; Nkhonde and Nyakyusa are mutually intelligible dialects.

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