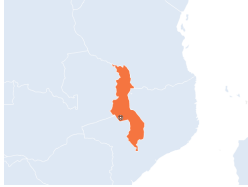


## Introduction

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:** <p>English (official), Chewa (common), Lambya, Lomwe, Ngoni, Nkhonde, Nyakyusa, Nyanja, Sena, Tonga, Tumbuka, Yao<br /><strong>Note</strong>: Chewa and Nyanja are mutually intelligible dialects; Nkhonde and Nyakyusa are mutually intelligible dialects</p>

**Primary Religions:** <p>Protestant 33.5% (includes Church of Central Africa Presbyterian 14.2%, Seventh Day Adventist/Baptist 9.4%, Pentecostal 7.6%, Anglican 2.3%), Roman Catholic 17.2%, other Christian 26.6%, Muslim 13.8%, traditionalist 1.1%, other 5.6%, none 2.1%</p>

**Calling Code:** 265

**Voltage:** 230

## Key Websites

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

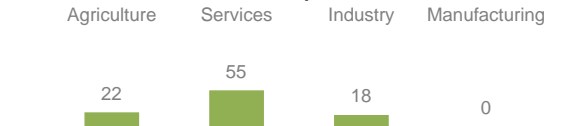
Export Promotion Agency: [mitc.mw](http://mitc.mw)

Investment Promotion Agency: [mitc.mw](http://mitc.mw)

## Key Economic Facts

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

## 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	109 / 178
Global Competitiveness Index	128 / 141
Global Enabling Trade Index	101 / 136
Index of Economic Freedom	152 / 179
International Logistics Performance Index (LPI)	97 / 160
Inward FDI Potential Index	135 / 139
KOF Index of Globalization	143 / 185
Networked Readiness Index (NRI)	132 / 139
Open Budget Index	95 / 117

## 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 (129/180 according to Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index)

## U.S. Embassy

U.S. Embassy Lilongwe  
16 Jomo Kenyatta Road  
Lilongwe 3, Malawi  
Telephone: +265 (0) 177 3166  
<https://mw.usembassy.gov>