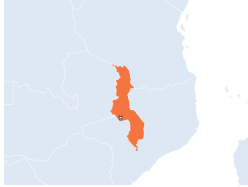


Introduction

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 Arthur Peter Mutharika

Head of Govt.: President Arthur Peter Mutharika

Currency: Malawian kwacha (MWK)

Major Languages: <p>English (official), Chichewa (common), Chinyanja, Chiyao, Chitumbuka, Chilomwe, Chinkhonde, Chingoni, Chisena, Chitonga, Chinyakyusa, Chilambya</p>

Primary Religions: <p>Protestant 27.2% (includes Church of Central Africa Presbyterian 17.7%, Seventh Day Adventist/Baptist 6.9%, Anglican 2.6%), Catholic 18.4%, other Christian 41%, Muslim 12.1%, other 0.3%, none 1%</p>

Calling Code: 265

Voltage: 230

Key Websites

Main Government Page: malawi.gov.mw

Commerce Ministry: moit.gov.mw

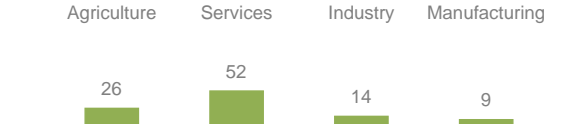
Export Promotion Agency: mitc.mw

Investment Promotion Agency: mitc.mw

Key Economic Facts

Income Level (by per capita GNI):	Low Income
Level of Development:	Developing
GDP, PPP (current international \$):	\$22.39 billion (2017)
GDP growth (annual %):	4.00% (2017)
GDP per capita, PPP (current international \$):	\$1,202.20 (2017)
External debt stocks, total (DOD, current US\$):	\$2,160,096,802.50 (2017)
Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP):	9.37% (2017)
Current account balance (BoP, current US\$):	-\$1.02 billion (2017)
Inflation, consumer prices (annual %):	12.18% (2017)
Labor force, total:	8,029,723 (2017)
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate):	5.90% (2017)
Imports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$2.28 billion (2017)
Exports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$1.84 billion (2017)

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	122 / 178
Global Competitiveness Index	128 / 139
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	83 / 115

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 (uranium, tea, coffee, tobacco)
- Rapidly expanding services sector
- Resumption of support by financial donors
- Member of the SADC (Southern African Development Community) and the COMESA (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa)

Weaknesses

- Economy dominated by agriculture, vulnerable to weather conditions
- Food insecurity
- High inflation
- Infrastructure shortcomings (water, energy)
- Low foreign exchange reserves
- Increase in extreme poverty
- Diplomatic tensions with Tanzania and Mozambique

U.S. Embassy

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