



**Africa :: Malawi**

**Introduction :: Malawi**

**Background:**

Established in 1891, the British protectorate of Nyasaland became the independent nation of Malawi in 1964. After three decades of one-party rule under President Hastings Kamuzu BANDA the country held multiparty elections in 1994, under a provisional constitution that came into full effect the following year. President Bingu wa MUTHARIKA, elected in May 2004 after a failed attempt by the previous president to amend the constitution to permit another term, struggled to assert his authority against his predecessor and subsequently started his own party, the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) in 2005. MUTHARIKA was reelected to a second term in May 2009. He oversaw some economic improvement in his first term, but was accused of economic mismanagement and poor governance in his second term. He died abruptly in April 2012 and was succeeded by his vice president, Joyce BANDA, who had earlier started her own party, the People's Party (PP). Population growth, increasing pressure on agricultural lands, corruption, and the scourge of HIV/AIDS pose major problems for Malawi.

**Geography :: Malawi**

**Location:**

Southern Africa, east of Zambia, west and north of Mozambique

**Geographic coordinates:**

13 30 S, 34 00 E

**Map references:**

Africa

**Area:**

**total:** 118,484 sq km  
**country comparison to the world:** 100  
**land:** 94,080 sq km  
**water:** 24,404 sq km

**Area - comparative:**

slightly smaller than Pennsylvania

**Land boundaries:**

**total:** 2,881 km  
**border countries:** Mozambique 1,569 km, Tanzania 475 km, Zambia 837 km

**Coastline:**

0 km (landlocked)

**Maritime claims:**

none (landlocked)

**Climate:**

sub-tropical; rainy season (November to May); dry season (May to November)

**Terrain:**

narrow elongated plateau with rolling plains, rounded hills, some mountains

**Elevation extremes:**

**lowest point:** junction of the Shire River and international boundary with Mozambique 37 m

**highest point:** Sapitwa (Mount Mlanje) 3,002 m

**Natural resources:**

limestone, arable land, hydropower, unexploited deposits of uranium, coal, and bauxite

**Land use:**

**arable land:** 30.38%

**permanent crops:** 1.1%

**other:** 68.52% (2011)

**Irrigated land:**

735 sq km (2006)

**Total renewable water resources:**

17.28 cu km (2011)

**Freshwater withdrawal (domestic/industrial/agricultural):**

**total:** 1.36 cu km/yr (11%/4%/86%)

**per capita:** 99.86 cu m/yr (2005)

**Natural hazards:**

NA

**Environment - current issues:**

deforestation; land degradation; water pollution from agricultural runoff, sewage, industrial wastes; siltation of spawning grounds endangers fish populations

**Environment - international agreements:**

**party to:** Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Environmental Modification, Hazardous Wastes, Marine Life Conservation, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Wetlands

**signed, but not ratified:** Law of the Sea

**Geography - note:**

landlocked; Lake Nyasa, some 580 km long, is the country's most prominent physical feature; it contains more fish species than any other lake on earth

**People and Society :: Malawi**

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**Nationality:**

**noun:** Malawian(s)

**adjective:** Malawian

**Ethnic groups:**

Chewa 32.6%, Lomwe 17.6%, Yao 13.5%, Ngoni 11.5%, Tumbuka 8.8%, Nyanja 5.8%, Sena 3.6%, Tonga 2.1%, Ngonde 1%, other 3.5%

**Languages:**

English (official), Chichewa (common), Chinyanja, Chiyao, Chitumbuka, Chilomwe, Chinkhonde, Chingoni, Chisena, Chitonga, Chinyakyusa, Chilambya

**Religions:**

Christian 82.6%, Muslim 13%, other 1.9%, none 2.5% (2008 est.)

**Population:**

17,377,468 (July 2014 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 64

**note:** estimates for this country explicitly take into account the effects of excess mortality due to AIDS; this can result in lower life expectancy, higher infant mortality, higher death rates, lower population growth rates, and changes in the distribution of population by age and sex than would otherwise be expected

**Age structure:**

**0-14 years:** 46.9% (male 4,056,810/female 4,100,841)

**15-24 years:** 20.2% (male 1,748,919/female 1,765,212)

**25-54 years:** 27.1% (male 2,329,952/female 2,371,274)

**55-64 years:** 2.7% (male 256,034/female 280,997)

**65 years and over:** 2.7% (male 206,923/female 260,506) (2014 est.)

**Dependency ratios:**

**total dependency ratio:** 94.1 %

**youth dependency ratio:** 87.9 %

**elderly dependency ratio:** 6.2 %

**potential support ratio:** 16.1 (2013)

**Median age:**

**total:** 16.3 years

**male:** 16.2 years

**female:** 16.4 years (2014 est.)

**Population growth rate:**

3.33% (2014 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 6

**Birth rate:**

41.8 births/1,000 population (2014 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 7

**Death rate:**

8.74 deaths/1,000 population (2014 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 72

**Net migration rate:**

0.25 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2014 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 75

**Urbanization:**

**urban population:** 15.7% of total population (2011)

**rate of urbanization:** 4.2% annual rate of change (2010-15 est.)

**Major urban areas - population:**

Blantyre 856,000; LILONGWE (capital) 821,000 (2009)

**Sex ratio:**

**at birth:** 1.02 male(s)/female

**0-14 years:** 0.99 male(s)/female

**15-24 years:** 0.99 male(s)/female

**25-54 years:** 0.98 male(s)/female

**55-64 years:** 0.98 male(s)/female

**65 years and over:** 0.75 male(s)/female

**total population:** 0.99 male(s)/female (2014 est.)

**Mother's mean age at first birth:**

18.9

*note:* median age at first birth among women 25-29 (2010 est.)

**Maternal mortality rate:**

460 deaths/100,000 live births (2010)

**country comparison to the world:** 24

**Infant mortality rate:**

**total:** 48.01 deaths/1,000 live births

**country comparison to the world:** 42

**male:** 54.94 deaths/1,000 live births

**female:** 40.98 deaths/1,000 live births (2014 est.)

**Life expectancy at birth:**

**total population:** 59.99 years

**country comparison to the world:** 194

**male:** 58.04 years

**female:** 61.97 years (2014 est.)

**Total fertility rate:**

5.66 children born/woman (2014 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 8

**Contraceptive prevalence rate:**

46.1% (2010)

**Health expenditures:**

8.4% of GDP (2011)

**country comparison to the world:** 56

**Physicians density:**

0.02 physicians/1,000 population (2008)

**Hospital bed density:**

1.3 beds/1,000 population (2011)

**Drinking water source:**

**improved:**

urban: 94.6% of population

rural: 81.7% of population

total: 83.7% of population

**unimproved:**

urban: 5.4% of population

rural: 18.3% of population

total: 16.3% of population (2011 est.)

**Sanitation facility access:**

**improved:**

urban: 49.6% of population

rural: 53.5% of population

total: 52.9% of population

**unimproved:**

urban: 50.4% of population

rural: 46.5% of population

total: 47.1% of population (2011 est.)

**HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:**

10.8% (2012 est.)

country comparison to the world: 9

**HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:**

1,129,800 (2012 est.)

country comparison to the world: 10

**HIV/AIDS - deaths:**

45,600 (2012 est.)

country comparison to the world: 9

**Major infectious diseases:**

degree of risk: very high

food or waterborne diseases: bacterial and protozoal diarrhea, hepatitis A, and typhoid fever

vectorborne diseases: malaria and dengue fever

water contact disease: schistosomiasis

animal contact disease: rabies (2013)

**Obesity - adult prevalence rate:**

4.3% (2008)

country comparison to the world: 168

**Children under the age of 5 years underweight:**

13.8% (2010)

country comparison to the world: 55

**Education expenditures:**

5.4% of GDP (2011)

country comparison to the world: 60

**Literacy:**

definition: age 15 and over can read and write

total population: 74.8%

male: 81.1%

female: 68.5% (2010 est.)

**School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education):**

total: 11 years

male: 11 years

female: 11 years (2011)

**Child labor - children ages 5-14:**

total number: 993,318

percentage: 26 % (2006 est.)

**Government:: Malawi**

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**Country name:**

conventional long form: Republic of Malawi

conventional short form: Malawi

local long form: Dziko la Malawi

local short form: Malawi

former: British Central African Protectorate, Nyasaland Protectorate, Nyasaland

**Government type:**

multiparty democracy

**Capital:**

name: Lilongwe

geographic coordinates: 13 58 S, 33 47 E

time difference: UTC+2 (7 hours ahead of Washington, DC during Standard Time)

**Administrative divisions:**

28 districts; Balaka, Blantyre, Chikwawa, Chiradzulu, Chitipa, Dedza, Dowa, Karonga, Kasungu, Likoma, Lilongwe, Machinga, Mangochi, Mchinji, Mulanje, Mwanza, Mzimba, Neno, Ntcheu, Nkhata Bay, Nkhotakota, Nsanje, Ntchisi, Phalombe, Rumphi, Salima, Thyolo, Zomba

**Independence:**

6 July 1964 (from the UK)

**National holiday:**

Independence Day (Republic Day), 6 July (1964)

**Constitution:**

previous 1953 (preindependence), 1966; latest drafted January to May 1994, approved 16 May 1994, entered into force 18 May 1995; amended several times, last in 2013 (2007)

**Legal system:**

mixed legal system of English common law and customary law; judicial review of legislative acts in the Supreme Court of Appeal

**International law organization participation:**

accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations; accepts ICCT jurisdiction

**Suffrage:**

18 years of age; universal

**Executive branch:**

**chief of state:** President Joyce BANDA (since 7 April 2012); Vice President Khumbo Hastings KACHALI (since 11 April 2012); note - the president is both the chief of state and head of government; former President Bingu wa MUTHARIKA died on 5 April 2012, Vice President Joyce BANDA was subsequently sworn in on 7 April 2012

**head of government:** President Joyce BANDA (since 7 April 2012); Vice President Khumbo Hastings KACHALI (since 11 April 2012)

**cabinet:** 26-32-member Cabinet named by the president

(For more information visit the **World Leaders website** ■)

**elections:** president elected by popular vote for a five-year term (eligible for a second term); election last held on 19 May 2009 (next to be held 20 May 2014)

**election results:** Bingu wa MUTHARIKA elected president; percent of vote - Bingu wa MUTHARIKA 66%, John TEMBO 30.7%, other 3.3%; note - MUTHARIKA passed away on 5 April 2012 and was succeeded by then vice president Joyce BANDA

**Legislative branch:**

unicameral National Assembly (193 seats; members elected by popular vote to serve five-year terms)

**elections:** last held on 19 May 2009 (next to be held 20 May 2014)

**election results:** percent of vote by party - NA; seats by party - DPP 114, MCP 26, UDF 17, independents 32, other 4

**Judicial branch:**

**highest court(s):** Supreme Court of Appeal (consists of the chief justice and at least 3 judges)

**judge selection and term of office:** Supreme Court chief justice appointed by the president and confirmed by the National Assembly; other judges appointed by the president upon recommendation of the Judicial Service Commission, which regulates judicial officers; judges serve until age 65

**subordinate courts:** High Court; magistrate courts; Industrial Relations Court; district and city traditional or local courts

**Political parties and leaders:**

Alliance for Democracy or AFORD [Godfrey SHAWA]

Chipani Cha Fuko or CCP [Davis KATSONGA PHIRI]

Christian Liberation Party or CONU [Sylvester CHABUKA]

Democratic Progressive Party or DPP [Peter MUTHARIKA]

Malawi Congress Party or MCP [Lazarous CHAKWERA]

Malawi Democratic Party or MDP [Kampelo KALUA]

Malawi Forum for Unity and Development or MAFUNDE [George MNESA]

National Rainbow Coalition or NARC [Loveness GONDWE]

National Salvation Front or NASAF [James NYONDO]

Nthanda Congress Party or NCP [Dr. Chakhumbila KHAILA]

New Labour Party or NLP [Friday JUMBE]

New Republican Party [Gwanda CHAKUWAMBA]

People's Party or PP [Joyce BANDA]

People's Progressive Movement or PPM [Mark Katsonga PHIRI]

People's Transformation Movement or PETRA [Kamuzu CHIBAMBO]

Umodzi Party or UP [John CHISI, Interim president]

United Democratic Front or UDF [Atupele MULUZI]

United Independent Party or UIP [Helen SINGH]

**Political pressure groups and leaders:**

Council for NGOs in Malawi or CONGOMA (human rights, democracy, and development)

Human Rights Consultative Committee or HRCC (human rights)

Malawi Economic Justice Network or MEJN (pro economic growth, development, government accountability)

Malawi Law Society (an umbrella organization of all lawyers in Malawi)

Public Affairs Committee or PAC (promotes democracy, development, peace and unity)

**International organization participation:**

ACP, AfDB, AU, C, CD, COMESA, FAO, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICRM, IDA, IFAD, IFC, IFRC, ILO, IMF, IMO, Interpol, IOC, IPU, ISO (correspondent), ITSO, ITU, ITUC (NGOs), MIGA, MINURSO, MONUSCO, NAM, OPCW, SADC, UN, UNAMID, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNOCI, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WFTU (NGOs), WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

**Diplomatic representation in the US:**

**chief of mission:** Ambassador Stephen Dick Tennyson MATENSE (since 10 September 2010)

**chancery:** 2408 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008

**telephone:** [1] (202) 721-0270

**FAX:** [1] (202) 721-0288

#### **Diplomatic representation from the US:**

**chief of mission:** Ambassador Jeanine E. JACKSON (since 11 September 2011)

**embassy:** 16 Jomo Kenyatta Road, Lilongwe 3

**mailing address:** P. O. Box 30016, Lilongwe 3, Malawi

**telephone:** [265] (1) 773-166

**FAX:** [265] (1) 770-471

#### **Flag description:**

three equal horizontal bands of black (top), red, and green with a radiant, rising, red sun centered on the black band; black represents the native peoples, red the blood shed in their struggle for freedom, and green the color of nature; the rising sun represents the hope of freedom for the continent of Africa

#### **National anthem:**

**name:** "Mulungu dalitsa Malawi" (Oh God Bless Our Land of Malawi)

**lyrics/music:** Michael-Fredrick Paul SAUKA

**note:** adopted 1964

### **Economy :: Malawi**

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#### **Economy - overview:**

Landlocked Malawi ranks among the world's most densely populated and least developed countries. The economy is predominately agricultural with about 80% of the population living in rural areas. Agriculture, which has benefited from fertilizer subsidies since 2006, accounts for one-third of GDP and 90% of export revenues. The performance of the tobacco sector is key to short-term growth as tobacco accounts for more than half of exports. The economy depends on substantial inflows of economic assistance from the IMF, the World Bank, and individual donor nations. In 2006, Malawi was approved for relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) program. In December 2007, the US granted Malawi eligibility status to receive financial support within the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) initiative. The government faces many challenges including developing a market economy, improving educational facilities, facing up to environmental problems, dealing with the rapidly growing problem of HIV/AIDS, and satisfying foreign donors that fiscal discipline is being tightened. Between 2005 and 2009 President BANDA'S government exhibited improved financial discipline under the guidance of Finance Minister Goodall GONDWE and signed a three year IMF Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF) worth \$56 million. The government announced infrastructure projects that could yield improvements, such as a new oil pipeline for better fuel access, and the potential for a waterway link through Mozambican rivers to the ocean for better transportation options. Since 2009, however, Malawi has experienced some setbacks, including a general shortage of foreign exchange, which has damaged its ability to pay for imports, and fuel shortages that hinder transportation and productivity. Investment has fallen continuously for several years and in 2013 amounted to just 13% of GDP. The government has failed to address barriers to investment such as unreliable power, water shortages, poor telecommunications infrastructure, and the high costs of services. Donors, who provided an average of 36% of government revenue in the past five years, suspended general budget support for Malawi in 2011 due to a negative IMF review and governance issues.

#### **GDP (purchasing power parity):**

\$15.02 billion (2013 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 143

\$14.3 billion (2012 est.)

\$14.04 billion (2011 est.)

**note:** data are in 2013 US dollars

#### **GDP (official exchange rate):**

\$3.683 billion (2013 est.)

#### **GDP - real growth rate:**

5% (2013 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 59

1.9% (2012 est.)

4.3% (2011 est.)

#### **GDP - per capita (PPP):**

\$900 (2013 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 221

\$900 (2012 est.)

\$900 (2011 est.)

**note:** data are in 2013 US dollars

#### **Gross national saving:**

8.2% of GDP (2013 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 145

8.2% of GDP (2012 est.)

1.9% of GDP (2011 est.)

#### **GDP - composition, by end use:**

**household consumption:** 73.6%  
**government consumption:** 20.7%  
**investment in fixed capital:** 13%  
**investment in inventories:** 1.9%  
**exports of goods and services:** 29.2%  
**imports of goods and services:** -38.4%  
(2013 est.)

**GDP - composition, by sector of origin:**

**agriculture:** 29.4%  
**industry:** 18.9%  
**services:** 51.7% (2013 est.)

**Agriculture - products:**

tobacco, sugarcane, cotton, tea, corn, potatoes, cassava (tapioca), sorghum, pulses, groundnuts, Macadamia nuts; cattle, goats

**Industries:**

tobacco, tea, sugar, sawmill products, cement, consumer goods

**Industrial production growth rate:**

2.8% (2013 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 109

**Labor force:**

5.747 million (2007 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 68

**Labor force - by occupation:**

**agriculture:** 90%  
**industry and services:** 10% (2003 est.)

**Unemployment rate:**

NA%

**Population below poverty line:**

53% (2004)

**Household income or consumption by percentage share:**

**lowest 10%:** 3%  
**highest 10%:** 31.9% (2004)

**Distribution of family income - Gini index:**

39 (2004)

**country comparison to the world:** 68

**Budget:**

**revenues:** \$1.347 billion  
**expenditures:** \$1.4 billion (2013 est.)

**Taxes and other revenues:**

36.6% of GDP (2013 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 58

**Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-):**

-1.4% of GDP (2013 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 69

**Public debt:**

50.8% of GDP (2013 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 66  
62.7% of GDP (2012 est.)

**Fiscal year:**

1 July - 30 June

**Inflation rate (consumer prices):**

26.9% (2013 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 220  
21.4% (2012 est.)

**Central bank discount rate:**

15% (31 December 2009)

**country comparison to the world:** 10  
15% (31 December 2008)

**Commercial bank prime lending rate:**

29.5% (31 December 2013 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 3  
32.4% (31 December 2012 est.)

**Stock of narrow money:**

\$585.3 million (31 December 2013 est.)  
**country comparison to the world:** 157  
\$457.6 million (31 December 2012 est.)

**Stock of broad money:**

\$1.494 billion (31 December 2013 est.)  
**country comparison to the world:** 158  
\$1.153 billion (31 December 2012 est.)

**Stock of domestic credit:**

\$1.243 billion (31 December 2013 est.)  
**country comparison to the world:** 151  
\$1.128 billion (31 December 2012 est.)

**Market value of publicly traded shares:**

\$753.6 million (31 December 2012 est.)  
**country comparison to the world:** 104  
\$1.384 billion (31 December 2011)  
\$1.363 billion (31 December 2010 est.)

**Current account balance:**

-\$280.1 million (2013 est.)  
**country comparison to the world:** 91  
-\$315.1 million (2012 est.)

**Exports:**

\$1.427 billion (2013 est.)  
**country comparison to the world:** 149  
\$1.224 billion (2012 est.)

**Exports - commodities:**

tobacco 53%, tea, sugar, cotton, coffee, peanuts, wood products, apparel

**Exports - partners:**

Canada 10.6%, Zimbabwe 9.3%, Germany 7.3%, South Africa 6.6%, Russia 6.5%, US 6.1%, China 4.2% (2012)

**Imports:**

\$2.42 billion (2013 est.)  
**country comparison to the world:** 157  
\$2.151 billion (2012 est.)

**Imports - commodities:**

food, petroleum products, semi-manufactures, consumer goods, transportation equipment

**Imports - partners:**

South Africa 27%, China 16.6%, India 8.7%, Zambia 8.5%, Tanzania 5.1%, US 4.3% (2012)

**Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:**

\$364.2 million (31 December 2013 est.)  
**country comparison to the world:** 152  
\$246 million (31 December 2012 est.)

**Debt - external:**

\$1.556 billion (31 December 2013 est.)  
**country comparison to the world:** 149  
\$1.354 billion (31 December 2012 est.)

**Stock of direct foreign investment - at home:**

\$NA

**Stock of direct foreign investment - abroad:**

\$NA

**Exchange rates:**

Malawian kwachas (MWK) per US dollar -  
342.1 (2013 est.)  
249.11 (2012 est.)  
150.49 (2010 est.)  
141.14 (2009)  
142.41 (2008)

**Energy :: Malawi**

**Electricity - production:**

1.973 billion kWh (2010 est.)  
**country comparison to the world:** 136

**Electricity - consumption:**



1.835 billion kWh (2010 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 141

**Electricity - exports:**

0 kWh (2012 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 165

**Electricity - imports:**

0 kWh (2012 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 168

**Electricity - installed generating capacity:**

287,000 kW (2010 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 151

**Electricity - from fossil fuels:**

0.3% of total installed capacity (2010 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 207

**Electricity - from nuclear fuels:**

0% of total installed capacity (2010 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 135

**Electricity - from hydroelectric plants:**

99.7% of total installed capacity (2010 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 4

**Electricity - from other renewable sources:**

0% of total installed capacity (2010 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 200

**Crude oil - production:**

200 bbl/day (2012 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 118

**Crude oil - exports:**

0 bbl/day (2010 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 150

**Crude oil - imports:**

0 bbl/day (2010 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 90

**Crude oil - proved reserves:**

0 bbl (1 January 2013 es)

**country comparison to the world:** 161

**Refined petroleum products - production:**

0 bbl/day (2010 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 171

**Refined petroleum products - consumption:**

12,060 bbl/day (2011 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 150

**Refined petroleum products - exports:**

0 bbl/day (2010 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 196

**Refined petroleum products - imports:**

6,059 bbl/day (2010 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 142

**Natural gas - production:**

0 cu m (2011 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 163

**Natural gas - consumption:**

0 cu m (2010 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 169

**Natural gas - exports:**

0 cu m (2011 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 144

**Natural gas - imports:**

0 cu m (2011 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 94

**Natural gas - proved reserves:**

0 cu m (1 January 2013 es)

**country comparison to the world:** 167

**Carbon dioxide emissions from consumption of energy:**

956,900 Mt (2011 est.)

**country comparison to the world:** 168

**Communications :: Malawi**

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**Telephones - main lines in use:**

227,300 (2012)

**country comparison to the world:** 126

**Telephones - mobile cellular:**

4.42 million (2012)

**country comparison to the world:** 117

**Telephone system:**

**general assessment:** rudimentary; privatization of Malawi Telecommunications (MTL), a necessary step in bringing improvement to telecommunications services, completed in 2006

**domestic:** limited fixed-line subscribership of about 1 per 100 persons; mobile-cellular services are expanding but network coverage is limited and is based around the main urban areas; mobile-cellular subscribership about 25 per 100 persons

**international:** country code - 265; satellite earth stations - 2 Intelsat (1 Indian Ocean, 1 Atlantic Ocean) (2010)

**Broadcast media:**

radio is the main broadcast medium; state-run radio has the widest geographic broadcasting reach, but about a dozen privately owned radio stations broadcast in major urban areas; the single TV network is government-owned; relays of multiple international broadcasters are available (2007)

**Internet country code:**

.mw

**Internet hosts:**

1,099 (2012)

**country comparison to the world:** 171

**Internet users:**

716,400 (2009)

**country comparison to the world:** 109

**Transportation :: Malawi**

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**Airports:**

32 (2013)

**country comparison to the world:** 113

**Airports - with paved runways:**

**total:** 7

**over 3,047 m:** 1

**1,524 to 2,437 m:** 2

**914 to 1,523 m:** 4 (2013)

**Airports - with unpaved runways:**

**total:** 25

**1,524 to 2,437 m:** 1

**914 to 1,523 m:** 11

**under 914 m:**

13 (2013)

**Railways:**

**total:** 797 km

**country comparison to the world:** 99

**narrow gauge:** 797 km 1.067-m gauge (2008)

**Roadways:**

**total:** 15,450 km

**country comparison to the world:** 120

**paved:** 6,951 km

**unpaved:** 8,499 km (2011)

**Waterways:**

700 km (on Lake Nyasa [Lake Malawi] and Shire River) (2010)

**country comparison to the world:** 76

**Ports and terminals:**

**lake port(s):** Chipoka, Monkey Bay, Nkhata Bay, Nkhotakota, Chilumba

**Military :: Malawi**

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**Military branches:**

Malawi Defense Forces (MDF): Army (includes Air Wing, Marine Unit) (2012)

**Military service age and obligation:**

18 years of age for voluntary military service; high school equivalent required for enlisted recruits and college equivalent for officer recruits; initial engagement is 7 years for enlisted personnel and 10 years for officers (2014)

**Manpower available for military service:**

**males age 16-49:** 3,514,809 (2010 est.)

**Manpower fit for military service:**

**males age 16-49:** 2,132,909

**females age 16-49:** 2,043,925 (2010 est.)

**Manpower reaching militarily significant age annually:**

**male:** 183,683

**female:** 183,028 (2010 est.)

**Military expenditures:**

0.93% of GDP (2012)

**country comparison to the world:** 105

0.79% of GDP (2011)

0.93% of GDP (2010)

**Transnational Issues :: Malawi**

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**Disputes - international:**

disputes with Tanzania over the boundary in Lake Nyasa (Lake Malawi) and the meandering Songwe River remain dormant