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Chapter 1

147

1.1 147.guide

Texified version of data for Malawi.

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Malawi

1.2 147.guide/Malawi

Malawi

Geography (Malawi)
People (Malawi)
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1.3 147.guide/Geography (Malawi)

Geography (Malawi)

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Location:

Southern Africa, between Mozambique and Zambia

Map references:

Africa, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area: total area:

118,480 km²

land area:

94,080 km²

comparative area:

slightly larger than Pennsylvania

Land boundaries:

total 2,881 km, Mozambique 1,569 km, Tanzania 475 km, Zambia 837 km

Coastline:

0 km (landlocked)

Maritime claims:

none; landlocked

International disputes:

dispute with Tanzania over the boundary in Lake Nyasa (Lake Malawi)

Climate:

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

Terrain:

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

Natural resources:

limestone, unexploited deposits of uranium, coal, and bauxite

Land use:

arable land:

25%

permanent crops:

0%

meadows and pastures:

20%

forest and woodland:

50%

other:

5%

Irrigated land:

200 km² (1989 est.)

Environment:

deforestation

Note:

landlocked

1.4 147.guide/People (Malawi)

People (Malawi)

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Population:

9,831,935 (July 1993 est.)

Population growth rate:

-0.95% (1993 est.)

Birth rate:

51.1 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Death rate:

22.87 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Net migration rate:

-37.71 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Infant mortality rate:

141.9 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:

total population: 40.48 years

male:

39.61 years

female:

41.37 years (1993 est.)

Total fertility rate:

7.5 children born/woman (1993 est.)

Nationality:

noun:

Malawian(s)

adjective:

Malawian

Ethnic divisions:

Chewa, Nyanja, Tumbuko, Yao, Lomwe, Sena, Tonga, Ngoni, Ngonde, Asian, European

Religions:

Protestant 55%, Roman Catholic 20%, Muslim 20%, traditional indigenous beliefs

Languages:

English (official), Chichewa (official), other languages important regionally

Literacy:

age 15 and over can read and write (1966)

total population:

22%

male:

34%

female:

12%

Labor force:

428,000 wage earners

by occupation:
 agriculture 43%, manufacturing 16%, personal services 15%, commerce 9%,
 construction 7%, miscellaneous services 4%, other permanently employed 6%
 (1986)

1.5 147.guide/Government (Malawi)

Government (Malawi)

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Names:

conventional long form:

Republic of Malawi

conventional short form:

Malawi

former:

Nyasaland

Digraph:

MI

Type:

one-party republic

note:

a referendum to determine whether Malawi should remain a one-party state is scheduled to be held on 14 June 1993

Capital:

Lilongwe

Administrative divisions:

24 districts; Blantyre, Chikwawa, Chiradzulu, Chitipa, Dedza, Dowa, Karonga ←

,
 Kasungu, Lilongwe, Machinga (Kasupe), Mangochi, Mchinji, Mulanje, Mwanza, Mzimba, Ntcheu, Nkhata Bay, Nkhotakota, Nsanje, Ntchisi, Rumphu, Salima, Thyolo, Zomba

Independence:

6 July 1964 (from UK)

Constitution:

6 July 1964; republished as amended January 1974

Legal system:

based on English common law and customary law; judicial review of legislative acts in the Supreme Court of Appeal; has not accepted ←
 compulsory

ICJ jurisdiction

National holiday:

Independence Day, 6 July (1964)

Political parties and leaders:

only party - Malawi Congress Party (MCP), Wadson DELEZA, administrative secretary; John TEMBO, treasurer general; top party position of secretary general vacant since 1983

Other political or pressure groups:

Alliance for Democracy (AFORD), Chakufwa CHIHANA; United Democratic Front (UDF) Bakili MULUZI; Malawi Democratic People (MDP), leader NA

Suffrage:

21 years of age; universal

Elections:

President:
 President BANDA sworn in as President for Life on 6 July 1971
 National Assembly:
 last held 26-27 June 1987 (next to be held by June 1997); results - MCP is
 the only party; seats - (141 total, 136 elected) MCP 141
 Executive branch:
 president, Cabinet
 Legislative branch:
 unicameral National Assembly
 Judicial branch:
 High Court, Supreme Court of Appeal
 Leaders:
 Chief of State and Head of Government:
 President Dr. Hastings Kamuzu BANDA (since 6 July 1966; sworn in as
 President for Life 6 July 1971)

1.6 147.guide/Government (Malawi 2. usage)

Government (Malawi 2. usage)

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Member of:
 ACP, AfDB, C, CCC, ECA, FAO, G-77, GATT, IBRD, ICAO, ICFTU, IDA, IFAD, IFC,
 ILO, IMF, IMO, INTELSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, ISO (correspondent), ITU, LORCS,
 NAM, OAU, SADC, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO
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 Flag:
 three equal horizontal bands of black (top), red, and green with a radiant,
 rising, red sun centered in the black band; similar to the flag of
 Afghanistan, which is longer and has the national coat of arms superimposed
 on the hoist side of the black and red bands

1.7 147.guide/Economy (Malawi)

Economy (Malawi)

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Overview:

Landlocked Malawi ranks among the world's least developed countries. The economy is predominately agricultural, with about 90% of the population living in rural areas. Agriculture accounts for 40% of GDP and 90% of ← export

revenues. After two years of weak performance, economic growth improved significantly in 1988-91 as a result of good weather and a broadly based economic adjustment effort by the government. Drought cut overall output sharply in 1992. The economy depends on substantial inflows of economic assistance from the IMF, the World Bank, and individual donor nations.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$1.9 billion (1992 est.)

National product real growth rate:

-7.7% (1992 est.)

National product per capita:

\$200 (1992 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

21% (1992 est.)

Unemployment rate:

NA%

Budget:

revenues \$398 million; expenditures \$510 million, including capital expenditures of \$154 million (FY91 est.)

Exports:

\$400 million (f.o.b., 1991 est.)

commodities:

tobacco, tea, sugar, coffee, peanuts, wood products

partners:

US, UK, Zambia, South Africa, Germany

Imports:

\$660 million (c.i.f., 1991 est.)

commodities:

food, petroleum products, semimanufactures, consumer goods, transportation equipment

partners:

South Africa, Japan, US, UK, Zimbabwe

External debt:

\$1.8 billion (December 1991 est.)

Industrial production:

growth rate 4.0% (1990 est.); accounts for about 18% of GDP (1988)

Electricity:

190,000 kW capacity; 620 million kWh produced, 65 kWh per capita (1992)

Industries:

agricultural processing (tea, tobacco, sugar), sawmilling, cement, consumer goods

Agriculture:

accounts for 40% of GDP; cash crops - tobacco, sugarcane, cotton, tea, and corn; subsistence crops - potatoes, cassava, sorghum, pulses; livestock - cattle, goats

Economic aid:

US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-89), \$215 million; Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$2,150 million

Currency:

1 Malawian kwacha (MK) = 100 tambala

Exchange rates:

Malawian kwacha (MK) per US\$1 - 4.3418 (November 1992), 2.8033 (1991), 2.7289 (1990), 2.7595 (1989), 2.5613 (1988), 2.2087 (1987)

Fiscal year:

1 April - 31 March

1.8 147.guide/Communications (Malawi)

Communications (Malawi)

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Railroads:

789 km 1.067-meter gauge

Highways:

13,135 km total; 2,364 km paved; 251 km crushed stone, gravel, or ←
stabilized
soil; 10,520 km earth and improved earth

Inland waterways:

Lake Nyasa (Lake Malawi); Shire River, 144 km

Ports:

Chipoka, Monkey Bay, Nkhata Bay, and Nkotakota - all on Lake Nyasa (Lake Malawi)

Airports:

total:

47

usable:

41

with permanent-surface runways:

5

with runways over 3,659 m:

0

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

1

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

10

Telecommunications:

fair system of open-wire lines, radio relay links, and radio communications stations; 42,250 telephones; broadcast stations - 10 AM, 17 FM, no TV; satellite earth stations - 1 Indian Ocean INTELSAT and 1 Atlantic Ocean INTELSAT

Note:

a majority of exports would normally go through Mozambique on the Beira, Nacala, and Limgogo railroads, but now most go through South Africa because of insurgent activity and damage to rail lines

1.9 147.guide/Defense Forces (Malawi)

Defense Forces (Malawi)

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Branches:

Army (including Air Wing and Naval Detachment), Police (including paramilitary Mobile Force Unit), paramilitary Malawi Young Pioneers

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 2,059,509; fit for military service 1,048,986 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$22 million, 1.6% of GDP (1989 est.)