

Malawi Expenditure GDP Report

2017-2025

1. Introduction

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by expenditure approach measures the total value of final expenditure on goods and services produced within the economy for a specific time period. The National Statistical Office compiles expenditure GDP estimates using the 2017 base year in accordance with the 2008 System of National Accounts (2008 SNA). This report presents updated expenditure GDP estimates incorporating the preliminary estimates for 2025.

2. Methodology

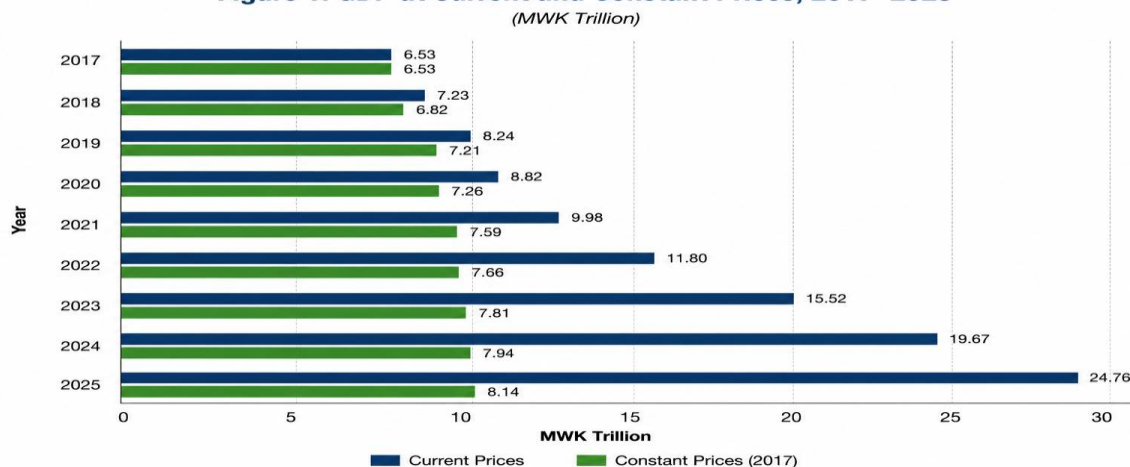
The estimates were compiled in accordance with the 2008 System of National Accounts (2008 SNA) using household surveys, government finance statistics, balance of payments statistics, Trade Statistics and other administrative data. GDP is estimated as the sum of final consumption expenditure, gross capital formation and exports less imports.

3. Performance

The revised GDP expenditure estimates are benchmarked to 2017, which serves as the reference year for measuring economic performance. Between 2017 and 2024, GDP at constant prices increased from MWK6.53 trillion to MWK7.94 trillion, representing growth of 21.6 percent over the seven-year period, while GDP at current prices increased from MWK6.53 trillion to MWK19.67 trillion, more than tripling over the same period. Preliminary estimates for 2025 indicate continued growth, with GDP reaching MWK8.14 trillion at constant (2017) prices and MWK24.76 trillion at current prices. This growth was mainly driven by strong increases in private final consumption, supported by a recovery in gross capital formation in 2024 and 2025. Although exports increased, imports continued to grow at a faster pace, resulting in persistent negative net exports.

Figure 1 below illustrates the trend in GDP at both current and constant 2017 prices between 2017 and 2025.

Figure 1. GDP at Current and Constant Prices, 2017–2025



Source: National Statistical Office of Malawi

Note: Figures may not add up to totals due to rounding.

4. Selected Trends

4.1 Final Consumption

Final consumption remained the largest expenditure component throughout the review period, increasing from MWK6.39 trillion in 2017 to MWK10.36 trillion in 2024 and a preliminary MWK11.92 trillion in 2025 at constant (2017) prices. The growth was driven mainly by private final consumption, which increased from MWK4.76 trillion in 2017 to MWK8.97 trillion in 2024 and MWK10.73 trillion in 2025.

4.2 Gross Capital Formation

Gross capital formation fluctuated during the review period, declining from MWK1.54 trillion in 2018 to MWK0.94 trillion in 2023 before recovering to MWK1.18 trillion in 2024 and a preliminary MWK1.39 trillion in 2025 at constant (2017) prices. The recovery was mainly supported by increased investment in dwellings and machinery and equipment.

4.3 External Sector

The external sector remained a net drag on GDP growth throughout the review period. At constant (2017) prices, exports of goods and services increased from MWK797.1 billion in 2017 to MWK989.7 billion in 2023 before declining to MWK914.4 billion in 2024 and a preliminary MWK718.5 billion in 2025. Over the same period, imports of goods and services also measured at constant (2017) prices increased much more rapidly, from MWK2.08 trillion in 2017 to MWK4.88 trillion in 2024 and MWK6.13 trillion in 2025. Consequently, imports consistently exceeded exports, resulting in persistent negative net exports.

5. Conclusion

The updated expenditure GDP estimates indicate continued growth in Malawi's economy. Final consumption remained the principal driver of expenditure GDP with investment

showing signs of recovery. The trade account continued showing imports outpacing exports.