

Kenya



Introduction

Background: Founding president and liberation struggle icon Jomo KENYATTA led Kenya from independence until his death in 1978, when President Daniel Toroitich arap MOI took power in a constitutional succession. The country was a de facto one-party state from 1969 until 1982 when the ruling Kenya African National Union (KANU) made itself the sole legal party in Kenya. MOI acceded to internal and external pressure for political liberalization in late 1991. The ethnically fractured opposition failed to dislodge KANU from power in elections in 1992 and 1997, which were marred by violence and fraud, but are viewed as having generally reflected the will of the Kenyan people. President MOI stepped down in December of 2002 following fair and peaceful elections. Mwai KIBAKI, running as the candidate of the multiethnic, united opposition group, the National Rainbow Coalition, defeated KANU candidate Uhuru KENYATTA and assumed the presidency following a campaign centered on an anticorruption platform.

Geography

Location: Eastern Africa, bordering the Indian Ocean, between Somalia and Tanzania

Area: *total:* 582,650 sq km

land: 569,250 sq km

water: 13,400 sq km

Coastline: 536 km

Climate: varies from tropical along coast to arid in interior

Terrain: low plains rise to central highlands bisected by Great Rift Valley; fertile plateau in west

Natural resources: limestone, soda ash, salt, gemstones, fluor spar, zinc, diatomite, gypsum, wildlife, hydropower

Environment - current issues: water pollution from urban and industrial wastes; degradation of water quality from increased use of pesticides and fertilizers; water hyacinth infestation in Lake Victoria; deforestation; soil erosion; desertification; poaching

People

Population: 33,829,590

Population growth rate: 2.56%

Net migration rate: 0.08 migrant(s)/1,000 populations

Languages: English (official), Kiswahili (official), numerous indigenous languages

Government

Country name: *conventional long form:* Republic of Kenya

Government type: republic

Capital: Nairobi

Independence: 12 December 1963 (from UK)

Legal system: based on Kenyan statutory law, Kenyan and English common law, tribal law, and Islamic law; judicial review in High Court; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction, with reservations; constitutional amendment of 1982 making Kenya a de jure one-party state repealed in 1991

Executive branch: *chief of state:* President Mwai KIBAKI

International organization participation: ACP, AfDB, AU, C, EADB, FAO, G-15, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICCt (signatory), ICFTU, ICRM, IDA, IFAD, IFC, IFRC, IGAD, ILO, IMF, IMO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, ISO, ITU, MIGA, MINURSO, MONUC, NAM, ONUB, OPCW, UN, UNAMSIL, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNMEE, UNMIK, UNMIL, UNOCI, UPU, WCO, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WToO, WTO

Economy

Economy - overview: The regional hub for trade and finance in East Africa, Kenya has been hampered by corruption and by reliance upon several primary goods whose prices have remained low. In 1997, the IMF suspended Kenya's Enhanced Structural Adjustment Program due to the government's failure to maintain reforms and curb corruption. A severe drought from 1999 to 2000 compounded Kenya's problems, causing water and energy rationing and reducing agricultural output. As a result, GDP contracted by 0.2% in 2000. The IMF, which had resumed loans in 2000 to help Kenya through the drought, again halted lending in 2001 when the government failed to institute several anticorruption measures. Despite the return of strong rains in 2001, weak commodity prices, endemic corruption, and low investment limited Kenya's economic growth to 1.2%. Growth lagged at 1.1% in 2002 because of erratic rains, low investor confidence, meager donor support, and political infighting up to the elections. In the key 27 December 2002 elections, Daniel Arap Moi's 24-year-old reign ended, and a new opposition government took on the formidable economic problems facing the nation. In 2003, progress was made in rooting out corruption and encouraging donor support, with GDP growth edging up to 1.7%. GDP grew a moderate 2.2% in 2004.

GDP: purchasing power parity - \$34.68 billion

GDP - real growth rate: 2.2%

GDP - per capita: purchasing power parity - \$1,100

GDP - composition by sector: *agriculture:* 19.3%
industry: 18.5%
services: 62.4%

Investment (gross fixed): 14.7% of GDP

Population below poverty line: 50%

Inflation rate (consumer prices): 9%

Labor force: 11.4 million

Unemployment rate: 40%

Budget: *revenues:* \$2.89 billion

expenditures: \$3.443 billion, including capital expenditures of NA

Agriculture - products: tea, coffee, corn, wheat, sugarcane, fruit, vegetables; dairy products, beef, pork, poultry, eggs

Industries: small-scale consumer goods (plastic, furniture, batteries, textiles, soap, cigarettes, flour), agricultural products; oil refining, aluminum, steel, lead, cement; commercial ship repair, tourism

Oil – consumption: 57,000 bbl/day

Current account balance: \$-459.2 million

Exports \$2.589 billion f.o.b.

Exports – commodities tea, horticultural products, coffee, petroleum products, fish, cement

Exports – partners Uganda 12.8%, UK 11.6%, US 10.4%, Netherlands 8.3%, Pakistan 5.1%, Egypt 4.7%, Tanzania 4.3%)

Imports \$4.19 billion f.o.b.

Imports – commodities machinery and transportation equipment, petroleum products, motor vehicles, iron and steel, resins and plastics

Imports – partners UAE 13.2%, Saudi Arabia 9.6%, South Africa 9.3%, US 8%, UK 7.2%, China 6.7%, Japan 5.4%, India 4.9% (2004)

Currency Kenyan shilling (KES)

Exchange rates Kenyan shillings per US dollar - 79.174 (2004), 75.936 (2003), 78.749 (2002), 78.563 (2001), 76.176 (2000)

Transportation

Railways: *total:* 2,778 km

narrow gauge: 2,778 km 1.000-m gauge

Highways: *total:* 63,942 km

paved: 7,737 km

unpaved: 56,205 km)

Waterways: part of Lake Victoria system is within boundaries of Kenya (2004)

Pipelines: refined products 752 km

Ports and harbors: Kisumu, Lamu, Mombasa

Merchant marine: *total:* 3 ships (1,000 GRT or over) 6,049 GRT/7,082 DWT

by type: cargo 2, petroleum tanker 1

registered in other countries: 6

Airports: 221