

KENYA









INTRODUCTION

Kenya gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1963. In August 2010, Kenyans overwhelmingly adopted a new constitution in a national referendum. The new constitution introduced additional checks and balances to executive power and devolved power and resources to 47 newly created counties.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President William RUTO

Head of Government

President William RUTO

Government Type

presidential republic

Capital

Nairobi

Legislature

bicameral Parliament consists of Senate (68 seats) and National Assembly (350 seats)

Ambassador to US

Ambassador Lazarus Ombai AMAYO

US Ambassador

Ambassador Margaret "Meg" WHITMAN

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 580,367 sq km Land: 569,140 sq km Water: 11,227 sq km

Climate

varies from tropical along coast to arid in interior

Natural Resources

limestone, soda ash, salt, gemstones, fluorspar, zinc, diatomite, gypsum, wildlife, hydropower

as of January 2023

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

fast growing, third largest Sub-Saharan economy; strong agriculture and emerging services and tourism industries; current account deficit and high debt; broadband and mobile-money platform investments; surging inflation due to oil and food hikes; new investor-friendly incentives; environmentally fragile economy

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$251.4 billion (2021 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$4,700 (2021 est.)

Industries - agriculture, transportation, services, manufacturing, construction, telecommunications, tourism, retail

Agricultural products - milk, tea, beef, maize, sugar cane, tomatoes, mangoes/guavas, potatoes, beans, bananas

Exports \$11.83 billion (2021 est.)

tea, cut flowers, refined petroleum, gold, coffee (2020)

partners: Uganda 14%, Pakistan 8%, Netherlands 8%, United States 8%, United Kingdom 7% (2020)

Imports \$21.85 billion (2021 est.)

refined petroleum, palm oil, broadcasting equipment, packaged medicines, cars (2020)

partners: China 27%, India 11%, United Arab Emirates 7%, Japan 4%, Saudi Arabia 3% (2020)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

55.9 million (July 2022 est.)

Population Growth

2.12% (2022 est.)

Ethnicity

Kikuyu 17.1%, Luhya 14.3%, Kalenjin 13.4%, Luo 10.7%, Kamba 9.8%, Somali 5.8%, Kisii 5.7%, Mijikenda 5.2%, Meru 4.2%, Maasai 2.5%, Turkana 2.1%, non-Kenyan 1%, other 8.2% (2019 est.)

Language

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

Religion

Christian 85.5% (Protestant 33.4%, Catholic 20.6%, Evangelical 20.4%, other Christian 11.1%), Muslim 10.9%, other 1.8%, none 1.6%, unspecified 0.2% (2019 est.)