The Maldives is a nation consisting of approximately 1,190 low-lying coral islands which form a chain that stretches over an area of 90,000 sq km of the Indian Ocean, and surrounded by an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) covering 859,000sq km. Tourism is the largest industry in the Maldives, accounting for 28% of GDP and more than 60% of the Maldives foreign exchange receipts. Government data show economic growth in the Maldives to have accelerated to an estimated 6.8% in 2014 from 4.7% In the previous year. Fishing is the second leading sector, but the fish catch has dropped sharply in recent years. Agriculture and manufacturing continue to play a lesser role in the economy, constrained by the limited availability of cultivable land and the shortage of domestic labor. Lower than expected tourist arrivals and fish exports, combined with high government spending on social needs, subsidies, and civil servant salaries contributed to a balance of payments crisis, which was temporarily eased with a $79.3 million IMF Stand-By agreement. However, after the first two disbursements, the IMF withheld subsequent disbursements due to concerns over Maldives' growing budget deficit, and the government has been seeking other sources of budgetary support ever since. Development of the infrastructure is mainly dependent on the tourism industry and its complementary tertiary sectors, transport, distribution, real estate, construction, and government. Taxes on the tourist industry have been plowed into infrastructure and it is used to improve technology in the agricultural sector. Over the longer term Maldivian authorities worry about the impact of erosion and possible global warming on their low-lying country; 80% of the area is 1 meter or less above sea level.

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| **Economic Facts** | **Data** |
| GDP (purchasing power parity) | $4.92 billion |
| GDP (official exchange rate) | $2.854 billion |
| GDP - real growth rate | 5% |
| GDP - per capita (PPP) | $14,400 |
| Gross national saving | 11.6% of GDP |
| GDP - composition, by sector of origin | Agriculture: 4%  Industry: 23%  Services: 73% (2012 est.) |
| Industrial production growth rate | 14% |
| [Labor force](https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/docs/notesanddefs.html?fieldkey=2095&term=Labor%20force) | 159,700 |
| Labor force - by occupation | Agriculture: 15%  Industry: 15%  Services: 70% |
| Unemployment Rate | 11% |
| Population Below Poverty Line | 16% |
| Household Income Or Consumption By Percentage Share | Lowest 10%: 1.2%  Highest 10%: 33.3% |
| Budget | Revenues: $762 million  Expenditures: $876 million |
| Taxes and Other Revenues | 31.7% of GDP |
| Budget Surplus (+) or deficit (-) | -4.7% of GDP |
| Fiscal Year | Calendar year |
| Inflation Rate (consumer prices) | 2.5% |
| Central Bank Discount Rate | 7% |
| Commercial bank prime lending rate | 10.5% |
| Stock of narrow money | $623 million (31 December 2013 est.) |
| Stock of broad money | $1.538 billion (31 December 2013 est.) |
| Stock of domestic credit | $1.559 billion (31 December 2012 est.) |
| Market value of publicly traded shares | $555 million (31 December 2011 est.) |
| Current account balance | -$232.4 million (2013 est.) |
| Exports | $166 million (2013 est.) |
| Imports | $1.728 billion (2013 est.) |
| Reserves of foreign exchange and gold | $368.3 million (31 December 2013 est.) |
| Debt - external | $793.6 million |