

Demography from Successive Censuses

Population ('000s unless stated)	1977	1987	1998
Total	5,547	7,989	9,934
By sex			
Male	2,674	3,867	4,868
Female	2,874	4,121	5,066
By region			
Northern region	649	912	1,234
Central region	2,144	3,111	4,066
Southern region	2,755	3,966	4,634
% under 15 years of age	44.6	46.1	43.6
% living in urban areas	8.5	10.7	14
Population of principal towns			
Blantyre City	219	333	502
Lilongwe City	99	223	440
Mzuzu City	16	44	87
Zomba Municipality	24	43	66
Population density (persons per sq. km)	1977		1987
			1998
Malawi	59	85	105
Northern region	24	34	46
Central region	60	87	114
Southern region	87	125	146
Population growth rates (compared to previous census)	1977	1987	1998
Malawi	2.9	3.7	2
Northern region	2.4	3.4	2.7
Central region	3.4	3.7	2.4
Southern region	2.6	3.7	1.4
Fertility	1977	1987	1998
Crude birth rate (births per thousand population)	48.3	41.2	37.9
Total fertility rate (children per woman)	7.6	7.4	6.5

Mortality	1977	1987	1998
Crude death rate (deaths per thousand population)	25	14.1	25
Infant mortality rate (infant deaths per 1,000 live births)	165	159	121

Life expectancy at birth	1977	1987	1998
Males	39.2	41.4	40
Females	42.4	44.6	44

Key: .. =Not available;bn=billion;%=percent;mm=millimetres;ha=hectares; K=Malawi Kwacha;-=zero or less than half;mn=million;km=kilometres.

Malawi in Figures is an annual publication of the National Statistical Office. Data sources include the Statistical Yearbook, 1998 Population Census, 1998 Integrated Household Survey, 2000 Core Welfare Indicators Questionnaire, 2004 Demographic and Health Survey and 2002 DHS EdData Survey.