

GENERAL PROFILE: LESOTHO

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR 2023

Population
2.311 Millions

Exchange rate
..

GDP
2 118 Millions current US\$

Land area¹
(u) 30 360 km²

CPI growth
6.34 %

GDP growth
1.83 %

INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE

Total merchandise trade

(millions of US\$)

	2005	2010	2015	2023
Merchandise exports	651	878	929	825
Merchandise imports	1 410	(e) 2 300	(e) 1 997	1 724
Merchandise trade balance	-760	(e) -1 422	(e) -1 068	-900

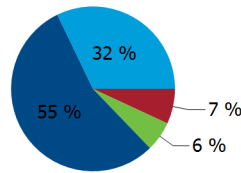
-7.8 %

Merchandise exports growth rate in 2023

Export structure by product group in 2023

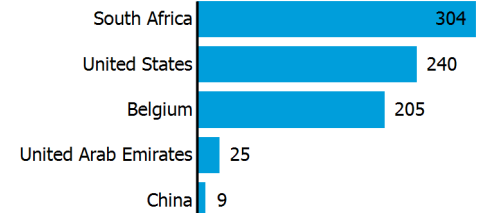
(as % of total exports)

- All food items
- Agricultural raw materials
- Manufactured goods
- Other



Top 5 partners in 2023

(exports, millions of US\$)



INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN SERVICES

Total trade in services²

(millions of US\$)

	2005	2010	2015	2023
Services exports	36	46	46	16
Services imports	367	447	290	411
Services trade balance	-331	-401	-244	-395

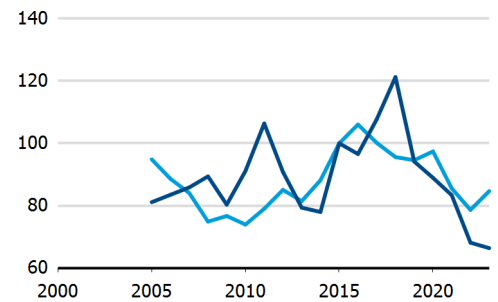
Services exports by main category²

(as % of total services)

	2005	2010	2015	2023
Transport	2.2	7.8	2.3	2.9
Travel	75.1	49.9	75.4	59.9
Other services	22.7	42.3	22.3	(e) 37.1

TRADE INDICES

- Terms of trade index
- Purchasing power index of exports



ECONOMIC TRENDS

Economic indicators

(millions of US\$ unless otherwise specified)

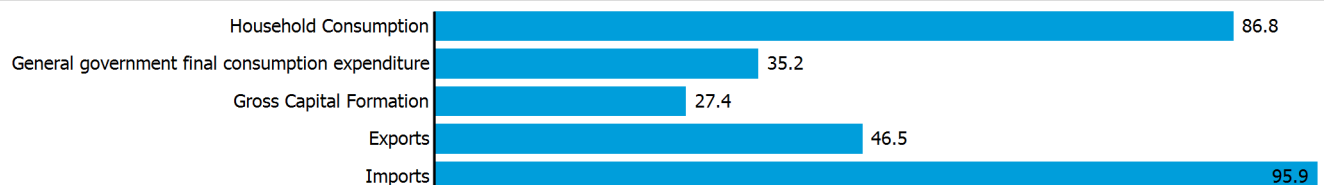
	2005	2010	2015	2023
GDP, current	1 459	2 234	2 360	2 118
GDP per capita, current US\$	747	1 119	1 121	916
Real GDP growth, y-on-y, %	2.70	5.27	3.12	1.83
Current account balance, % of GDP	6.56	-11.00	-5.73	-6.62
Exchange rate (/US\$)	6.359	7.321	12.759	..

+1.8 %

Gross domestic product growth rate in 2023

GDP by expenditure in 2022

(as % of total GDP)



LESOTHO

FDI AND EXTERNAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Financial flows

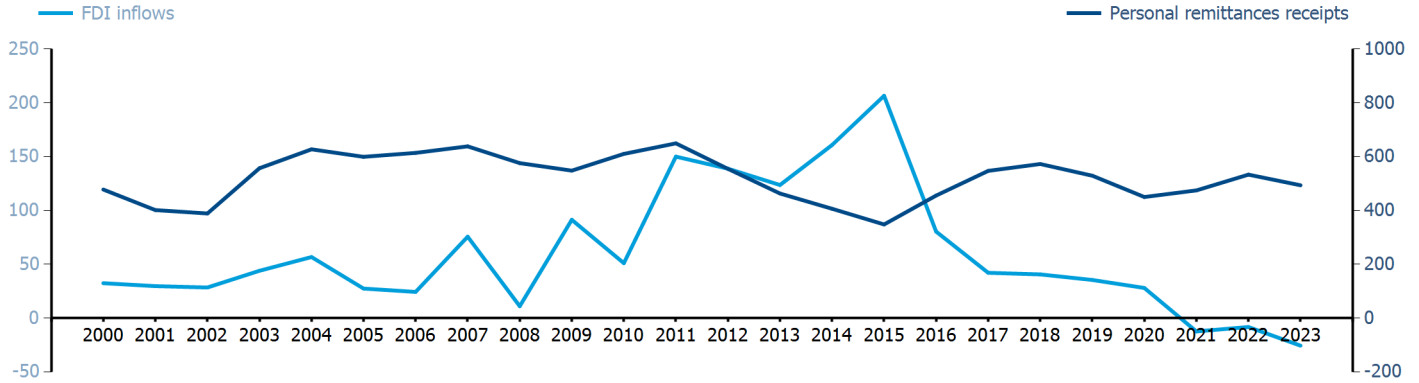
(millions of US\$ unless otherwise specified)

	2005	2010	2015	2023
FDI inflows	27.40	51.00	206.51	-25.63
FDI outflows
Personal remittances, % of GDP	41.09	27.31	14.74	22.71

FDI outflows as % of GDP in 2023

Financial flows trends

(millions of US\$)



TRADE IN GOODS AND SERVICES

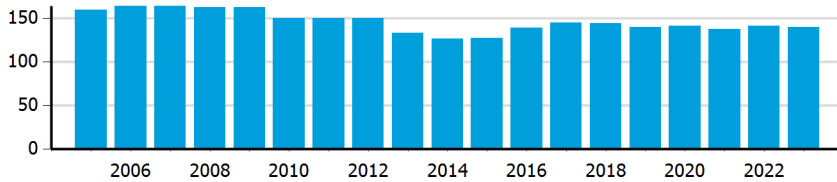
Trade balance indicators²

(as % and index)

	2005	2010	2015	2023
Balance, % of GDP	-67.58	-66.77	-44.31	-56.18
Balance, % of imports	-59.52	-61.76	-51.77	-57.36
Normalized balance	-0.424	-0.447	-0.349	-0.402

Trade openness²

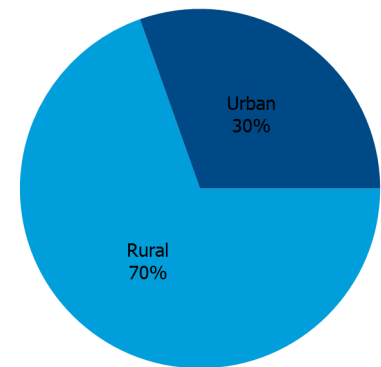
(sum of imports and exports as % of GDP)



LIVING AREA

Population by living area in 2023

(% of population)



OTHER INDICATORS

Maritime transport indicators

	2005	2010	2015	2023
Merchant fleet, national flag (thousands of DWT)
Container port throughput (TEU)

Share of the total world merchant fleet in 2023

Information economy indicators

(as % of)

	2005	2010	2015	2023
Share of ICT goods, % of total exports	4.64	1.38	1.16	..
Share of ICT goods, % of total imports	1.66	5.91	2.46	..
Share of workforce involved in the ICT sector

LESOTHO

Source: UN Trade and Development, UNCTADstat (<https://unctadstat.unctad.org/datacentre>)

Notes:

- 1 Land area refers to the total area of a country excluding area under inland water bodies. It differs from the country area, that includes area under inland water bodies, but excludes offshore territorial waters.
- 2 Statistics presented correspond to the 6th edition of the IMF Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (BPM6, 2009).
- e Estimated.
- u Estimated. Data refers to 2020.

Symbols for missing values:

- 0 Zero means that the amount is nil or negligible
- .. No value reported or collected
- Not applicable
- ... Not available, including no quotation
- # Non-relevant calculation
- Not publishable
- *** Negative accumulation of flows; Value included in regional and global totals

Abbreviations & acronyms:

- DWT: Dead weight tons
- FDI: Foreign direct investment
- GDP: Gross domestic product
- ICT: Information and communication technology
- TEU: Twenty foot equivalent unit
- US\$: United States dollar

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Generation date: 15 April 2025