

Malawi - Country Brief

Global Talent Competitiveness Index (GTCI) 2025

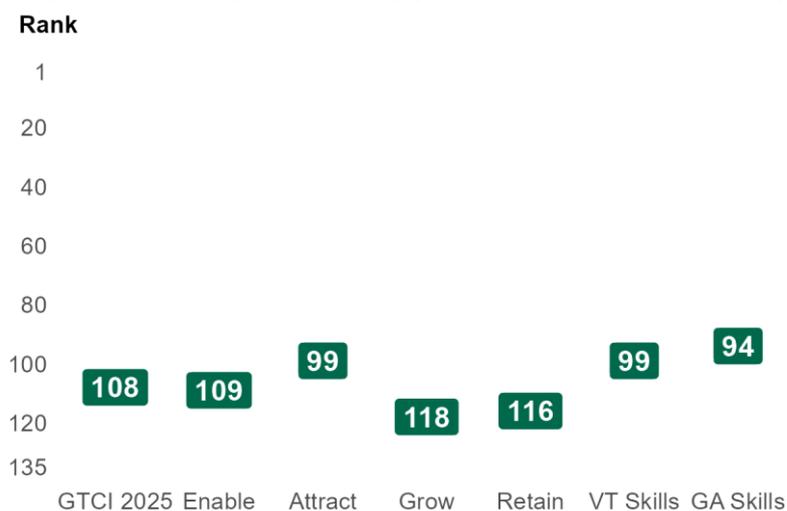


Total population:	21.66 million
GDP:	US\$ 12.531 billion
GDP (PPP) per capita:	US\$ 1,656 (134 out of 135 countries)
Country income level:	Low income
GTCI 2025 ranking:	108 (out of 135)

Global GTCI position

In GTCI 2025, Malawi is ranked 108th out of a sample of 135 countries (Figure 1). When it comes to sub-pillars, the strongest showings of Malawi relate to Employability, Business and Labour Landscape and Lifelong Learning, among others. Still, more could be done to improve the economy's performances in the Mid-level Skills, Lifestyle and Formal Education sub-pillars.

Figure 1: Malawi global ranking (GTCI sample of 135 countries)



Note: VT Skills = Vocational and Technical Skills; GA Skills = Generalist Adaptive Skills.

Comparison with different groups of countries

Malawi is situated in Sub-Saharan Africa and is classified as Low income. Within its region, the country is ranked 10th out of 31 countries (Table 1).

Malawi is ranked 2nd within the group of Low income countries (implying that 85 percent of countries rank lower).

Table 1: Malawi performance vs. income groups and regions

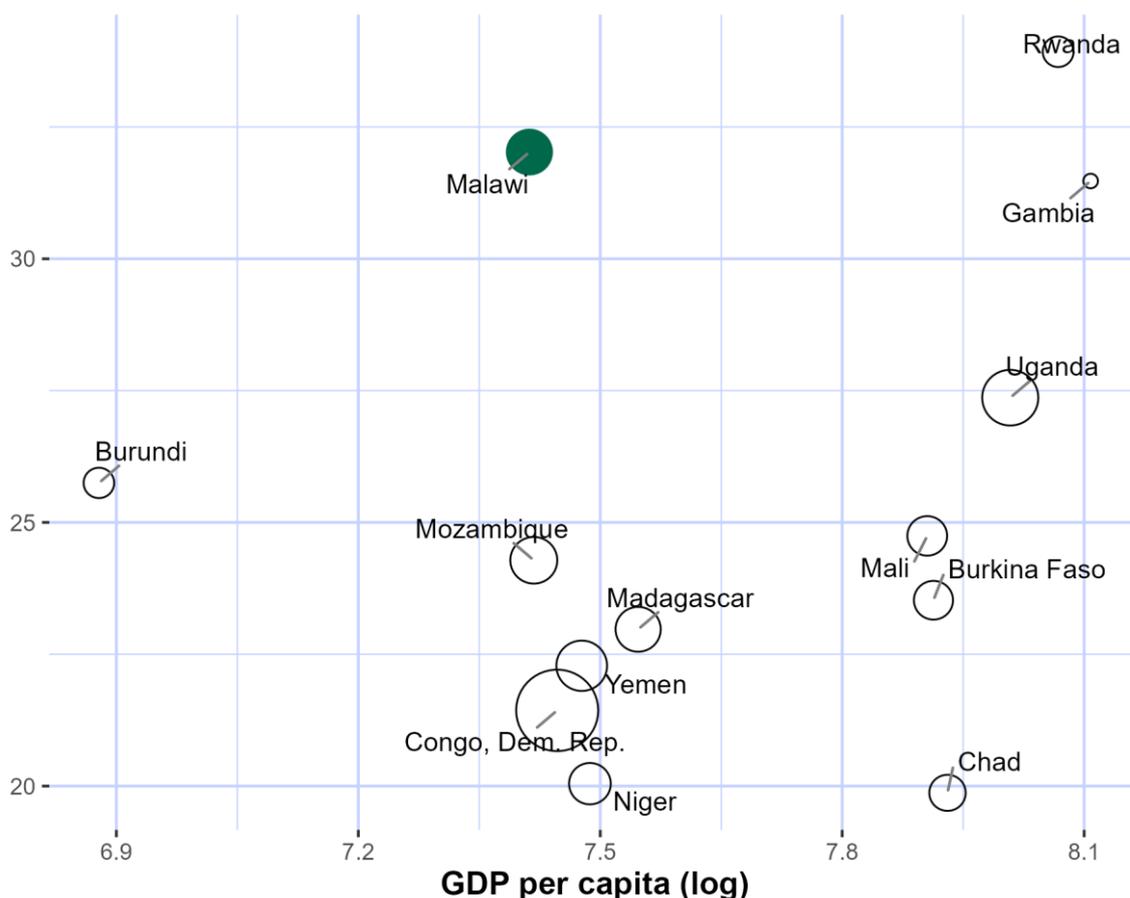
Comparison group	Top 3 scorers of the group	Score GAP: Malawi score minus group highest score	Share of countries in the group ranked below Malawi
Region			
Central and Southern Asia	Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan	-11.3	20%
Eastern, Southeastern Asia and Oceania	Singapore, Australia, New Zealand	-41.3	12%
Europe	Switzerland, Denmark, Finland	-41.1	0%
Latin America and the Caribbean	Chile, Uruguay, Costa Rica	-20.6	6%
Northern Africa and Western Asia	Israel, United Arab Emirates, Cyprus	-28.1	5%
Northern America	United States of America, Canada	-37.4	0%
Sub-Saharan Africa	Mauritius, Seychelles, South Africa	-17.7	68%
Income group			
High income	Singapore, Switzerland, Denmark	-41.3	0%
Upper-middle income	Georgia, Malaysia, Mauritius	-18.9	0%
Lower-middle income	Uzbekistan, Jordan, Philippines	-11.3	46%
Low income	Rwanda, Malawi, Gambia	-1.9	85%

Comparison with group of competitors

Malawi's group of competitors is defined as low-income countries located in Sub-Saharan Africa and Western Asia. It comprises a group of 13 economies. Figure 2 plots how Malawi fares against each competitor in terms of GTCI score and GDP per capita.

As can be seen, Malawi's GTCI score and GDP per capita are, respectively, higher and lower than the corresponding medians of its group of competitors. Thus, Malawi performs well against its competitors, and its talent competitiveness is better than would be expected in view of its income level.

Figure 2: GTCI score and GDP per capita (log) of Malawi and its identified competitors



Note: Bubble size indicates country population.

Performance against its income group and region

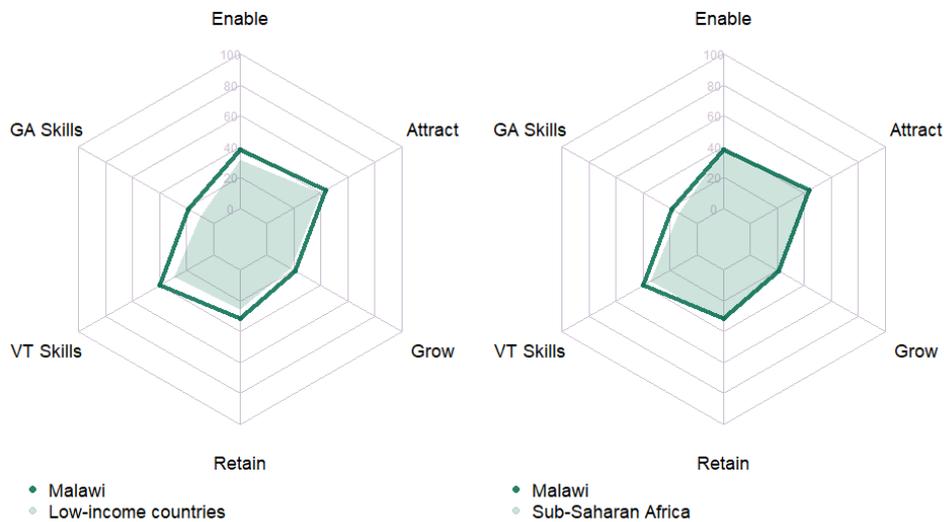
Low-income countries

Malawi is ranked 2nd in the group of low-income countries (Figure 3, left panel). In terms of pillar performance, it has a higher score than the income group average in each of the six pillars. At the sub-pillar level, it outperforms low-income countries in thirteen of the fourteen sub-pillars: Regulatory Landscape, Market Landscape, Business Labour Landscape, External Openness, Internal Openness, Lifelong Learning, Access Growth Opportunities, Sustainability, Lifestyle, Midlevel Skills, Employability, Highlevel Skills and Talent Impact.

Sub-Saharan Africa

Malawi is ranked 10th within Sub-Saharan Africa (Figure 3, right panel). It has a score above the regional average in two of the six pillars: GTCI, VT and GA. With regard to sub-pillars, it outperforms the average in Sub-Saharan Africa in seven of the fourteen sub-pillars: Regulatory Landscape, Business Labour Landscape, Lifelong Learning, Sustainability, Employability, Highlevel Skills and Talent Impact.

Figure 3: Malawi pillar scores vs. averages of relevant income group and region



Note: VT Skills = Vocational and Technical Skills; GA Skills = Generalist Adaptive Skills.

Longer-term trends in talent competitiveness

Across all GTCI editions from 2015 to 2025, Malawi’s ranking ranges from 108th to 122nd place (see Figure 4). During GTCI 2020-GTCI 2025, Malawi ranks 117 out of a total 134 countries (on average), which is a decline from the average rank of 112 in GTCI 2015-GTCI 2019.

Figure 4: Evolution of GTCI rank for Malawi, 2015-2025





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