



The information contained in this sheet has been compiled by Jaume Portell, journalist specialising in economics and international relations, in an activity 85% co-financed by ERDF funds in the framework of the [AfricanTech](#) project (1/MAC/1/1.3/0088) within the INTERREG VI D MAC 2021-2027 initiative.

LIBYA

Macroeconomic framework:

Libya is divided de facto in an eastern area and a western area, both supported by different foreign powers. This is hindering, according to the African Economic Outlook from 2024, the carryout of public investments. On the contrary, the priority is meeting current expenditure and subsidy payments. For these purposes, Libya boasts an economy based mostly on the exportation of petroleum and gas, which sale has enabled the country to accumulate funds of more 80 000 million dollars (enough to pay for 4 years of imports). Economy should grow within a 7.9% in 2024 and a 6.2% in 2025, although any variation in the price of petroleum would modify present and future projections.

The industry sector -lead by petroleum and gas- contributed within a 62% of the GDP, followed by manufactures (4%) and agriculture (9.2%). The bulk of the employments are generated in the service sector (70%), followed by agriculture (9.2%). In both cases, however, providing low levels of productivity. On the back of the abundance of resources, Libya has rarely needed to ask for foreign endorsements. This wealth has enabled a financial strength needed to display structural reformations, once solved the institutional problems of the country. Therefore, the African Economic Outlook highlights the need to achieve political stability and efficient institutions.

Libya's GDP in 2023 added up to 45 100 million dollars. This number is considerably lower than that seen in 2012, when GDP totalled 92 540 million dollars.

Debt and currency:

After the IMF's report on Libya, the country increased its public expense in local currency, a fact that raised its public debt until reaching a 90% of the GDP. Wages and energy subsidies for the population accelerated this tendency. However, the country does not owe an external debt. In fact, it is "a creditor", taking into account its "generous financial support to low-income countries, most of them in Africa", adding this body in a text published in 2024.

The increase in expense, together with a higher circulation of the local currency, favoured the appearance of a parallel market to the official one in order to obtain dollars. Officially, the Libyan dinar changed its value to 4.8 dinars per dollar; in parallel, 5.2 dinars per American dollar. In the worst-case scenario, at the end of 2023, the type of change reached the 7 dinars per American dollar.

Imports and exports:

Libya exported 35 400 million dollars in wares in 2023. The vast majority was represented by one same resource: petroleum, which provided an 88% of the exportation incomes. Gas (3.7%), gasoline (2.5%) and gold (2.25) represented the other primary foreign sales. The main destinations for these exports were in the European continent, with the leading position of Italy (22.5%), Germany (14.6%), Spain (8.7%), France (7.5%) and Greece (6.21%). In the rest of the world, the main destinations for Libyan products were China (6.22%) and the USA (4.43%).

Imports amounted to 22 400 million dollars, a number considerably inferior to the exports. The most prominent items of expenditure were gasoline (20%), followed by home appliances, turbines, cars or drugs. Foodstuffs like tobacco, sugar or processed fish were other products purchased in foreign countries. A 175 of the wares came from China, followed closely by Turkey (14.5%), the United Arab Emirates (8.2%), Egypt (8%) and Greece (7.62%).

Electrical Power:

The “think tank” specialised in electrical power Ember points out that, in 2010, Libya generated 32.56 Th of electrical Power. The energy mix was then dominated by the section “other fossil fuels” (53%), followed by gas (47%). The renewable sources such as solar power played a testimonial role (0.03%).

In 2023 the production of electrical power increased until reaching the 35.11 TWh. Gas surpassed every other fossil fuel (24%) to become the main source of local production (76%). Solar power still held the marginal role that it played thirteen years before.

Defence:

In total, the Libyan expense in defence represented around a 9% of the government expense according to the International Monetary fund.

Demography:

Population in Libya has increased since 1990 and they live mostly in the cities, a tendency already observed in 1990, and which has been accentuated even more during the last few decades. In 1990 there were 4.4 millions of inhabitants in Libya and a 24.3% of them lived in rural areas. In 2023, according to the World Bank, this number had changed: there were 7.3 millions of inhabitants and an 81.6% lived in urban areas. Life expectancy had risen from 69 years old in 1990 to 72 years old in 2022.

Half of the population is less than 20.5 years old.

Technological innovation:

Libya has experienced a boom in internet access in twelve years, going from a humble 14% of internet users in 2010 to an 88.4% in 2022. The 85.4% of the Libyan owns a mobile phone according to the ICT Development Index from 2023.