



## **Malawi Financial Market Update**

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Week ending 6 February 2026



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*The commercial bank reference for February 2026 is 24.7%.*

*Malawi's trade deficit increased to USD271.2 million in December 2025 from USD238.9 million in November 2025*

## Market Developments

### What happened this week

1. A mid-term review of the National Education Sector Investment Plan (Nesip) reveals that Malawi loses approximately USD67 million (K117 billion) annually due to high primary school repetition rates. In 2025, 25% of primary learners repeated classes, with the highest rates recorded in Chitipa (33%) and Balaka (29%), while urban areas such as Mzuzu and Lilongwe maintained lower rates of 14%. The review further notes that only 30% of primary learners currently achieve minimum literacy and numeracy skills. (*The Nation*, 6 February 2026)
2. The Supreme Court has ordered the Reserve Bank of Malawi to pay compensation to Finance Bank of Malawi, having ruled that the 2005 revocation of the bank's licence was unlawful. The court ordered that damages for loss of business be assessed, covering profits the bank could have earned since 2005. (*The Nation*, 4 February 2026)
3. Government has reduced the number of principal secretaries (PS) from over 80 to 38. This reduction in PSs is expected to save close to MK2.2 billion annually in salaries and fuel entitlements, according to the Chief Secretary to the Government. In addition, the reform is also aimed at streamlining the civil service and supporting fiscal consolidation amid a wage bill estimated at 90% of domestic revenue (*The Nation*, 6 February 2026).
4. The commercial bank reference for February 2026 is to 24.70%, down from 25.20% in January 2026. The reference rate is effective from 4 February (*Standard Bank*, 4 February 2026)
5. Malawi has received USD2.3 million (MK3.9 billion) from the World Bank-funded Regional Emergency Preparedness and Access to Inclusive Recovery (REPAIR) Programme for urgent flood response operations. The funds are part of a broader USD22.3 million package for Malawi and Mozambique following devastating floods in late 2025 that affected over 49,000 people in Nkhotakota and surrounding districts. (*The Daily Times*, 4 February 2026)
6. Raiply Malawi Limited has become the first independent power producer to generate 10MW from a biomass plant following the commissioning of its USD16 million (about MK28 billion) facility on 17 November 2025. The company is selling 3MW to the national grid and has surrendered its previous 6MW supply back to Escom. The Ministry of Energy and Mining targets doubling national generation to 1,000MW by 2030. (*The Nation*, 6 February 2026)
7. Malawi has received about USD 2.3 million (MK3.9 billion) from the World Bank-supported Regional Emergency Preparedness and Access to Inclusive Recovery (Repair) Programme to support urgent flood response. The funds will be used to support food, medical supplies, water and sanitation equipment, and emergency shelter for affected communities. Floods in late December 2025 affected over 49,000 people, displaced more than 2,100 families, and caused 12 deaths. (*The Daily Times*, 4 February 2026)
8. According to the National Statistics Office (NSO), Malawi's trade deficit widened to USD271.2 million in December 2025 from USD238.9 million in November 2025, as total exports declined sharply to USD60.9 million from USD109.4 million over the same period, representing a 5.7% decrease from the USD64.6 million recorded in December 2024. Monthly imports fell marginally to USD332.1 million in December 2025 from USD348.3 million in November 2025, with tobacco exports amounting to USD3.9 million, representing about 6.4% of total exports, while fertiliser imports stood at USD44.3 million (13.3% of total imports), diesel at USD 43.9 million (13.2%), and petrol at USD35.3 million (10.6%). Overall, the export-to-import ratio stood at 0.18, indicating that exports covered only 18 percent of total import value. (NSO, 3 February 2026)
9. Airtel Africa reported profit after tax of USD 586 million for the nine months ended December 31, 2025. The group revenue reached USD 4.67 billion. The customer base reached 179.4 million. Mobile money customers reached 52 million, with annualized transaction value exceeding USD 210 billion. (*The Nation*, 3 February 2026)

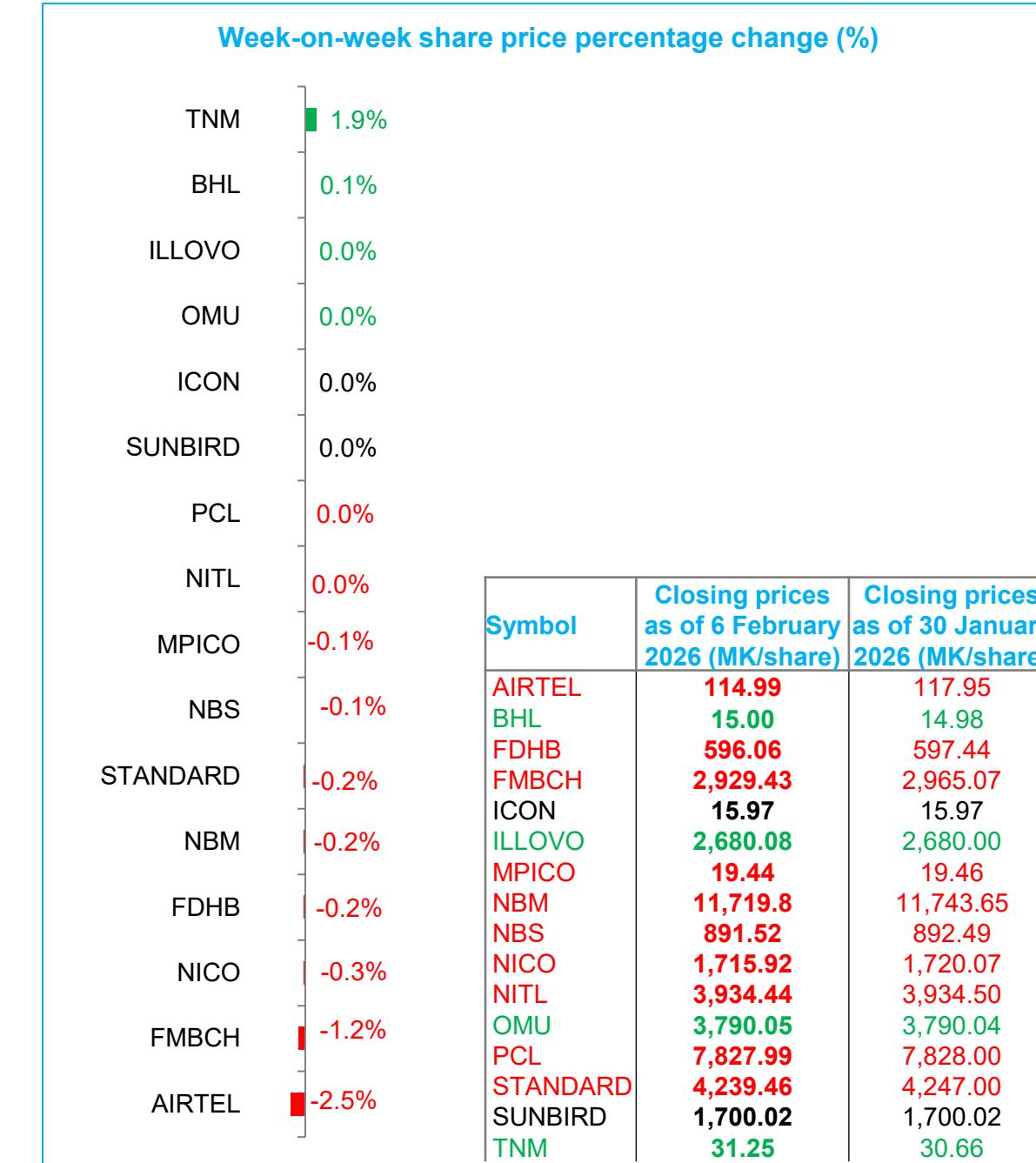
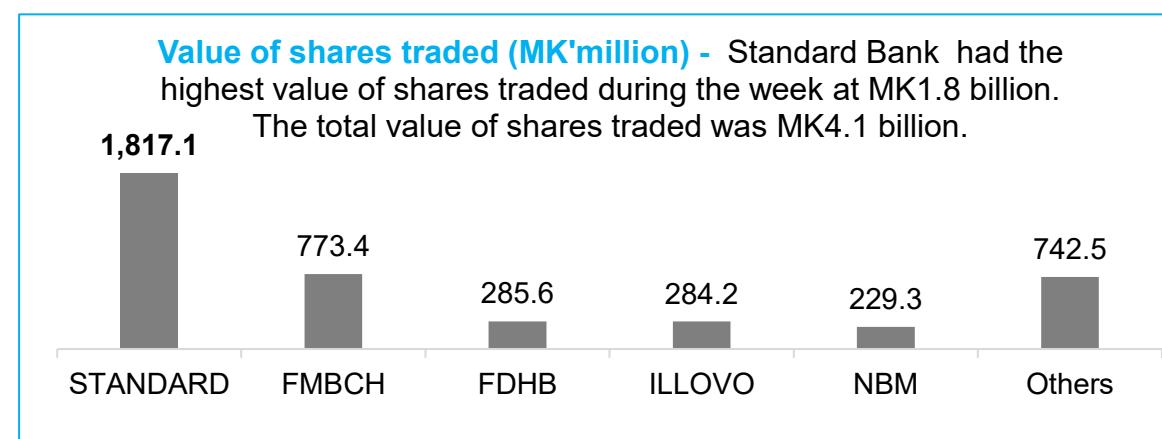
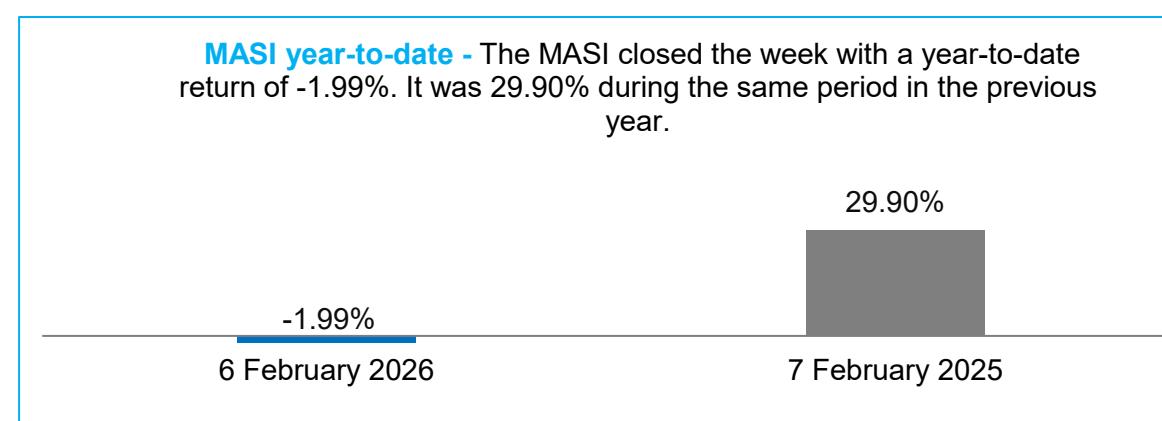
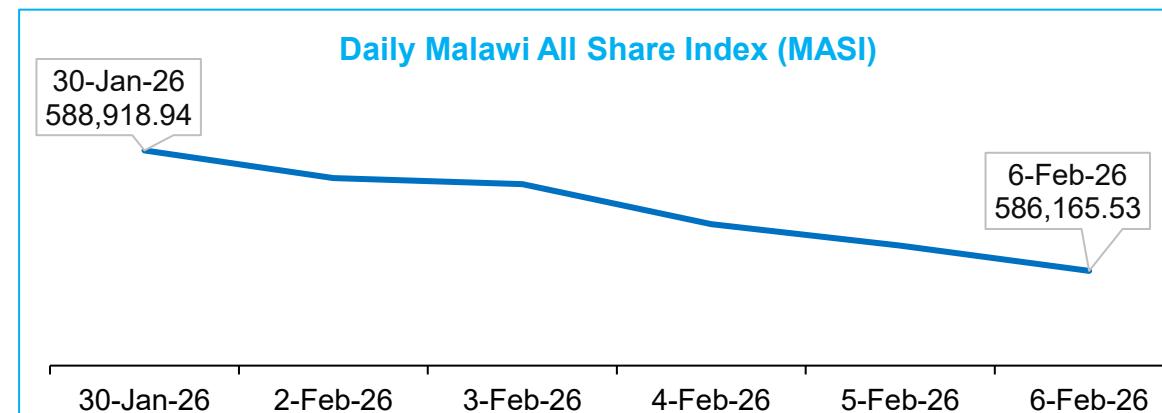


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## Stock market (Source: MSE)

The stock market was bearish, with the Malawi All Share Index (MASI) declining to 586,165.53 points on 6 February 2026 from 588,918.94 points on 30 January 2026.

The total value of shares traded was MK4.1 billion. STANDARD had the highest value of shares traded at MK1.8 billion.

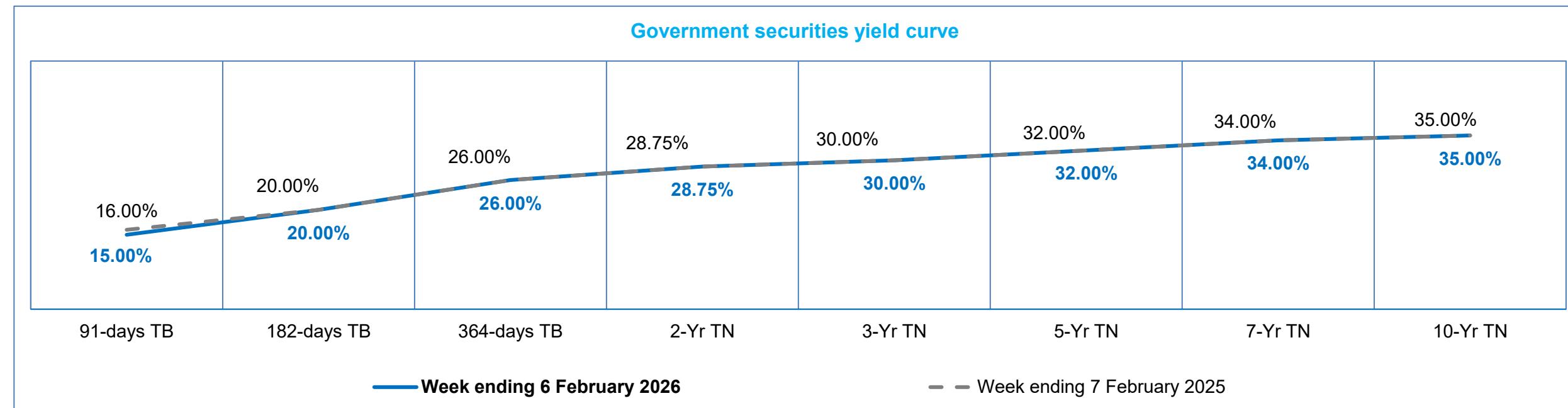
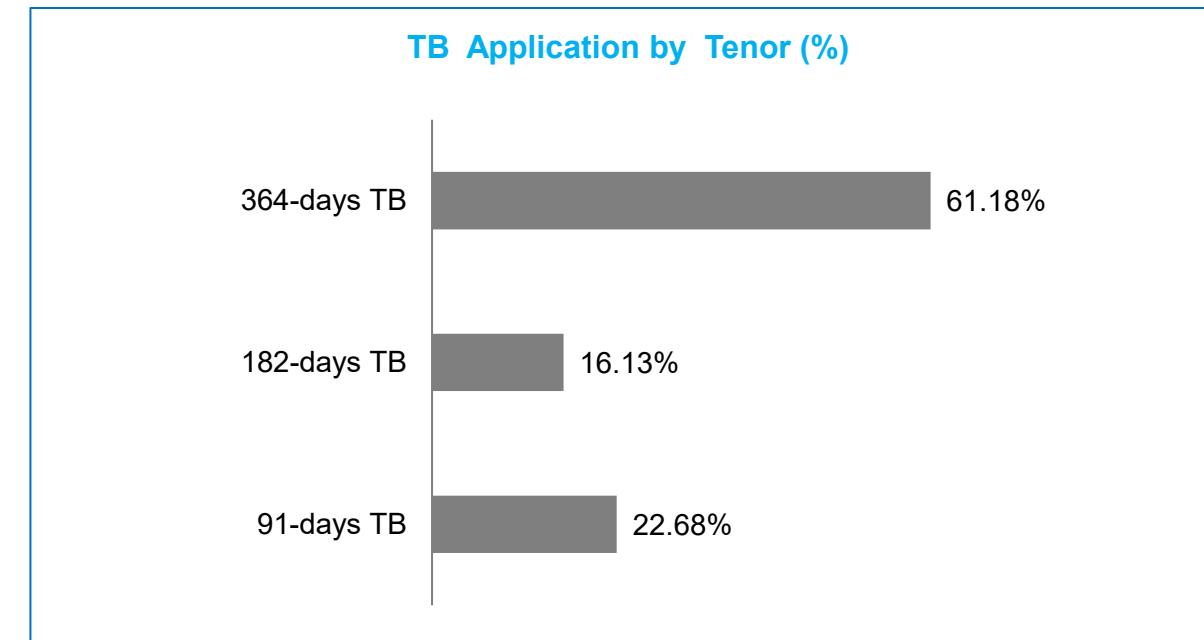
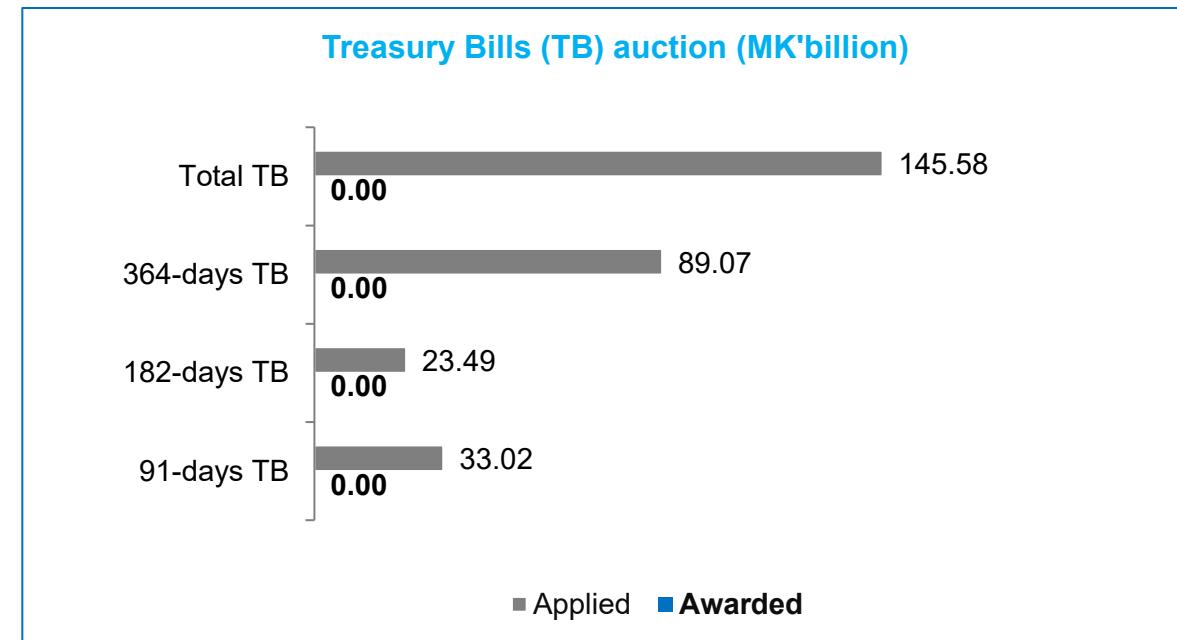


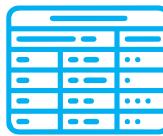


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### Government Securities (Source: RBM)

The Reserve Bank of Malawi (RBM) held auctions for all tenors of Treasury Bills (TB) during the period under review. No funds were raised because all bids were rejected across the 91-day, 182-day, and 364-day tenors. Total applications amounted to MK145.58 billion.





## Appendix 1: Historical Economic Indicators

	Feb-25	Mar-25	April-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	6-Feb-26
<b>Exchange Rates (middle rates)</b>													
MK/USD	1,749.65	1,750.25	1,750.51	1,750.67	1,750.48	1,750.58	1,749.95	1,750.37	1,749.95	1,750.07	1,749.00	1,749.55	<b>1,734.01</b>
MK/GBP	2,268.53	2,329.61	2,412.28	2,415.65	2,473.04	2,408.88	2,424.53	2,423.25	2,371.39	2,377.10	2,416.04	2,456.90	<b>2,424.18</b>
MK/EUR	1,873.26	1,945.36	2,052.11	2,045.98	2,112.10	2,082.69	2,103.70	2,103.32	2,078.57	2,087.24	2,107.54	2,148.87	<b>2,107.33</b>
MK/ZAR	97.04	98.15	96.28	100.76	100.57	100.34	101.77	103.60	103.58	103.68	107.63	113.67	<b>110.33</b>
<b>Foreign Exchange Reserves</b>													
Total Reserves (USD'mn)	569.5	536.0	530.0	521.0	555.9	607.7	523.9	511.8	526.8	530.0	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Inflation</b>													
Headline	30.7%	30.5%	29.2%	27.7%	27.1%	27.3%	28.2%	28.7%	29.1%	27.9%	26.0%	N/A	N/A
Food	38.5%	37.7%	35.8%	32.7%	31.6%	32.4%	33.7%	33.0%	32.4%	30.1%	26.5%	N/A	N/A
Non-food	18.5%	19.2%	19.4%	20.0%	20.1%	19.3%	19.5%	21.7%	23.8%	24.2%	25.2%	N/A	N/A
<b>Interest Rates</b>													
Monetary Policy Rate	26.00%	26.00%	26.00%	26.00%	26.00%	26.00%	26.00%	26.00%	26.00%	26.00%	26.00%	26.00%	<b>26.00%</b>
Average Interbank Rate (Overnight)	23.18%	23.19%	23.18%	23.82%	23.99%	23.98%	23.98%	23.98%	23.98%	23.98%	23.98%	23.98%	<b>23.98%</b>
Lombard Rate	26.20%	26.20%	26.20%	26.20%	26.20%	26.20%	26.20%	26.20%	26.20%	26.20%	26.20%	26.20%	<b>26.20%</b>
Commercial Bank Reference Rate	25.10%	25.10%	25.10%	25.20%	25.10%	25.30%	25.40%	25.30%	25.40%	25.30%	25.30%	25.20%	<b>25.20%</b>
<b>Government Securities Yields</b>													
91-days Treasury Bill	16.00%	16.00%	16.00%	16.00%	16.00%	16.00%	16.00%	16.00%	16.00%	16.00%	16.00%	15.00%	<b>15.00%</b>
182-days Treasury Bill	20.00%	20.00%	20.00%	20.00%	20.00%	20.00%	20.00%	20.00%	20.00%	20.00%	20.00%	20.00%	<b>20.00%</b>
364-days Treasury Bill	26.00%	26.00%	26.00%	26.00%	26.00%	26.00%	26.00%	26.00%	26.00%	26.00%	26.00%	26.00%	<b>26.00%</b>
2-year Treasury Note	28.75%	28.75%	28.75%	28.75%	28.75%	28.75%	28.75%	28.75%	28.75%	28.75%	28.75%	28.75%	<b>28.75%</b>
3-year Treasury Note	30.00%	30.00%	30.00%	30.00%	30.00%	30.00%	30.00%	30.00%	30.00%	30.00%	30.00%	30.00%	<b>30.00%</b>
5-year Treasury Note	32.00%	32.00%	32.00%	32.00%	32.00%	32.00%	32.00%	32.00%	32.00%	32.00%	32.00%	32.00%	<b>32.00%</b>
7-year Treasury Note	34.00%	34.00%	34.00%	34.00%	34.00%	34.00%	34.00%	34.00%	34.00%	34.00%	34.00%	34.00%	<b>34.00%</b>
10-year Treasury Note	35.00%	35.00%	35.00%	35.00%	35.00%	35.00%	35.00%	35.00%	35.00%	35.00%	35.00%	35.00%	<b>35.00%</b>
<b>Year-to-date Return</b>													
MASI	64.92%	69.52%	68.39%	64.58%	91.77%	124.53%	211.15%	236.67%	250.27%	259.98%	247.63%	-1.53%	<b>-1.99%</b>
DSI	50.42%	56.52%	62.53%	62.41%	89.34%	120.03%	214.05%	236.40%	233.38%	217.65%	208.88%	0.30%	<b>0.05%</b>
FSI	152.62%	148.16%	103.82%	77.74%	106.49%	150.94%	195.28%	239.14%	348.11%	503.79%	470.87%	-7.19%	<b>-8.28%</b>

The 6 February 2026 exchange rates are Middle (TT) opening exchange rates as reported by the Reserve Bank of Malawi.

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