

Zambia



Background:

The territory of Northern Rhodesia was administered by the South Africa Company from 1891 until it was taken over by the UK in 1923. During the 1920s and 1930s, advances in mining spurred development and immigration. The name was changed to Zambia upon independence in 1964. In the 1980s and 1990s, declining copper prices and a prolonged drought hurt the economy. Elections in 1991 brought an end to one-party rule, but the subsequent vote in 1996 saw blatant harassment of opposition parties. The election in 2001 was marked by administrative problems with three parties filing a legal petition challenging the election of ruling party candidate Levy MWANAWASA. The new president launched a far-reaching anti-corruption campaign in 2002, which resulted in the prosecution of former President Frederick CHILUBA and many of his supporters in late 2003. Opposition parties currently hold a majority of seats in the National Assembly.

Geography Zambia

Location:

Southern Africa, east of Angola

Area:

total: 752,614 sq km

land: 740,724 sq km

water: 11,890 sq km

Coastline:

0 km (landlocked)

Climate:

tropical; modified by altitude; rainy season (October to April)

Terrain:

mostly high plateau with some hills and mountains

Natural resources:

copper, cobalt, zinc, lead, coal, emeralds, gold, silver, uranium, hydropower

Environment - current issues:

air pollution and resulting acid rain in the mineral extraction and refining region; chemical runoff into watersheds; poaching seriously threatens rhinoceros, elephant, antelope, and large cat populations; deforestation; soil erosion; desertification; lack of adequate water treatment presents human health risks

People Zambia**Population:**

11,261,795

Population growth rate:

2.12%

Languages:

English (official), major vernaculars - Bemba, Kaonda, Lozi, Lunda, Luvale, Nyanja, Tonga, and about 70 other indigenous languages

Government Zambia**Country name:**

conventional long form: Republic of Zambia

Government type:

republic

Capital:

Lusaka

Independence:

24 October 1964 (from UK)

Legal system:

based on English common law and customary law; judicial review of legislative acts in an ad hoc constitutional council; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction

Executive branch:

chief of state: President Levy MWANAWASA (since 2 January 2002).

International organization participation:

ACP, AfDB, AU, C, FAO, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICCT, ICFTU, ICRM, IDA, IFAD, IFC, IFRCS, ILO, IMF, Interpol, IOC, IOM, ISO (correspondent), ITU, MIGA, MONUC, NAM, ONUB, OPCW, PCA, SADC, UN, UNAMSIL, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNMEE, UNMIK, UNMIL, UNOCI, UPU, WCL, WCO, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO, WTO

Economy Zambia**Economy - overview:**

Despite progress in privatization and budgetary reform, Zambia's economic growth remains somewhat below the 5% to 7% needed to reduce poverty significantly. Privatization of government-owned copper mines relieved the government from covering mammoth losses generated by the industry and greatly improved the chances for copper mining to return to profitability and spur economic growth. Copper output increased in 2004 and is expected to increase again in 2005, due to higher copper prices and the opening of new mines. The maize harvest was again good in 2004, helping boost GDP and agricultural exports. Cooperation continues with international bodies on programs to reduce poverty, including a new lending arrangement with the

IMF in the second quarter, 2004. A tighter monetary policy will help cut inflation, but Zambia still has a serious problem with fiscal discipline.

GDP:

purchasing power parity - \$9.409 billion

GDP - real growth rate:

4.6%

GDP - per capita:

purchasing power parity - \$900

GDP - composition by sector:

agriculture: 14.9%

industry: 28.9%

services: 56.1%

Investment (gross fixed):

41.4% of GDP

Population below poverty line:

86%

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

18.3%

Labor force:

4.63 million

Unemployment rate:

50%

Budget:

revenues: \$1.129 billion

expenditures: \$1.307 billion, including capital expenditures of NA

Agriculture - products:

corn, sorghum, rice, peanuts, sunflower seed, vegetables, flowers, tobacco, cotton, sugarcane, cassava (tapioca); cattle, goats, pigs, poultry, milk, eggs, hides; coffee

Industries:

copper mining and processing, construction, foodstuffs, beverages, chemicals, textiles, fertilizer, horticulture

Oil - production:

0 bbl/day

Oil - consumption:

11,000 bbl/day

Current account balance:

-\$181.4 million

Exports:

\$1.548 billion f.o.b.

Exports - commodities:

copper/cobalt 64%, cobalt, electricity, tobacco, flowers, cotton

Exports - partners:

Tanzania 14.1%, South Africa 13.2%, China 9.1%, Japan 7.9%, Thailand 7.9%, Switzerland 7.3%, Belgium 6.7%, Malaysia 4%

Imports:

\$1.519 billion f.o.b.

Imports - commodities:

machinery, transportation equipment, petroleum products, electricity, fertilizer; foodstuffs, clothing

Imports - partners:

South Africa 50.3%, Zimbabwe 13.2%, UAE 5.3%

Exchange rates:

Zambian kwacha per US dollar - 4,778.9 (2004), 4,733.3 (2003), 4,398.6 (2002), 3,610.9 (2001), 3,110.8 (2000)

Transportation**Railways:**

total: 2,173 km

narrow gauge: 2,173 km 1.067-m gauge

note: includes 891 km of the Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA)

Highways:

total: 91,440 km

paved: 20,117 km

unpaved: 71,323 km

Waterways:

2,250 km

note: includes Lake Tanganyika and the Zambezi and Luapula rivers

Pipelines:

oil 771 km

Ports and harbors:

Mpulungu

Airports:

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