

# Towards GDP Rebasing: 2025 Economic Establishment Census

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## Economic Establishment Census

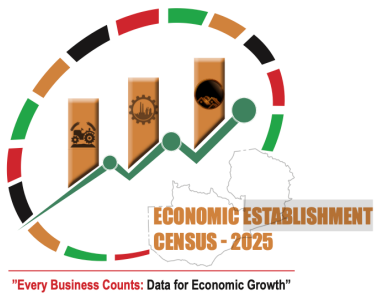
Scope, coverage, and data collection approach

# INTRODUCTION

1. Compilation of GDP follow an agreed set of international standards principally the SNA 2008 — ensuring consistency and comparability across economies.
2. GDP is the key economic indicator to measure economic performance of countries
3. GDP: sum of value added from all institutional units resident in the economy + all (taxes-subsidies) on products

## REBASING: OVERVIEW

1. The base period should be updated every five years (SNA 2008) – advanced economies typically rebase continuously each year.
2. Rebasing requires updates of:
  - I. Benchmark Period
  - II. Weight Reference Period
  - III. Index Reference Period



# BACKGROUND

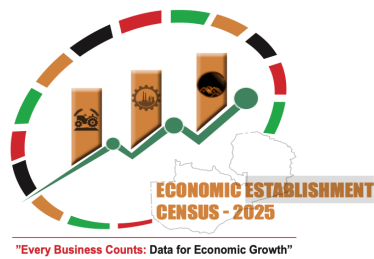
1. The Zambia Statistics Agency (ZamStats) last rebased its GDP to 2010 after the 2011-2012 Economic Census.
2. Zambia's economic landscape has evolved significantly since 2010, necessitating a new base year to capture sectoral shifts, economic diversification efforts, and structural changes.
3. Under SNA 2008, the base period should be updated every five years.

## GDP REBASING IN SELECTED COUNTRIES

1. Cross-country rebasing exercises consistently reveal that updating the base year produces significant revisions.
2. The table below illustrates GDP levels before and after rebasing.

Country	Previous Base Year	New Base Year	Years Between Base Years	GDP Before Rebase (USD Bn)	GDP After Rebase (USD Bn)
Nigeria	1990	2010	20	270	510
Ghana	1993	2006	13	15	31
Kenya	2001	2009	8	44	55
Tanzania	2001	2015	14	45	63
Zambia (ZMW)	1994	2010	16	78	94

Source: National Bureau of Statistics (Nigeria), Ghana Statistical Service (Ghana), Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (Kenya), National Bureau of Statistics (Tanzania) Zambia Statistics Agency (Zambia)



# BENEFITS AND IMPLICATIONS OF ZAMBIA'S REBASING GDP TO 2023



Rebasing GDP to 2023 will have far-reaching implications for;

1. Economic analysis,
2. Policymaking, and
3. Alignment with international best practices of updating the base year every 5 years.

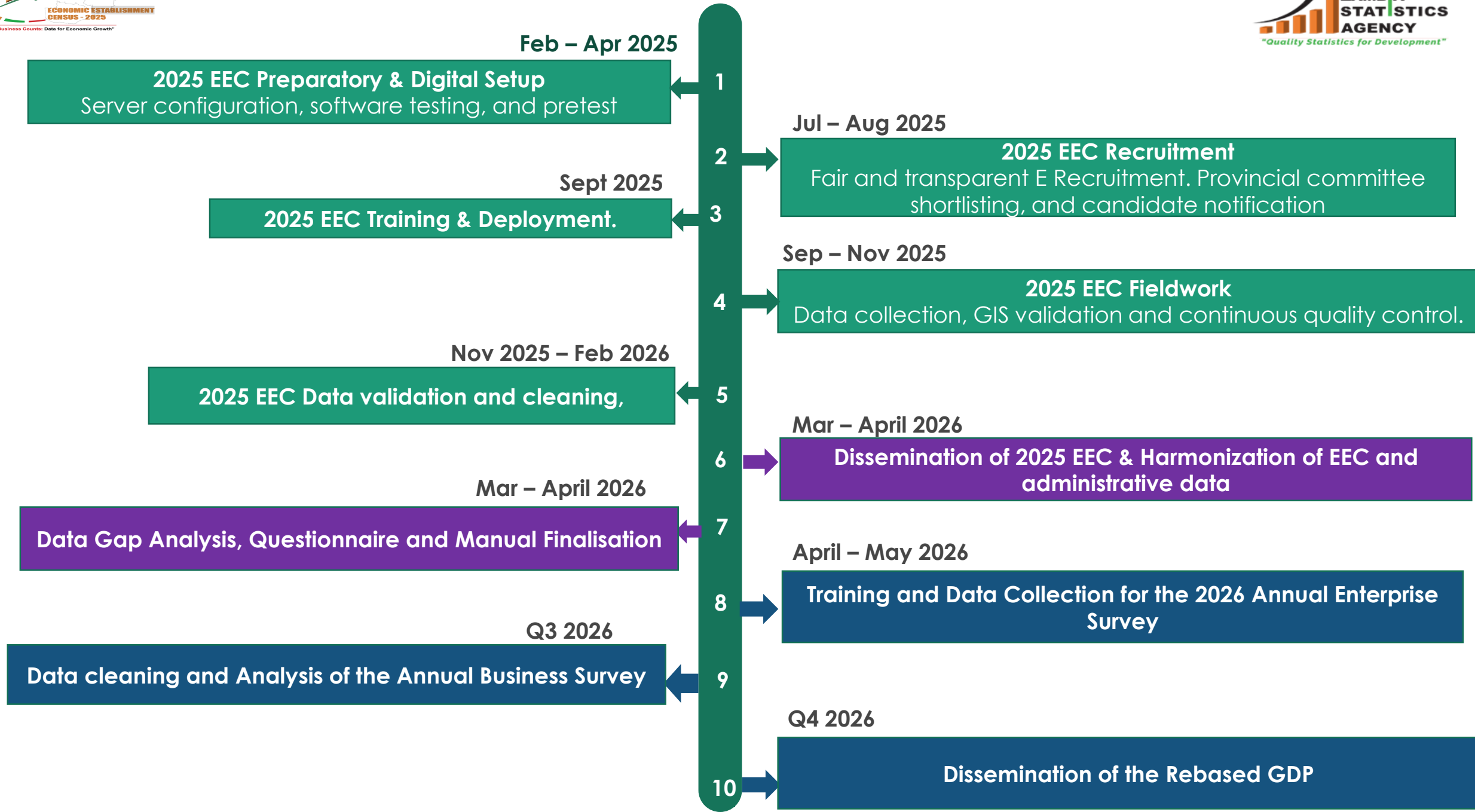
## Improved Economic Representation

The updated base year will more accurately capture the current structure of Zambia's economy.

## Macroeconomic Indicator Adjustments

- Key macroeconomic ratios including;
- Fiscal deficit as a share of GDP,
  - The public debt-to-GDP ratio, and
  - The Zambia's current account balance.

# 2025 GDP REBASING TIMELINE



# **2025 EEC PRELIMINARY HIGHLIGHTS**



# 2025 ECONOMIC ESTABLISHMENT CENSUS

A nationwide effort to map, count, and characterize every active economic establishment across all 1,858 wards delivering the most comprehensive snapshot of Zambia's economic landscape to date.



## THE 2025 ECONOMIC ESTABLISHMENT CENSUS (EEC)

1. **Objective:** The objective of the 2025 Economic Establishment Census was to create a comprehensive list (**Statistical Business Register**) of active establishments and their characteristics, for statistical purposes which will be used as a frame for economic/business surveys.
2. **Scope:** All businesses operating in physical permanent structures were covered excluding;
  - I. General Government establishments,
  - II. Households small businesses (covered during HHs census)
  - III. Hawkers



## 2025 ECONOMIC ESTABLISHMENT CENSUS (EEC)- CONTD

Key variable collected from 2025 EEC included:

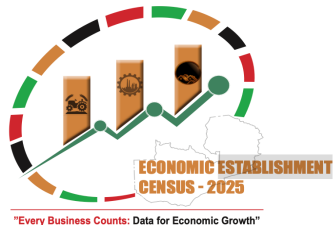
1. Main economic activity (industry classification – ISIC Rev 4)
2. Number of workers ( ie non-hired workers (owners and family members), payroll workers, contract workers and apprentices)
3. Operational status — registered (**formal**) vs. unregistered (**informal**)
4. Geographic location validated through GIS coordinates

**1,858**

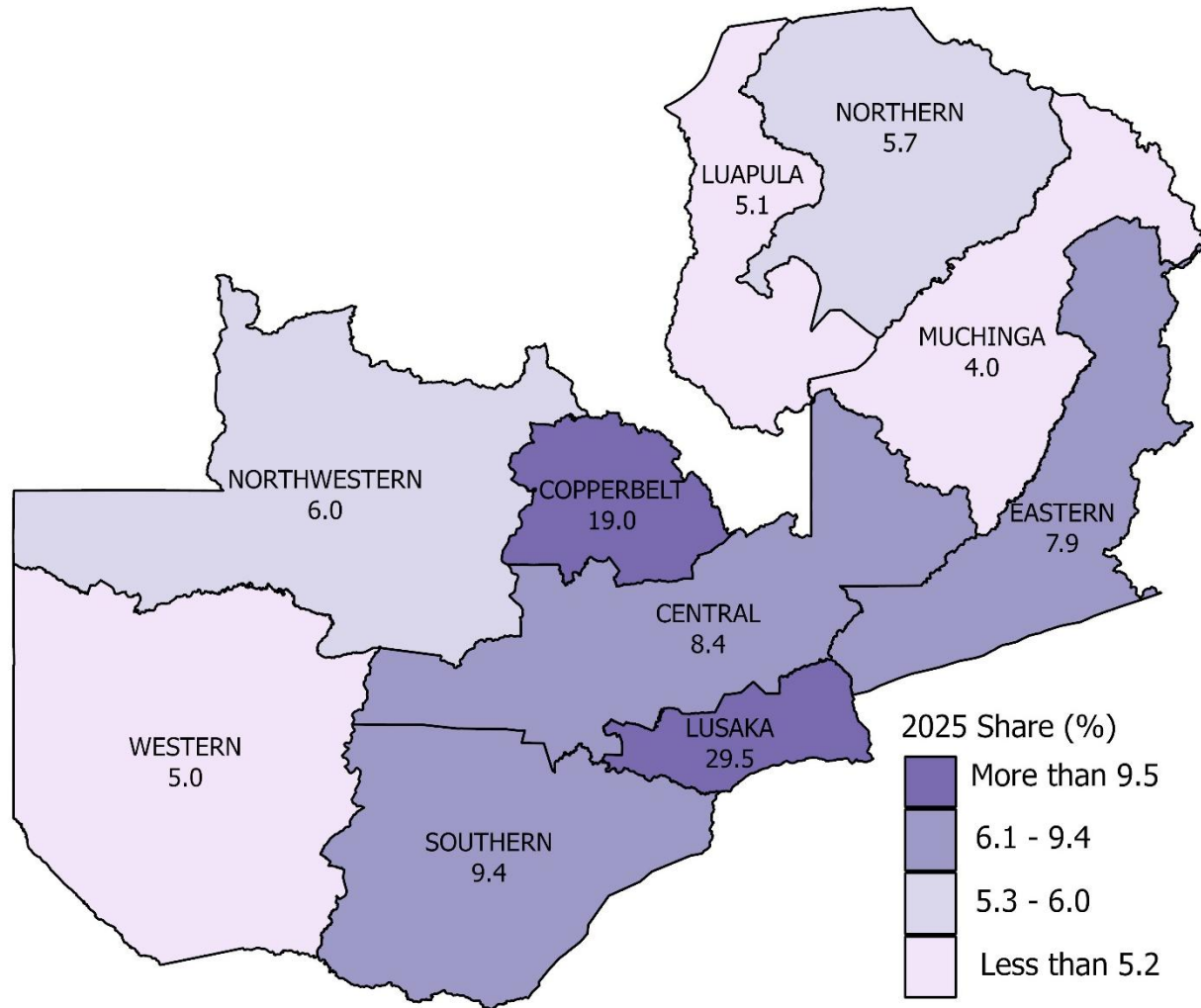
Wards Covered  
Full national geographic coverage

**1,200+**

Enumerators Deployed  
Trained field staff across all provinces



# PROVINCIAL DISTRIBUTION OF ESTABLISHMENTS, 2025



2025 EEC provided a comprehensive snapshot of the distribution of business establishments operating within Zambia, capturing the full spectrum of economic activity, Further broken down by size and industry.

**66,743**  
Establishments  
Fixed structure focus, **2010**

**485,034**  
Establishments  
Market Stalls, Kiosks &  
Buildings, **2025**

## PROVINCIAL DISTRIBUTION OF ESTABLISHMENTS, (2010 → 2025)

Province	2025		2010	
	Nbr Of Establishment	Share	Nbr Of Establishment	Share
Lusaka	143,125	29.5%	19,054	28.5%
Copperbelt	91,960	19.0%	14,689	22.0%
Southern	45,442	9.4%	7,903	11.8%
Central	40,692	8.4%	6,185	9.3%
Eastern	38,350	7.9%	4,798	7.2%
Northwestern	29,850	6.2%	3,067	4.6%
Northern	27,416	5.7%	2,895	4.3%
Luapula	24,668	5.1%	2,968	4.4%
Western	24,069	5.0%	3,410	5.1%
Muchinga	19,462	4.0%	1,774	2.7%
Total	485,034	100.0%	66,743	100.0%

## NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS ACROSS INDUSTRIES, 2010 → 2025

Industry	2010		2025	
	Nbr Of Estblmnts	Share	Nbr Of Estblmnts	Share
Wholesale and Retail Trade	37,887.0	56.8%	300,097.0	61.9%
Other service activities	5,899.0	8.8%	56,050.0	11.6%
Accommodation	10,288.0	15.4%	40,935.0	8.4%
Manufacturing	4,821.0	7.2%	31,188.0	6.4%
Financial and insurance	749.0	1.1%	30,527.0	6.3%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	825.0	1.2%	6,695.0	1.4%
Arts, entertainment and recreation	254.0	0.4%	5,058.0	1.0%
Education	1,528.0	2.3%	4,193.0	0.9%
Transport and storage	711.0	1.1%	2,616.0	0.5%
Administrative and support	1,013.0	1.5%	2,392.0	0.5%
Information and communication	691.0	1.0%	1,666.0	0.3%
Professional, scientific	625.0	0.9%	1,404.0	0.3%
Human health	578.0	0.9%	959.0	0.2%
Construction	380.0	0.6%	595.0	0.1%
Mining and quarrying	238.0	0.4%	305.0	0.1%
Real estate activities	145.0	0.2%	212.0	0.0%
Water supply	29.0	0.0%	64.0	0.0%
Electricity, gas, steam	28.0	0.0%	46.0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>66,743.0</b>		<b>485,034</b>	

# DISTRIBUTION OF TOTAL WORKERS BY INDUSTRY, (2010 → 2025)

Industry	2010		2025	
	Workers	Share	Workers	Share
Wholesale and retail trade	88,640	19.96%	513,732	45.93%
Manufacturing	69,457	13.88%	146,601	13.11%
Other Service Activities	18,174	3.78%	109,337	9.78%
Accommodation	28,827	8.09%	103,675	9.27%
Education	16,805	4.72%	45,468	4.07%
Financial and Insurance	16,177	4.54%	43,622	3.90%
Transportation and Storage	14,707	4.13%	33,143	2.96%
Administrative	23,287	7.38%	25,316	2.26%
Mining and Quarrying	20,761	8.07%	22,609	2.02%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	21,876	11.75%	20,988	1.88%
Construction	14,782	4.71%	16,752	1.50%
Human Health	8,974	2.52%	10,527	0.94%
Professional, Scientific	6,622	1.86%	9,755	0.87%
Arts, entertainment and recreation	2,381	0.67%	7,715	0.69%
Information and Communication	4,193	1.18%	5,349	0.48%
Real Estate Activities	872	0.24%	1,218	0.11%
Water Supply	1,049	0.70%	1,145	0.10%
Electricity, gas, steam	814	1.84%	1,027	0.09%
<b>Total</b>	<b>358,398</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>1,117,979</b>	<b>100%</b>



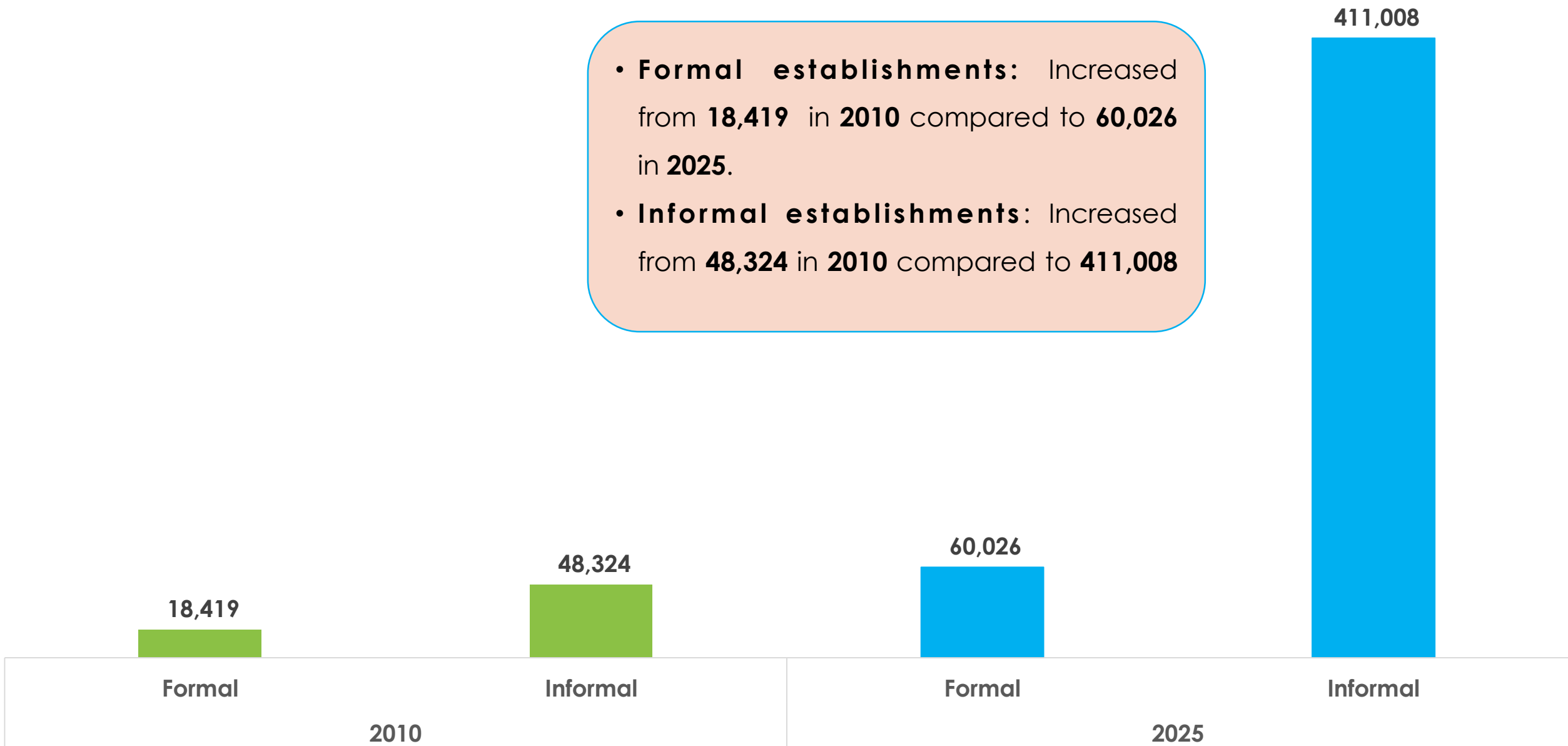
## ESTABLISHMENTS BY SIZE CLASS: 2010 VS 2025 ESTABLISHMENT CENSUS



By Turnover Size Class	2010		2025	
	Nbr Of Esblshmnts	Share	Nbr Of Esblshmnts	Share
Micro Enterprise (Less or equal to K 250,000)	57,862	87%	450,481	93%
Small Enterprise (Between K 250,001 to K 1,000,000)	4,915	7%	23,684	5%
Medium Enterprise (Between K 1,000,001 To K 10,000,000)	2,844	4%	7,527	2%
Large Enterprise (Between K 10,000,001 To K 50,000,000)	697	1%	2,147	1%
Very Large / Corporate (Above K50,000,000)	425	1%	1,195	0%
		100%		100%

# FORMALITY OF ESTABLISHMENTS: 2010 VS 2025

- **Formal establishments:** Increased from **18,419** in **2010** compared to **60,026** in **2025**.
- **Informal establishments:** Increased from **48,324** in **2010** compared to **411,008**



# INDUSTRIES WITH THE HIGHEST FORMAL ESTABLISHMENT COUNTS (2010 → 2025)

Industry	2010			2025		
	Registered	Nbr Of Estblshmnts	Share Of Registered	Registered	Nbr Of Estblshmnts	Share Of Registered
Construction	333	380	88%	438	595	74%
Human health	388	578	67%	659	959	69%
Real estate	111	145	77%	145	212	68%
Electricity	49	74	66%	31	46	67%
Education	865	1,528	57%	2,762	4,193	66%
Professional, scientific	503	625	80%	865	1,404	62%
Water supply	76	99	77%	37	64	58%
Mining and Quarrying	208	238	87%	161	305	53%
Administrative and support	542	1,013	54%	1,143	2,392	48%
Transport and storage	522	711	73%	1,051	2,616	40%
Information and commu	416	691	60%	483	1,666	29%
Financial and insurance	606	749	81%	6,600	30,527	22%
Manufacturing	1,351	4,821	28%	4,909	31,188	16%
Accommodation and food	1,886	10,288	18%	5,627	40,935	14%
Arts, entertainment and recreation	93	254	37%	665	5,058	13%
Wholesale and retail	9,271	37,831	25%	31,095	300,097	10%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	436	825	53%	608	6,695	9%
Other service activities	763	5,893	13%	2,747	56,050	5%

# Thank You



Website



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