

ZAMBIA

Advances in GDP Rebasing Process

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Statement by the Board Chairperson of Zamstats



statistical information. The Board reaffirms its commitment to upholding the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and to the continuous improvement of coordination and national statistical activities.

I commend the Management and its staff for the hard work and dedication in producing this publication. The Board remains committed to enhancing our statistical processes and products and delivering high-quality statistics that support evidence-based decision-making.



OLIVER J.M CHINGANYA
ZamStats Board Chairperson

JULY, 2026

On behalf of the Zambia Statistics Agency (ZamStats) Board and Management, I am pleased to present the tenth volume of "The Statistician," July 2026, a key publication produced by the Agency that provides important highlights on essential statistical programmes and relevant statistics for evidence-based decision making. This volume compiles information on our country's demographic, economic and social trends derived from recent national surveys and routine economic statistical activities.

As Chairperson of the Board, I am delighted to note that this publication reflects one of the Agency's core mandates to promote the use of statistical data and information, as prescribed in the Statistics Act No. 13 of 2018. The publication aligns with the strategic objectives of the Agency and the Board's aspiration to transform ZamStats into a trusted national statistical institution that consistently provides quality, timely and relevant statistics for all.

This tenth volume underscores the importance of collaboration with researchers, stakeholders, and partners in advancing the national statistical system. ZamStats successfully implemented key surveys and undertook research projects with institutions of higher learning for evidence generation and the provision of targeted, relevant



Statement by the Statistician General



The Zambia Statistics Agency (ZamStats) this year publishes the tenth edition of "THE STATISTICIAN", 2026. This milestone edition arrives at a pivotal moment, as the Agency has made positive progress on the GDP rebasing process earmarked for end of 2026, following the successful implementation of the 2025 Economic Establishment Census (EEC), and subsequently the ongoing undertaking of the 2026 Annual Business Survey.

The Agency has continued its transformative agenda and is operationalising the Statistics Act No. 13 of 2018 through the implementation of the second National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS2) and the Agency's first Strategic Plan 2025–

2026, with a focus on excellence, collaboration, partnerships, innovation and responsiveness to the evolving data ecosystem. Some of the key strategies and initiatives the Agency is implementing as outlined in the Strategic Plan focus on strengthening coordination and statistical capacities in the National Statistical System (NSS) to produce quality, reliable, timely and relevant statistics which are crucial for monitoring progress towards national and international development goals and evidence-based decision making for sustainable national development in Zambia.

The Agency continued to make strides towards achieving the capacity strengthening goals with the launch of the National Data Science Training Hub in September 2025 and the hosting of training programmes at the Centre, involving representatives from ministries and other institutions. This demonstrates our advancing efforts to build sustainable capacity in the NSS for the production and use of statistical data and information for planning and decision making, as prescribed in the Statistics Act, the Agency Strategic Plan and the NSDS2. . The National Data Science Training Hub is a testament to the positive partnerships with Statistics Sweden, which align with institutional priorities.

This publication is an indication of how ZamStats is working to improve the accessibility and usability of statistics for all users, while enhancing collaborations with stakeholders in the National Statistical System. Among the highlights in this publication are the statistical data produced through collaborative work with statistical agencies across sectors and leveraging existing administrative data to produce key economic indicators. Notable examples include the following: **successful implementation of the 2025 Economic Establishment Census** with involvement of key stakeholders, the 2025 Financial Scoping (FinScope) survey which was implemented in collaboration with Bank of Zambia and other stakeholders in the financial sector, and ZamStats working with institutions of higher learning on research projects for evidence generation and provision of targeted relevant statistical information. The collaborations pave the way to produce relevant statistics and promote a knowledge-based society and a culture of data-driven decision-making in our country. We are grateful to all collaborating institutions for the positive partnerships and the public for provision of data thus allowing us to make our statistical work impactful.

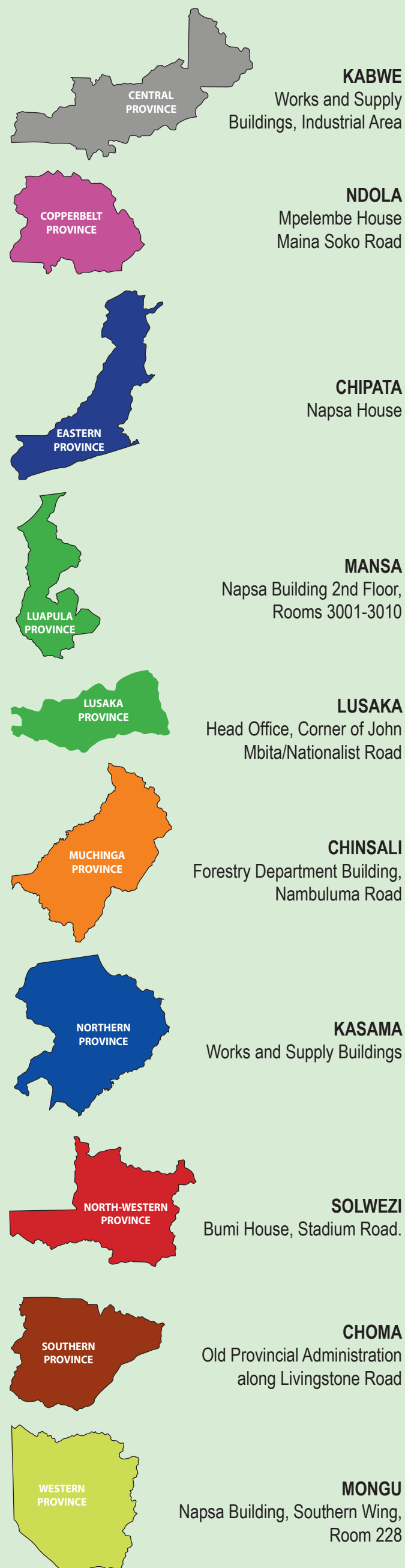
We extend our sincere gratitude to the ZamStats Board for their policy and insightful oversight, the Government and all stakeholders whose support has made it possible for us to effectively execute our mandate of providing quality official statistics for evidence-based planning and decision making. We remain grateful for your continuous and unwavering support to the statistical services provided by the Agency. We look forward to your sustained cooperation as we endeavour to meet your evolving data needs.



Sheila Mudenda
STATISTICIAN GENERAL

JULY, 2026

Regional Offices/Location





CPI

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI), INFLATION AND PRODUCER PRICE INDEX (PPI)

Consumer Price Index (CPI)

What is Consumer Price Index?

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a series of numbers/figures showing how the average price level of all those goods and services (Basket of Goods and Services) bought by a typical consumer or household changes overtime.

The simplest way to think of the CPI is as a measure of the total cost of goods and services purchased by Zambian consumers. Price changes of particular goods and services in the basket will alter the total cost. The CPI measures this change over time.

The CPI tracks how the average price of a standard set of goods and services — the “basket” that a typical Zambian household buys — changes over time. Think of it as the total cost of that basket. When prices of items like mealie meal, fuel, or transport go up or down, the CPI reflects that change.

Zambia Statistics Agency (ZamStats) has been compiling the Consumer Price Index (CPI) since 1965 on a monthly basis as recommended by UNECE, ILO, IMF, OECD, Eurostat and the World Bank for international comparability.



Coverage of the CPI

ZamStats surveys the prices of 440 consumer items and over 23,000 price quotations of goods and services from over 3,800 outlets/shops/companies across the 10 provinces of the country every month from 1st to 10th to create the CPI index. The CPI relates to households living in both rural and urban areas of Zambia. The Selection of outlets was done

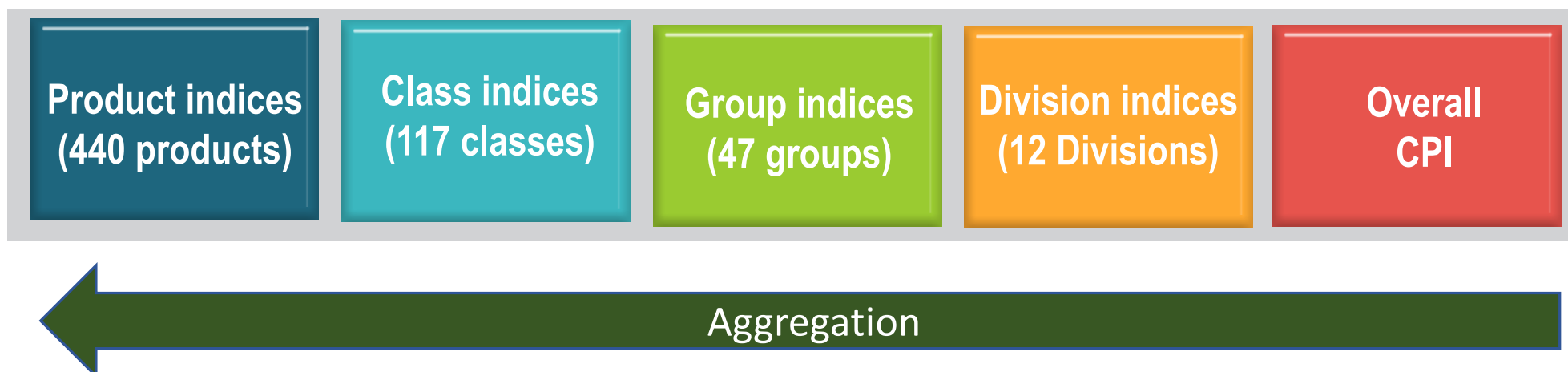
using non-probability sampling methods. Available information and application of best judgement was used to ensure that representative samples were selected. This list is obtained from a Living Conditions and Monitoring Survey/Household Budget Survey which monitors household expenditure patterns. This is a fixed basket of goods and services monitored over a period of years.

Classification

The classification of household expenditures used in a CPI provides the necessary framework for the various stages of CPI compilation. It provides a structure for purposes of weighting and aggregation, and also a basis for stratifying the samples of products whose prices are collected. the CPI is categorized according to the international system called the COICOP (Classification of individual

consumption according to purpose). The first level of classification in COICOP consists of 12 divisions covering total consumption expenditures of households. At the second level of disaggregation, the 12 divisions are divided into 47 groups of products, which are in turn divided into 117 classes of products at the third level. The CPIs are calculated at all levels starting from the price indices also known as elementary indices up all the way to division indices.

Structure of the Consumer Price Index



Consumer Price Index (CPI) Weights

The goods and service in the CPI basket are classified according to the international classification system, Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP) as recommended by the UN to allow for international comparability.

The CPI weights follows the structure of the COICOP. The weight of a product / service in a CPI basket is the proportion of total household expenditure which is spent on that product/service during the weight reference period. The weights are usually express to a 100 or 1000. The weights represent the importance of the particular product in the basket. The products with higher weights have more influence to the inflation.

Consumer Price Index - Main Group Weights by COICOP main group

All Items	1000.00
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	534.85
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	15.21
Clothing and Footwear	80.78
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas, and Other Fuels	114.11
Furnishing, Household Equip., Routine HseMtc	82.36
Health	8.15
Transport	58.08
Communication	12.94
Recreation and Culture	13.84
Education	26.62
Restaurant and Hotel	3.37
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	49.69

Some uses of CPI

Economic indicator:

CPI is the mostly used to measure inflation and is sometimes viewed as an indicator of the effectiveness

of government economic policy. It provides information about price changes in the nation's economy to government, business, labor, and other private citizens, and is used by them as a guide to making economic decisions.

CPI is used as a

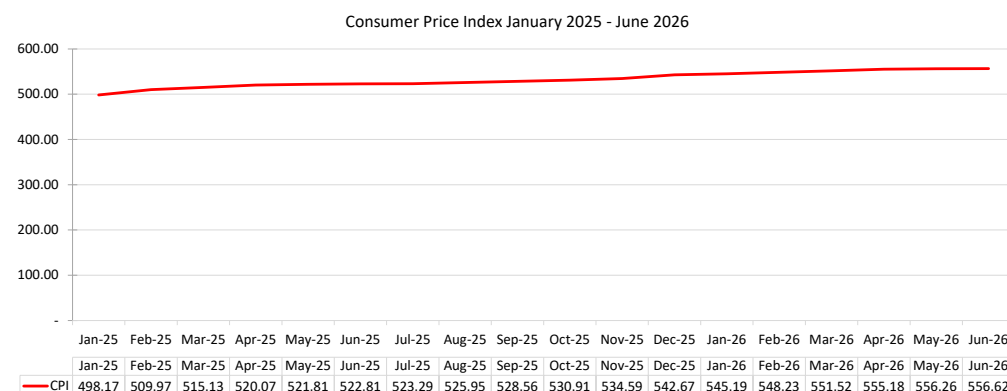
Deflator of other Economic series: The CPI and its components are used to adjust other economic series or price changes and to translate these series into inflation free kwacha. Examples of series adjusted by the CPI include retail sales, hourly and weekly earnings, and components of the national income and product accounts. An interesting example of this is the use of the CPI as a deflator of the value of the consumer's kwacha to find its purchasing power. The purchasing power of the consumer's

kwacha measures the change in the value to the consumer of goods and services that a dollar will buy at different dates. In other words, as prices increase, the purchasing power of the consumer's kwacha declines.

CPI is used as a means of adjusting Kwacha values:

The CPI is often used to adjust consumers' income payments such as pensions and social security benefits, bursaries, interest payments, rents, prices.

How does the consumer price index (CPI) for Zambia look like from January 2025 to June 2026?



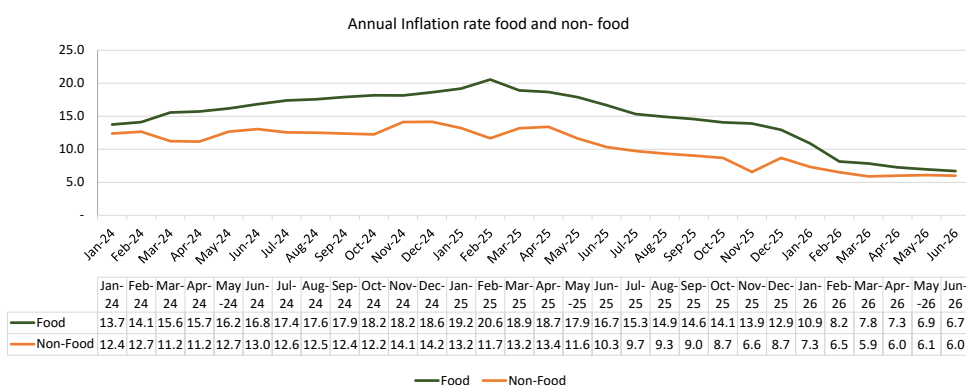
Calculation of the Annual inflation Rate
Example: What is the annual inflation rate for June 2026?
Formula: $(\text{Current CPI } 2026 / \text{Previous CPI } 2025) - 1$
 $\times 100$
 $= ((556.26 / 521.81) - 1) \times 100$
 $= 6.6 \%$

Period	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June
2025-CPI	498.17	509.97	515.13	520.07	521.81	522.81
2026-CPI	545.19	548.23	551.52	555.18	556.26	556.62
Annual Inflation Rate (%)	9.4	7.5	7.1	6.8	6.6	6.5

How does the annual inflation rate for Zambia look like from January 2022 to June 2026?



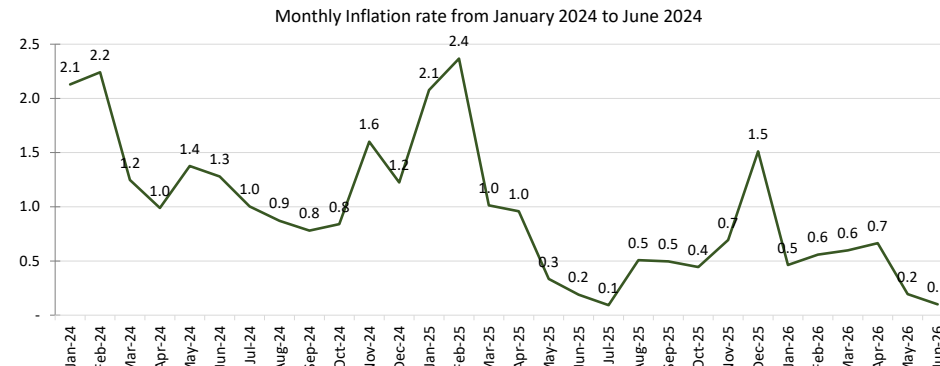
How does the Annual inflation rate for food and non- food look like from January 2022 to June 2026?



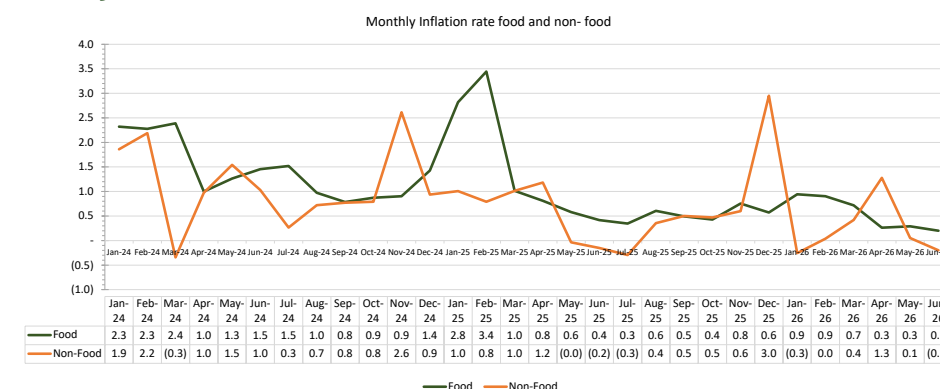
Monthly rate of inflation

The monthly inflation rate is the percentage change in the CPI of the current month compared to the CPI of the previous month. The monthly inflation rate reflects short-term changes in the average prices.

How does the monthly inflation rate for Zambia look like from January 2022 to June 2026?



How does the monthly inflation rate for food and non- food look like from January 2020 to June 2026?



What the Producer Price Index?

The producer price index (PPI) is a combination of indexes that measure the average change over time in the selling prices for goods or services produced domestically. In other words, PPI tracks inflation as manufacturers or suppliers experience it rather than from the consumer's perspective.

The producer price index (PPI) can help you understand inflation trends because it tracks price changes at the wholesale level before they reach consumers. As an early indicator, it helps investors and policymakers anticipate economic shifts, especially given its close relationship with the consumer price index (CPI). Since the PPI is made up of many components, from raw materials to finished goods, it offers insights into how market forecasts can be improved and support smarter economic decisions.

Understanding the Producer Price Index (PPI)

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is often the most frequently cited measure of inflation. This economic indicator measures the price change of a basket of goods and services from the perspective of the consumer.

However, the producer price index (PPI), often overlooked, can also be utilized to assess the rate of change in prices. The PPI is understood to measures the average change over time in the selling prices received by domestic producers for their output.

The PPI is somewhat similar to the CPI with the exception that it looks at rising prices from the perspective of the producer rather than the consumer. While the CPI looks at final prices realized by consumers, the PPI takes one step back and determines the change in output prices faced by producers. The discrepancies between the two prices are based on factors such as Value Added Tax (sales taxes) and mark-ups as products move through the various stages of the supply chain.

What does the PPI measure?

The PPI aims to track prices of all output from producers within the domestic economy. This includes goods and services that are purchased by other producers, sold directly to consumers and exported to international buyers.

How is the producer price index calculated?

To calculate the PPI two data type is required, the weights data and price data. The PPI is calculated based on the weighted average price of goods and services produced in an economy over a time period (usually a month or quarter) relative to the prices of those same goods and services produced during the same period of base year. This ratio is multiplied by 100 to give the PPI figure for that specific good or service during that period.

How is the producer price index weighted?

The weights are based on importance in the economic territory and importance is typically determined by the revenue these goods and services generate.

Take copper cathodes as an example. Imagine copper cathodes comprised most of the industry's value of sales, while steel was sold less frequently. Copper cathodes, being a larger part of the industry's value of sales, have a bigger role in the overall economy. Therefore, copper cathodes price changes would be weighted more heavily and have a greater impact on the overall PPI.

So, when calculating the PPI, price changes for goods and services representing a larger portion of the total market will have a more significant effect on the overall index than those representing a

smaller portion. This way, the PPI accurately reflects the economic sectors with the most impact on overall producer prices.

This weighting process and calculation of the PPI happens in two stages:

- First, the creation of individual indexes for specific goods or services groups and their weighing items based on their revenue generation.
- Second, combination of these individual indexes to create an overall PPI. The data used to decide the weights comes primarily from economic censuses, surveys and other administrative data such as Tax data, updated frequently usually every five years.

How is the PPI used?

Economic Indicator

The PPI serves as a leading indicator of inflation, measuring changes in the price's producers receive for goods and services over time. By capturing price movements "at the factory gate," it provides early signals of inflationary pressures that may later affect consumer prices, helping economists and policymakers anticipate trends in the broader economy.

Business and Corporate Applications

Businesses use PPI data to adjust pricing strategies, manage profit margins, and forecast costs. For example, manufacturers can track changes in input costs and plan for price adjustments in their products. The PPI also helps companies in budgeting, supply

chain management, and evaluating the impact of raw material price fluctuations on production costs.

Government and Policy Use Governments, including the Central Banks, Parliament, and the Ministry of Finance, can use the PPI data to formulate fiscal and monetary policies. By monitoring producer-level inflation, policymakers can make informed decisions on interest rates, taxation, and economic stimulus measures to stabilize the economy.

Analytical and Forecasting Uses

The PPI is classified in multiple ways—industry-level, commodity-level, and Final Demand-Intermediate Demand (FD-ID)—allowing analysts to examine price changes across sectors, products, and stages of production. This granularity enables detailed economic analysis, assessment of producer inflation transmission through production stages, and forecasting of future price trends.

Deflator of the GDP

The PPI is sometimes used to deflate nominal Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to change it into real GDP especially for the Mining, Manufacturing, Electricity Generation and Water utility industries (collectively known as the industrial sector)

Developments on the PPI in Zambia

Zambia Statistics Agency (ZamStats) has been developing a producer price index which will be launched later this year. The data collection process for PPI has been going on for over a year now.

Principle governing the production of the PPI in Zambia

The PPI being developed by ZamStats follows the recommendations and guidance contained in the Producer Price Index Manual: Theory and Practice produced IMF, ILO, OECD and the UNSD. The manual provides clear, up-to-date guidance on the concepts, uses, methods, and economic theory of the PPI, including information on classifications, sources, compilation techniques, and analytical uses of the PPI. The Manual's conceptual framework derives from the System of National Accounts and recent developments in index number theory.

Coverage of the Zambian PPI

The Zambian PPI covers three sectors in the economy; Manufacturing, Mining and Utilities (Electricity and Water).

Classification

The industries are classified according to the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) Rev.4. Is an internationally agreed classification that allows enterprises and establishments to be classified according to economic activity based on the class of goods produced or services rendered.

Zambia's PPI Weights and Sample

The weights of the PPI were derived from the turnover of enterprises recorded by the Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA).

Initially, approximately 305 products have been selected from enterprises for pricing. This includes 234 from manufacturing, 58 from utilities and 13 from mining. These are the most important products in terms of contribution to the gross output or turnover of the selected enterprises.

Concepts and Definitions

• CPI Basket

The CPI Basket consists of specified goods and services consumed by typical households.

• Outlets

An outlet is an establishment or other place where goods or services are sold to consumers for non-business use, e.g. a shop or market stall.

• The Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures changes over time in the general level of price of goods and services that households acquire, for the purpose of consumption, with reference to the price level in 2009.

• Inflation

Inflation is the general rise in prices of goods and services on which individuals or households spend their money.

• Monthly Inflation Rate

The monthly inflation rate is calculated as the change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) of the relevant month compared with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) of the previous month expressed as a percentage.

• Annual Inflation Rate

The annual inflation rate is calculated as the change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) of the relevant

month of the current year compared with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) of the same month in the previous year expressed as a percentage.

• Weight

A weight is a measure of the relative importance of each item in the CPI or PPI basket. The weights reflect the importance households attach to certain items through the amounts they spend on them in their monthly household consumption and expenditure.

• COICOP

The items in the CPI basket are categorized according to the International classification system, Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP) recommended by the UN. This is important as it facilitates international comparability.

• The Producer Price Index (PPI)

A Producer Price Index (PPI) is a measure of the rate of change in the prices of goods bought and sold by producers in an economy in a specified period of time. A PPI can either be an Output PPI or an Input PPI.

• Output PPI

Output PPI measures the rate of change in the prices of products sold as they leave the producer.

• Input PPI

Input PPI measures the rate of change in the prices of the inputs of goods purchased by the producer

Zambia advances in GDP Rebasing Process

Last year, we introduced readers to Zambia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) rebasing exercise and explained why updating the country's base year from 2010 to 2023 is important for producing more accurate and relevant economic statistics. GDP rebasing remains one of the Zambia Statistics Agency's major statistical undertakings, aimed at ensuring that national accounts reflect the current structure of the economy.

Since then, significant progress has been made.

Phase 1. Economic Establishment Census (EEC)

One of the key milestones achieved in the rebasing programme is the successful completion of the 2025 Economic Establishment Census (EEC). Conducted across all ten provinces and covering Zambia's 1,858 wards, the census provides the most comprehensive picture of economic activity ever compiled in the country.

The EEC identified and profiled 485,034 active economic establishments, ranging from large corporations operating

from permanent structures to small informal businesses found in markets, kiosks and temporary structures.

The exercise covered:

- Regular businesses operating from permanent structures such as buildings, offices, shops, and containers; and
- Micro businesses operating from kiosks, market stalls, and other temporary or informal structures.

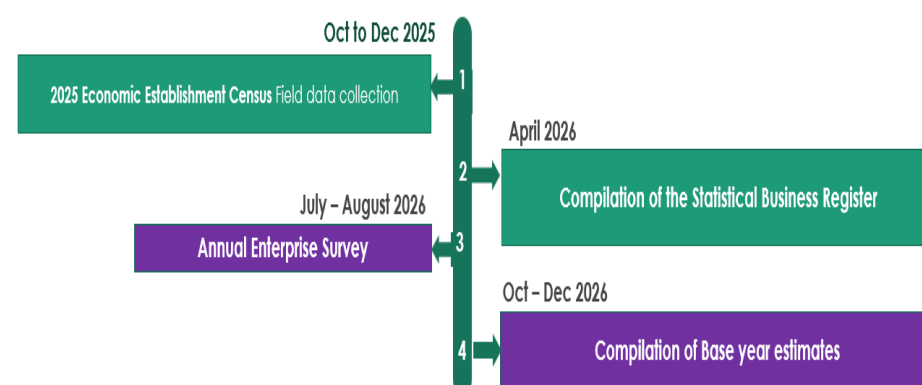
Beyond simply counting businesses, the census collected important information on their principal (main) economic activities, number of workers, legal status, business size, Formal and informal status of businesses and geographic location using Geographic Information System (GIS) technology.

One of the major outcomes of the census was the development of a comprehensive Statistical Business Register (SBR), which will serve as the official database of active businesses in Zambia and provide a sampling frame for future economic surveys.

investment activities. These data are critical inputs for compiling GDP using internationally

recommended methodologies under the System of National Accounts (SNA 2008).

2025 GDP REBASING TIMELINE



The successful completion of the Economic Establishment Census marks an important milestone in Zambia's GDP rebasing programme. As the country progresses to the Annual Enterprise Survey, ZamStats remains committed to producing high-quality, internationally comparable economic statistics that support evidence-based policymaking, investment decisions and sustainable national development.

Frequently Asked Questions

How does the Economic Establishment Census support GDP rebasing?

The census identifies where businesses operate, the economic activities they undertake, their size, employment levels and location. This information ensures that all sectors of the economy are adequately represented when compiling GDP, resulting in more accurate national accounts.

What happens after the Economic Establishment Census?

The next major activity is the Annual Enterprise Survey (AES). The survey will collect detailed financial and production information from selected businesses, including output, intermediate consumption, compensation of employees and investment. These data will be used in compiling the rebased GDP estimates.

Will every business participate in the Annual Enterprise Survey?

No. Unlike the Economic Establishment Census, which covered all economic establishments, the Annual Enterprise Survey will be conducted on a scientifically selected sample of enterprises drawn from the Statistical Business Register developed through the census.

What is the Statistical Business Register

The Statistical Business Register (SBR) is an official database of active economic establishments in Zambia. It provides a reliable sampling frame for economic surveys and supports the production of quality economic statistics.

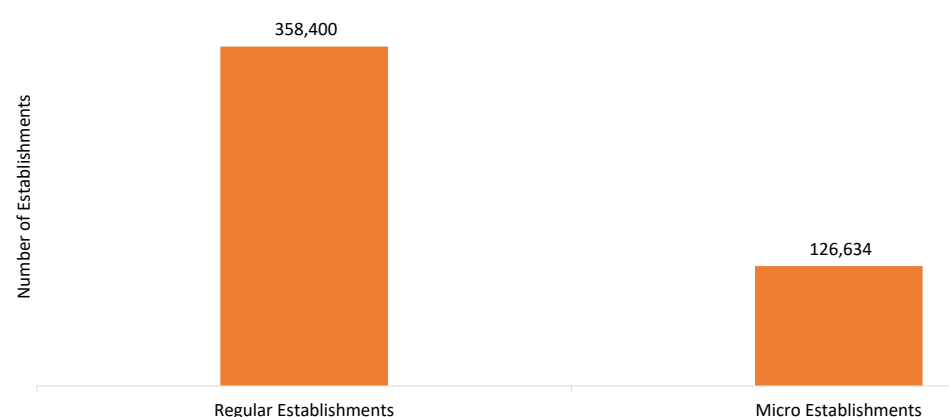
Will the Economic Establishment Census change Zambia's GDP?

No. The census itself does not change GDP. It provides updated information that supports the compilation of more comprehensive and accurate GDP estimates during the rebasing exercise.

How will citizens benefit from GDP rebasing?

More accurate economic statistics support better government planning, improved policy formulation, informed investment decisions and more effective allocation of national resources. Reliable statistics are a bedrock of sound economic management effectively leading to sustainable economic development.

Distribution of Economic Establishments by Type, Zambia, 2025



This figure shows that of the 485,034 establishments identified during the 2025 Economic Establishment Census, 358,400 (73.9%) were regular establishments operating from permanent structures, while 126,634 (26.1%) were micro establishments operating from temporary or informal structures.

Phase 2: Annual Enterprise Survey.

With the Economic Establishment Census successfully completed,

the rebasing exercise now moves into its second phase, the Annual Enterprise Survey (AES), scheduled for July 2026.

While the EEC identified and classified businesses operating throughout Zambia, the AES will collect detailed economic information from a scientifically selected sample of these enterprises. The survey will gather data on production, sales, intermediate consumption, compensation of employees, operating expenses and

Zambia's Fuel Imports, 2021–2025

- Fuel import volumes rose from 0.70 million metric tonnes in 2021 to 2.59 million metric tonnes in 2025.
- Fuel accounted for 16.62% of total import bill in 2025

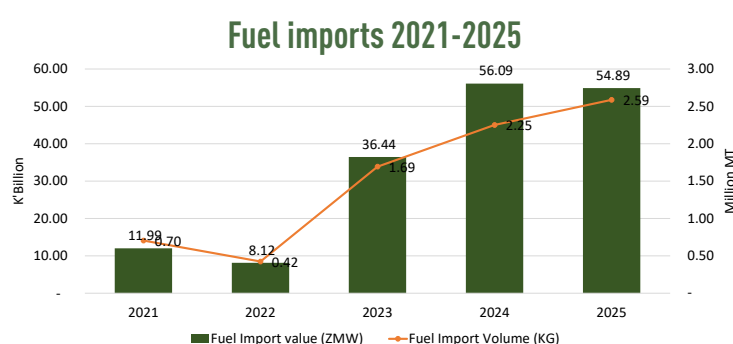
Fuel is one of the most strategic commodities imported into Zambia. It supports transportation, mining, manufacturing, agriculture, power generation and many other economic activities. Understanding fuel import trends provides valuable insights into economic performance, trade patterns and the country's energy requirements. An analysis of fuel import statistics for the period 2021 to 2025 reveals significant changes in both the value and volume of fuel imports, as well as the composition and sources of imported fuel products.

Zambia's fuel import bill increased substantially during the review period. Fuel import expenditure stood at K11.99 billion in 2021 before declining to K8.12 billion in 2022. Thereafter, the country experienced a sharp increase in fuel import costs, with expenditure reaching K36.44 billion in 2023 and K56.09 billion in 2024. Although the value moderated slightly to K54.89 billion in 2025,

it remained significantly above levels recorded at the beginning of the period.

Several factors may explain this trend. Rising global energy prices, increased domestic demand, growth in economic activity and expansion in energy-intensive sectors such as mining likely contributed to the increase in import expenditure. What is obvious is that fuel remains a major driver of Zambia's import bill and a key component of external trade.

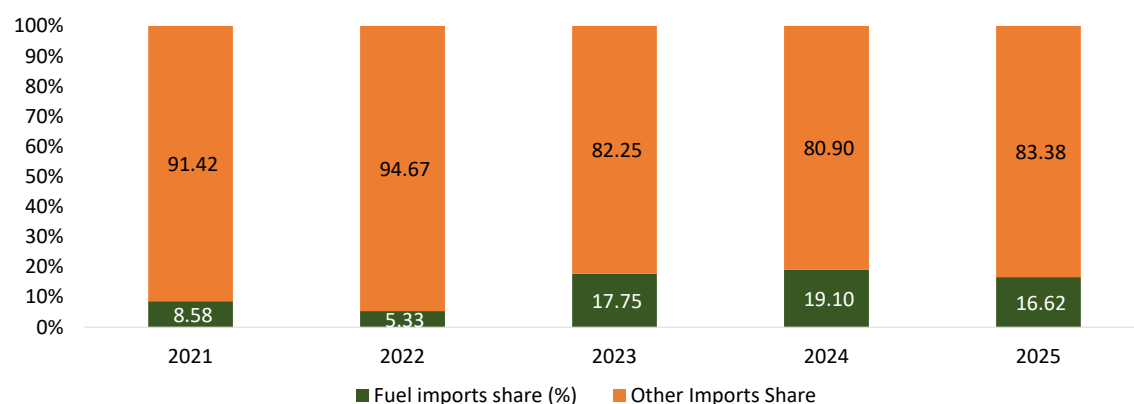
The volume of fuel imported into the country also increased considerably. Fuel import volumes rose from 0.70 million metric tonnes in 2021 to 2.59 million metric tonnes in 2025. This increase demonstrates growing demand for petroleum products as economic activity expanded. The rise in import volumes also reflects increased consumption associated with freight transport, industrial production, construction projects and agricultural operations.



Fuel's contribution to total imports has remained significant throughout the review period. The share of fuel imports in Zambia's overall import basket increased from less than ten percent in 2021 to nearly one-fifth of all imports in 2024. Although the share declined slightly in 2025,

fuel continued to account for a substantial proportion of import expenditure. This highlights the importance of fuel in supporting economic growth while also demonstrating the country's dependence on imported petroleum products.

Share of fuel imports 2021-2025

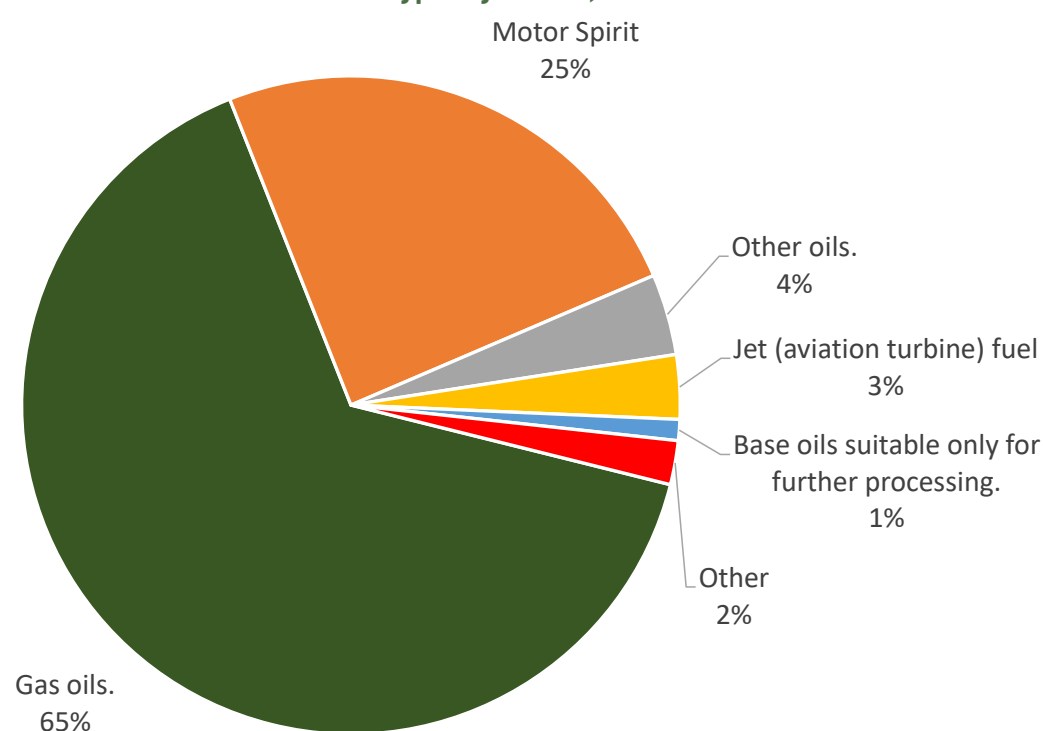


An examination of the composition of fuel imports reveals that gas oils dominated the market, accounting for 65.1 percent of all fuel imports between 2021 and 2025. Gas oils are widely used in heavy-duty transport, mining machinery, generators and industrial equipment.

Their dominance reflects the structure of Zambia's economy, particularly the importance of mining, construction and logistics. Motor spirit, commonly referred to as petrol, accounted for 24.6 percent of total fuel imports. This category primarily supports

passenger vehicles and light commercial transport. Other fuel products, including aviation fuel, base oils and other petroleum derivatives, represented a smaller share of imports but remain essential for specialized sectors of the economy.

Fuel types by Shares, 2021-2025



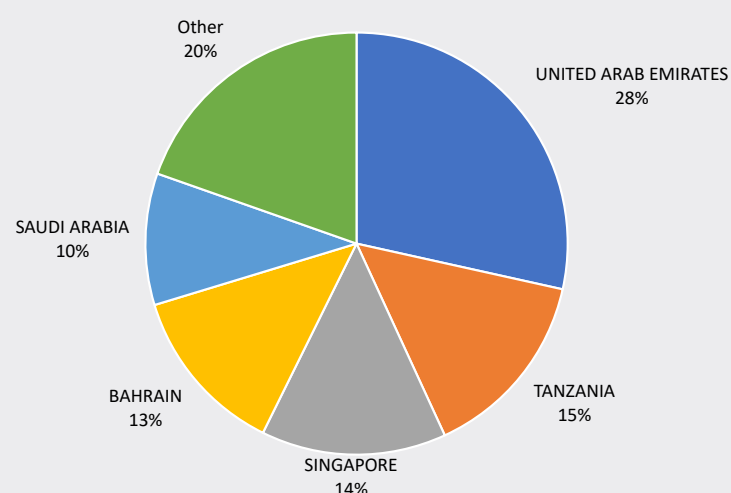
The geographical distribution of fuel suppliers shows that Zambia relies on a diversified network of international trading partners. The United Arab Emirates was the leading source of fuel imports, contributing 28.5 percent of the total. Tanzania ranked second with 14.7 percent, followed closely by Singapore

with 14.2 percent. Bahrain and Saudi Arabia accounted for 13.0 percent and 10.1 percent respectively, while other countries collectively supplied 19.6 percent of imported fuel.

The prominence of Middle Eastern suppliers reflects their role as major global

petroleum producers and trading hubs. Tanzania's position among the leading suppliers highlights the importance of regional trade corridors and logistics infrastructure in ensuring reliable fuel supplies for Zambia.

Main sources of fuel (%), 2021-2025



Looking ahead, fuel demand is expected to remain strong as economic growth continues and industrial activities expand. This underscores the need for continued investment in fuel storage facilities, transport infrastructure and energy security measures. At the same time, efforts to diversify energy sources, improve efficiency and expand the use of renewable energy technologies could help reduce vulnerability to fluctuations in international oil prices.

The period 2021–2025 was characterized by substantial growth in both the value and volume of fuel imports. Fuel remained one of Zambia's most important import commodities, supporting economic activity across multiple sectors. Monitoring fuel import trends remains important for policy formulation, trade analysis and energy planning. These statistics provide valuable insights for policymakers, businesses and citizens seeking to understand the evolving dynamics of Zambia's economy and energy sector.

These opportunities in digital trade bring up policy implications. Several challenges continue to constrain the growth of digital trade in Zambia. Limited internet access in some rural areas, relatively high connectivity costs, cybersecurity concerns. In addition, online platforms may pose competition challenges such as anti-competitive conduct, durable market power and high barrier to entry. Other policy concerns are on taxation as digital presence challenges the allocation of taxing rights based on physical presence. Addressing these policy questions means closing the gap in trade statistics by measuring digital trade. There should be answers to questions like, how much trade do digital platforms create; what are the opportunities, including for MSMEs; what are the barriers to digital trade.

macroeconomic standards. National Statistical Offices/ Statistics agencies and other data-producing agencies are increasingly exploring plausible ways to measure digital in their countries. Reliable statistics on digital trade are essential for understanding the contribution of digital activities to economic growth, employment, productivity, and international trade performance. Such statistics also support evidence-based policymaking and enable governments to monitor progress toward national development objectives.

For researchers, digital trade represents an emerging area of study with significant implications for economic development. Understanding how digital technologies influence business performance, market integration, innovation, and income generation can provide valuable insights into Zambia's development trajectory. Research can also help identify barriers to participation and assess the effectiveness of policies aimed at promoting digital transformation.

As Zambia pursues its development aspirations under national development frameworks and broader regional initiatives, the role of digital trade is expected to become increasingly important. Continued improvements in information and communication technology infrastructure, enhanced digital skills, and stronger institutional frameworks will be critical in enabling businesses and individuals to fully participate in the digital economy.

Digital Trade in Zambia: Opportunities and the Role of Statistics

The rapid growth of digital technologies is transforming the way businesses, consumers, and governments interact across the globe. Increasingly, international trade is no longer limited to the physical movement of goods across borders. Digital platforms, electronic payments, online marketplaces, cloud computing, and digitally delivered services have created new channels through which economic transactions can occur. This phenomenon, commonly referred to as digital trade, is becoming an important component of modern economies and presents both opportunities and challenges for Zambia.

Digital trade encompasses all cross-border trade that is enabled by digital technologies. It includes the online sale or purchase of goods through e-commerce platforms as well as the cross-border provision of services such as software development, digital marketing, financial technology solutions, online

education, consulting services, and cloud-based applications. As internet connectivity improves and digital payment systems become more accessible, Zambia is gradually integrating into the global digital economy. In recent years, Zambia has witnessed significant growth in the use of online buying and selling platforms and electronic payment platforms. At the same time, local entrepreneurs are increasingly using digital platforms such as websites, and online marketplaces to market products and reach customers beyond traditional geographical boundaries. These developments demonstrate the growing importance of digital trade as a driver of economic activity and innovation.

For businesses, digital trade offers several advantages. It lowers transaction costs, improves market access, and enables firms to reach customers both domestically and internationally. Small and medium-sized

enterprises (SMEs), which constitute a significant portion of Zambia's business sector, can leverage digital platforms to participate in regional and global markets without the need for substantial physical infrastructure. This has the potential to increase competitiveness, stimulate entrepreneurship, and create employment opportunities, particularly among young people who are often early adopters of digital technologies.

The services sector stands to benefit significantly from digital trade. Skilled professionals in Zambia can provide services remotely to clients located anywhere in the world. Software developers, graphic designers, accountants, consultants, educators, and content creators can export their expertise digitally, generating foreign exchange earnings while contributing to economic diversification. As the global demand for digital services continues to expand, Zambia has an opportunity to position itself as a competitive supplier of knowledge-based services within the region and beyond.

From a statistical perspective, digital trade presents unique measurement challenges. Traditional trade statistics were primarily designed to capture the movement of physical goods through customs systems. However, many digital transactions occur electronically and may not involve the physical crossing of borders. As a result, measuring the value, volume, and characteristics of digital trade requires new methodologies and data sources. To address the measurement issues, a Handbook on Measuring Digital Trade second edition (2023) was prepared by World Trade Organization (WTO), OECD and UN. It provides a statistical definition of digital trade to allow for accurate, comprehensive and internationally comparable statistics, measured as a subset of and consistently with official international trade statistics. The framework for measuring digital trade is aligned with the broader



How is the Zambian Economic Performance at Industry and National Level?

2026 Enterprise Survey, 'upcoming'

The Zambia Statistics Agency (ZamStats) will this year 2026 conduct the Enterprise Survey. This follows the 2025 Economic Establishment Census and the updating of the Statistical Business Register (SBR). The survey will generate updated enterprise-level data required for the compilation of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Index of Industrial Production (IIP) and Provincial GDP.

The Enterprise Survey is designed to collect comprehensive information on the characteristics and structure of production for enterprises within Zambia. The survey covers enterprises engaged in economic activities across all economic activities within the geographical boundaries of the country.

Mandated by the Statistics Act No.13 of 2018 of the

Laws of Zambia, ZamStats conducts censuses and surveys to generate economic statistics required for national accounts compilation and other macroeconomic indicators, and the Enterprise Survey is one of the surveys to fulfil the mandate.

How will this data be collected?

A detailed questionnaire will be administered to selected enterprises to collect information on areas such as business activity, employment, income, expenditure, production, assets, and other operational characteristics. The information collected will provide an important source of data for the compilation of economic statistics, including national accounts, business statistics, labour statistics, and other key economic indicators.

What is the target population?

The survey will be conducted nationwide (all districts), covering all 10 provinces. Stratification will be applied by province for the production of provincial GDP. Large enterprises will dominate the sample followed by medium ones. Small enterprises will complete the picture to also understand their production structure and other characteristics. The target population consists of enterprises that were operational during the reference period.

Legal Authority and Confidentiality.

The Enterprise Survey is conducted under the provisions of the Statistics Act No. 13 of 2018 of the Laws of Zambia. In accordance with this Act,

all selected enterprises are required to provide accurate and complete information when requested by authorised officers of the Zambia Statistics Agency.

Respondents should be assured that all information collected during the Enterprise survey will be treated with the strictest confidentiality and used solely for statistical purposes. Information relating to any individual enterprise will not be disclosed to unauthorized persons, nor will it be published in a manner that could identify a specific enterprise, organization, or individual.

Importance of the Enterprise Survey.

The Enterprise Survey will provide comprehensive information on the structure and performance of the

Zambian economy. The survey will primarily cover formal sector establishments identified in the Statistical Business Register. The informal sector activities will be supplemented using household-based surveys including the Household Budget Survey and Informal Sector Surveys.

Results from the Enterprise Survey will support evidence-based policymaking, development planning, investment promotion, research, and monitoring of economic performance at industry and national levels.

'Participate in the Enterprise Survey because the success of this important national exercise depends on your full support.'

ZAMBIA FINSCOPE SURVEY 2025: Progress Towards Universal Financial Inclusion

Introduction

The 2025 Financial Scoping (FinScope) Survey is the latest nationally representative survey tracking access to and usage of financial products and services among the adult population in the country. The survey was implemented by Bank of Zambia and Zambia Statistics Agency in collaboration with other key stakeholders in the financial sector.

Financial Inclusion

Financial inclusion means that every person — regardless of how much money they earn, where they live, or what they do for a living — has access to basic financial services they can actually use.

One of the key findings of the survey is an improvement in overall financial inclusion. The proportion of adults who are financially included was 80.1% in 2025, up from 69.4% in 2020. This means that approximately four in every five adults now have access to and use at least one financial product or service.

80.1%
Financially included (2025)

69.4%
Financially included (2020)

Financial Inclusion by Sex

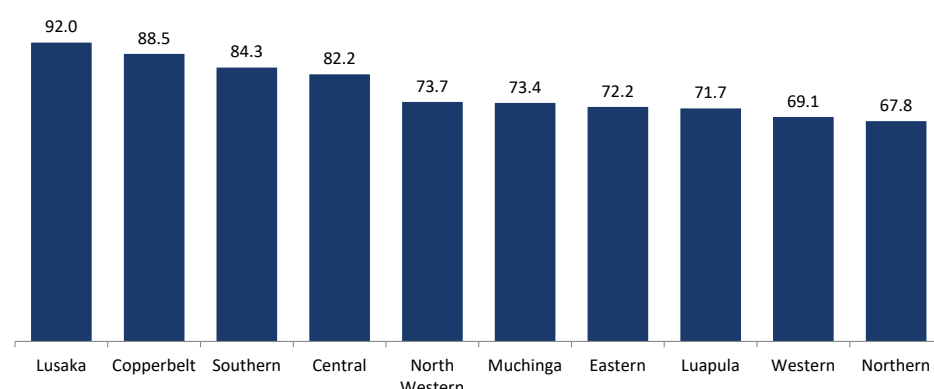
Males recorded an inclusion rate of 81.4%, while females were at 79.2%.

Financial Inclusion by Area of Residence

Financial inclusion was higher in urban than rural areas with 88.5%, compared with 72.5% in rural areas.



By province, financial inclusion is highest in Lusaka Province at 92.0 percent and lowest in Northern Province at 67.8 percent.



Key Drivers of Financial Inclusion

Mobile money remained the primary engine of financial inclusion growth in Zambia. The proportion of adults using mobile money services increased to 76.2% in 2025 from 58.4% in 2020. The expansion of mobile money networks into rural and underserved areas has been a major factor driving financial inclusion over this period. The second notable increase was in access to capital market products, which grew to 13.8% from less than a percent in 2020.

Uptake of Formal Financial Services

Description	2020	2025
Mobile money	58.4%	76.1%
Bank	20.7%	30.1%
Insurance	6.3%	10.4%
Pension	8.2%	14.6%
Capital markets	0.6%	13.8%
Microfinance	2.1%	1.3%

LABOUR MARKET

NOT EVERYONE WITHOUT A JOB IS “UNEMPLOYED”



When statistics about the labour market are disseminated, discussions about the unemployment rate take centre stage. This is because society expects the rate to be far higher than is reported.

A Layman's assumption is that the many people that we know (friends, children, neighbours and relatives) that do not have

a job are unemployed. The expectation is that even the family, friends and relatives that are already engaging in productive market activities albeit informal are also unemployed. This article up is intended to make everyone understand that it is not correct to assume unemployment simply because of absence of a job. In labour statistics, the concept of unemployment

is far more than the lack of a job.

Who are the unemployed then?

Labour statisticians will not assume that people are unemployed when they have not expressed any interest in having a paid job or starting a business simply because they do not have a job. Other

people are not interested in employment or are too busy with school, family life etc. Therefore, to be classified as unemployed, a person must meet all three of the following criteria:

1. They neither have a paying job nor own/run any business.
2. They have to be available to start work if a job or business opportunity becomes available.

3. They have actively looked for paid work or tried to start a business within a recent reference period (usually the past 30 days).

If any of these conditions are not met, the person is not considered unemployed even if they have no job. These three criteria are where the unemployment rate is derived from. The

people of working age (15 years and older) who are not in employment, are available for employment and are actively seeking employment over the labourforce (the employed and the unemployed) expressed as a percentage. This standard and lean definition is where many people in our society who we expect to be amongst the unemployed tend to fall out. Some will satisfy the first criteria only, others the second and third but not all three of them together. All the three conditions must be satisfied to be considered as unemployed. This is the strict set methodology used in the Labourforce Survey that is used by ZamStats. As the institution mandated to publish official statistics of the country, we pride ourselves in using international standard methods in compiling national statistics. The labourforce survey is based on definitions and methodology set by the International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) of the International Labour Organization (ILO) of which Zambia is a member and conforms to the set standards.

Other Labour Underutilization Measures.

1. The time-related underemployment rate is a measure of labour underutilization that provides information regarding the share of employed persons who are willing and available to increase their working time.
2. Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force.

This measure considers an additional group to the labourforce making it the extended labourforce. This includes people who are outside the labourforce as that satisfy any 2 of the 3

criteria used in defining unemployment. It is a less strict measurement of labour underutilisation as it includes those seeking but are not available for paid work and those available but are not seeking for paid work (can potentially join the labourforce any minute!). This indicator is more relatable to most developing economies as it includes people that want paid work but due to numerous reasons (lacking capital, belief that jobs are not there, not knowing where to look or feeling unqualified, tired of looking without finding etc) may not have expressed interest in seeking for employment. The indicator may consider all the relatives, friends that we see are without jobs and we assume should be counted as unemployed.

There are other measures that are given that should be used to measure the labour market. These include the labourforce participation rate that shows the ratio of the population in employment and those in unemployment out of the working age population.

The Underemployment rate which gives proportion of people working fewer hours than they want. The discouraged job seekers that show people who stopped looking for work due to lack of opportunities but have an attachment to the labour market. All these measures help capture the full complexity of joblessness and labour market engagement. Many people are already engaging in productive market activities (selling, owning/running a business or farm) that exclude them from being unemployed as they have work earning them a profit. As an Agency, our aim is to promote understanding of statistical indicators and ensure that the public widen perception and look at the labour

market holistically, thereby encouraging appropriate use of statistics.

Informality -Why it matters.

The informal economy comprises a vital but vulnerable sector of people dotted almost everywhere in Zambia. From the street traders, those running home-based businesses as well as the many running agricultural businesses. Helping informal workers access finance, training, and better markets increases productivity that builds communities and a

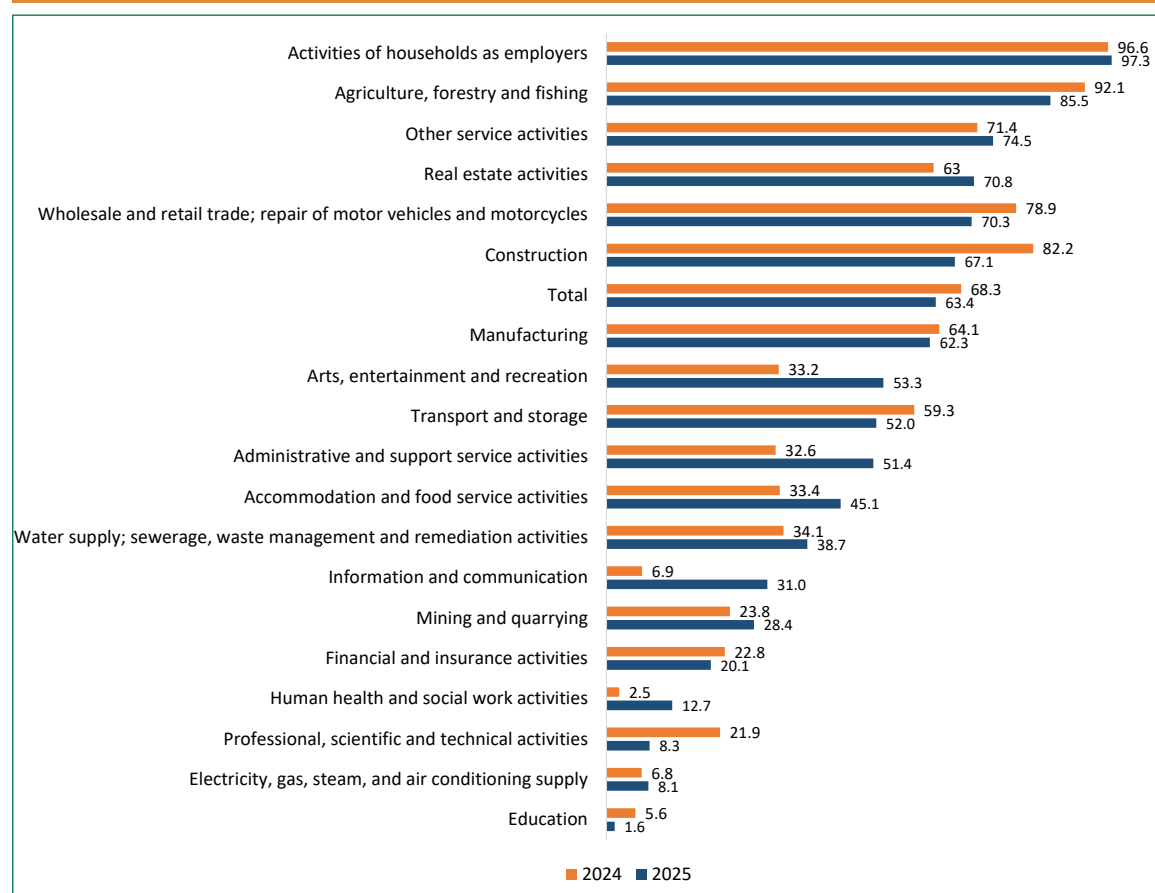
stronger more productive local economy. Informal Economy refers to all activities by workers and economic units that are not covered by formal arrangements such as social security coverage and business registration.

This implies workers who are employed in the informal sector and those in informal employment. Widening the social security coverage to this group through interventions such as the inclusion of domestic workers in social security coverage, among others are positive strides.

The 2025 Labourforce Survey estimated that of the 4,755,296 employed population, 3,015,487 were employed in the informal economy. Among the employed population, 63.4 percent were employed in the informal economy. This was a decline in the informal economy which was recorded at 68.3 percent in 2024.

In 2025, activities of households as employers had the highest proportion of persons employed in the informal economy at 97.3 percent, while the education industry had the lowest proportion at 1.6 percent.

Proportion of the Employed Population in the Informal Economy by Industry, Zambia 2024 and 2025



The businesses we term as 'small business' are a large proportion of the country's economy. They usually have no social protection, lack access to finance from lending institutions which in turn leads to low productivity and no access to formal markets. Bridging these small but numerous informal economy workers to markets has big potential in building the country's economic future.

Youth NEET: Huge Unlocked Potential

Not in employment, education or training (NEET) is a widely used indicator for informing policies aimed at providing suitable opportunities in education and training as well as monitoring the participation of young people in economic activities.

Further, the government uses NEET statistics to prioritize policies and programs that promote inclusion, skills

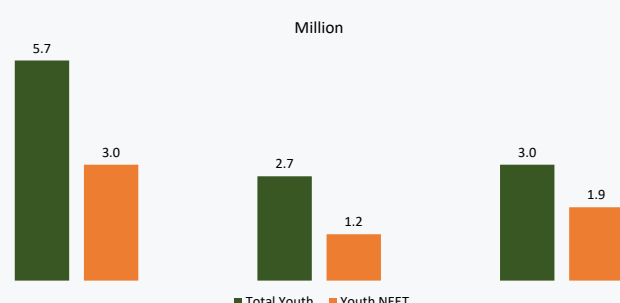
development, education and decent employment opportunities. There are a number of reasons that cause youths to be NEET. These could be fewer entry level jobs. Intervention measures such as the national graduate internship programme, access to start-up capital through CDF and increased enrolments into nationwide skills and trade (TVET) schools supported by CDF are programs that have the potential to have a positive impact through improved employability by focussing



on agriculture, ICT, construction and manufacturing. When youth gain skills that match market needs, unemployment reduces.

Of the total 5,738,124 youth (19-34 years), 3,056,911 were not in employment, education or training representing a NEET rate of 53.3 percent. There were more females in NEET than males.

Distribution of Youth (19-34 years) NEET by Sex, Zambia 2025



COUNTING EVERY LIFE:

ZAMBIA'S 2026-27 MORTALITY SURVEILLANCE SURVEY EXPLAINED

Introduction: *Why Does Counting Deaths Matter?*

Every death tells a story. It tells us something about the health of a community, the diseases that are most dangerous, whether health services are reaching people, and whether the programmes governments invest in are saving lives. But for these stories to be heard, deaths must first be counted, recorded, and investigated.

In Zambia, as in many countries across sub-Saharan Africa, a significant proportion of deaths go unrecorded. Death registration completeness in Zambia was about 20% in 2017 (ZamStats, 2020), meaning an estimated four in five deaths went unregistered. Most of these unrecorded deaths occur at home, in rural communities, far from a hospital or registration office. The people who die in these circumstances are not reflected in the national health statistics, and the causes of their deaths are unknown.

This is the problem the 2025 Mortality Surveillance Survey (MSS), being conducted by the Zambia Statistics Agency in partnership with the Ministry of Health, the University of Zambia and the Department of National Registration, Passport and Citizenship (DNRPC) is designed to address. This article explains what the survey is, how it will work, why it matters, and what members of the public can expect if a field team visits their community.

Selecting Communities

The MSS cannot visit every community in Zambia: the country is too large and the exercise too resource-intensive. Instead, a nationally representative sample of communities has been scientifically selected to ensure that the results can be reliably generalised to the whole country.

The sampling is based on the 2022 Zambia Census of Population and Housing. For the purposes of the MSS, the country's smallest census units (Enumeration Areas, or EAs) have been grouped together to form slightly larger "clusters", with an average population of about 1,400 people in rural clusters and about 2,000 in urban clusters. A total of 575 such clusters have been selected across all ten provinces.

Step 1: The Baseline Census

When a field team arrives in a selected community, the first thing they will do is conduct a baseline census of every household in the cluster. Every household will be visited. Enumerators will record the number of people living in each household, their basic demographic characteristics (age, sex, relationship to the household head), and key socio-economic details. The baseline is expected to be conducted in July and August this year.

Step 2: The Verbal Autopsy

A Verbal Autopsy (VA) interview will be conducted for every death identified during the baseline census, as well as for any death occurring in the selected communities within the 12 months following the census. In this structured interview,

a trained interviewer speaks with a close relative or caregiver of the deceased — typically the next of kin — to gather information on the signs, symptoms, and circumstances leading up to the death, the medical care received, and the broader context in which the death occurred.

The VA questionnaire is designed in age-appropriate versions: one for newborns and infants under four weeks old, one for children aged four weeks to eleven years, and one for adults aged twelve and older. Each version includes sections specific to that age group. The purpose of the VA interview is to gather the information necessary for trained analysts and computer algorithms to assign a probable cause of death, using internationally standardised methods developed by the World Health Organization.

The VA interviews are expected to be conducted from September 2026 to June 2027.

Confidentiality

All information collected is strictly confidential. Field staff are trained in confidentiality and are required to sign an oath of secrecy under the Statistics Act Number 13 of 2018 of the Laws of Zambia. Personal identifiers are used only during data collection for the purpose of linking records; they are removed from all datasets before analysis and are never published in any report. No individual's name or home location will appear in any survey output.

For respondents under the age of eighteen, a parent or guardian must first give permission before the young person is

approached. Young people are also told explicitly that their responses will not be shared with their parents or anyone else in the household.

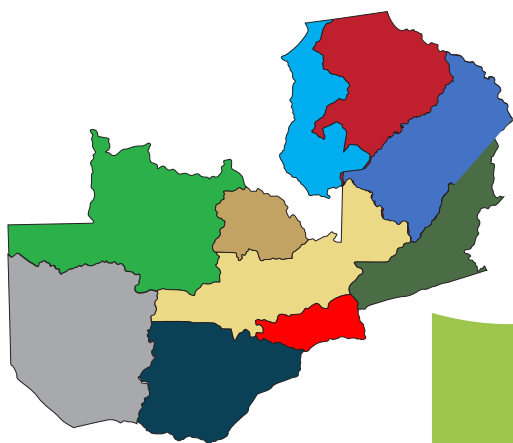
What the Survey Will Produce

The 2026-27 MSS will generate nationally representative data on a range of vital statistics indicators, including the following key outputs:

- The Crude Death Rate (CDR) and cause-specific mortality rates at national and provincial levels, classified by age, sex, rural/urban.
- Probable causes of death for children under four weeks, children aged four weeks to eleven years, and adults aged twelve and older.
- Maternal mortality data, including deaths related to pregnancy and childbirth occurring outside health facilities.

Why Your Community's Participation Matters

Every piece of information collected during the MSS contributes to a larger national effort to understand and improve the health of Zambia's population. When a family agrees to a Verbal Autopsy interview and explains the circumstances of a loved one's death, that information goes, anonymised, into a national dataset that will help policymakers decide where to direct resources, which diseases need more targeted intervention, and whether existing health programmes are working.



Zambia's Population to hit **39.9 Million** in 2047

Zambia's population is projected to reach 39.9 million in 2047, representing a demographic shift characterized by decelerating annual growth rates, increased urbanization, and rising life expectancy. These trends underscore the critical need for evidence-based planning and resource allocation to effectively address the socio-economic demands of a growing and urbanizing society.

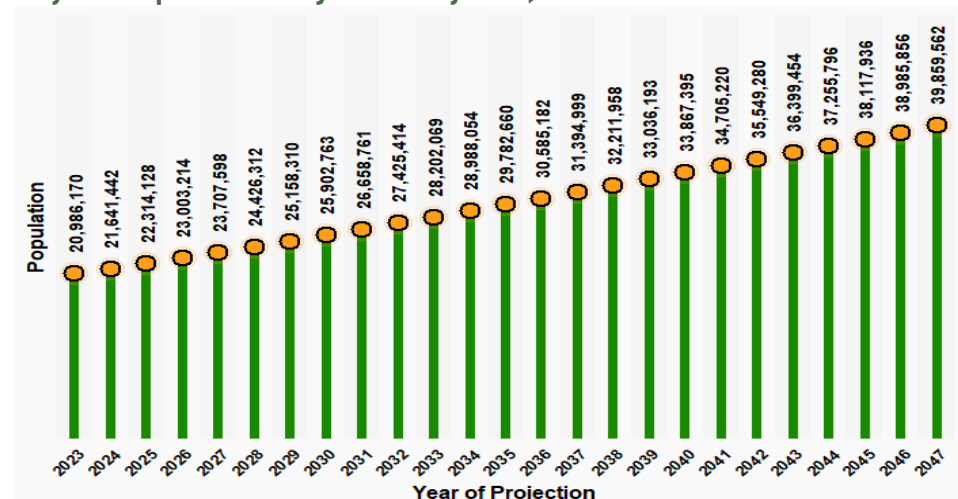
Rational for making the projections

Population projections are one of the key products produced from the 2022 Census of Population and Housing. They provide estimates of future population size, age structure, and distribution, which are essential for informed decision-making. Policymakers, planners, and researchers use population projections for planning and resource allocation during the intercensal period. For example, population projections serve as denominators for calculating key indicators such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita, labour force participation rates, child immunization coverage rates, school enrolment rates and other socio-economic and demographic indicators.

Population Size

Zambia's population size is projected to be 39.9 million in 2047, according to the current mid-year medium-variant projections. The Figure below shows that the population will increase to 39,859,562 in 2047 from 20,986,170 in 2023. As of 2026, the country's population is at 23,003,214.

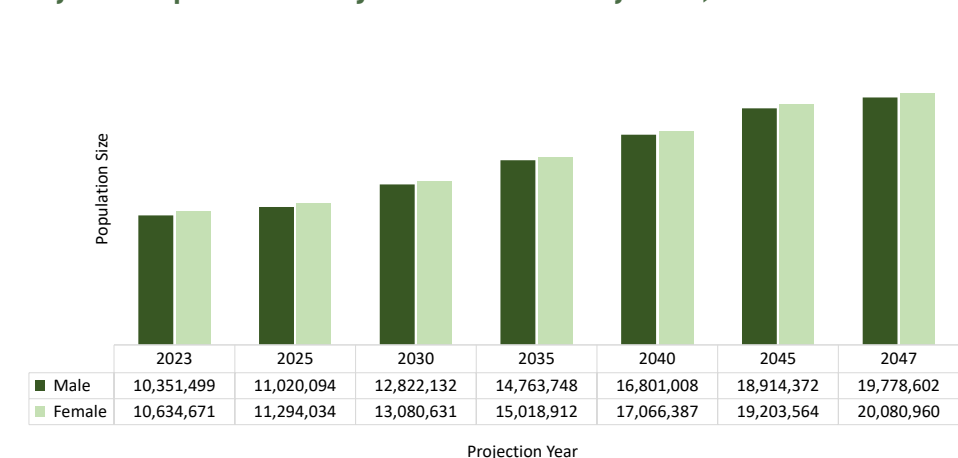
Projected Population Size by Year of Projection, Zambia 2023-2047.



Population Size by Sex

The female population is projected to consistently continue being higher than the male population during the projection period (See Figure below).

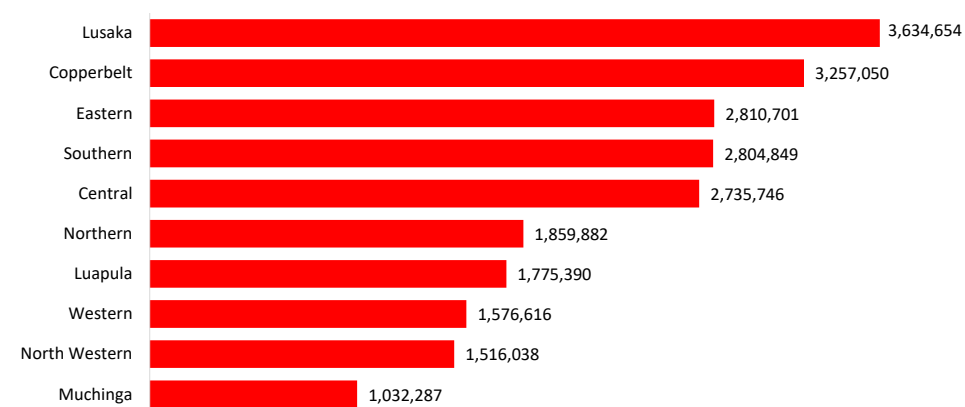
Projected Population Size by Sex and Year of Projection, Zambia 2023-2047.



Population Projections by Province

The figure below shows the population projections by province in 2026. Lusaka Province has the highest projected population at 3,634,654 while Muchinga Province has the lowest projected population at 1,032,287.

Population Projections by Province, Zambia 2026



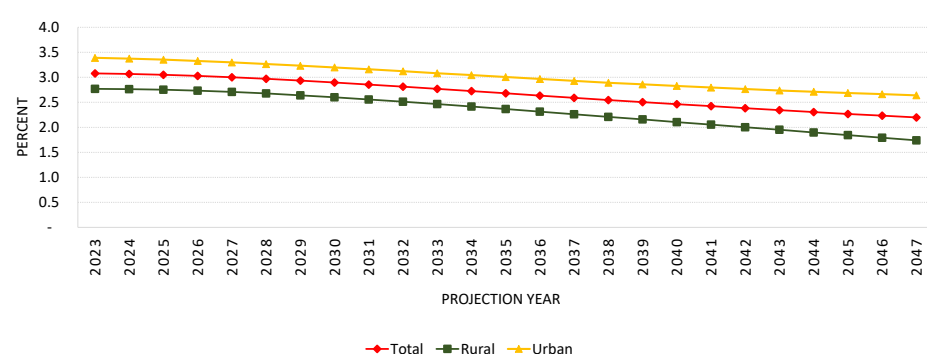
Population Growth Rate

Overall, Zambia is expected to experience an average annual growth rate of 2.7 percent throughout the projection period 2023-2049, with rural areas averaging 2.3 percent and urban areas averaging 3.0 percent. While Zambia's

total population is increasing, the pace at which the population is growing will steadily decline. The average annual population growth rate is expected to drop from 3.1 percent in 2023 to 2.2 percent in 2047. By region, urban

areas will consistently maintain the highest annual average growth rates, from 3.4 percent in 2023 to 2.6 percent in 2047, while rural growth is projected to decline from 2.8 percent to 1.7 percent over the same projection period.

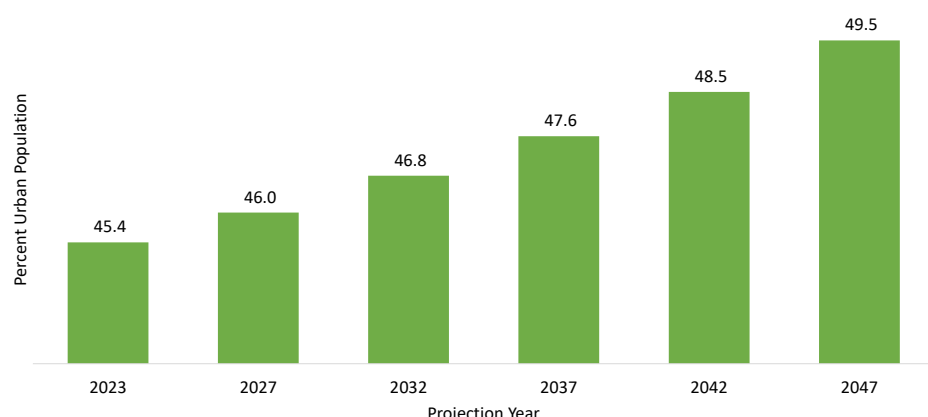
Annual Rate of Population Growth by Rural/Urban Residence, Zambia 2023-2047



Urbanisation

Zambia's population is not only growing in numbers but is also becoming a more urbanized society. About half of the country's population is expected to be residing in urban areas by 2047. In 2023, 45.4 percent of the population was residing in urban areas. In 2047, this is projected to rise to 49.5 percent.

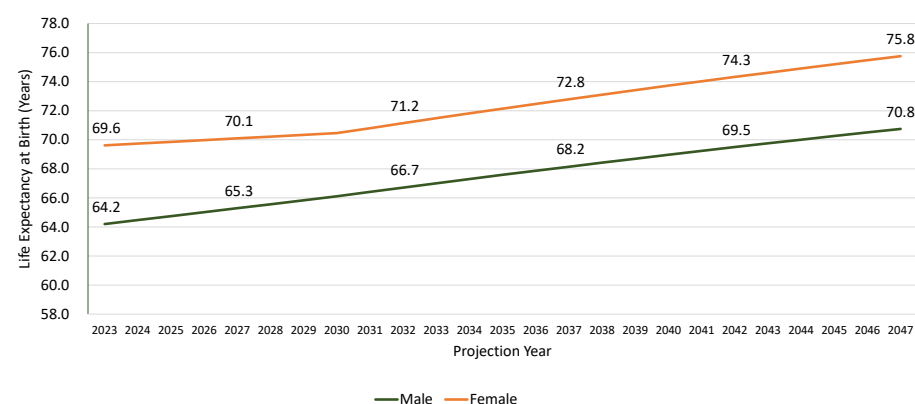
Projected Percent Urban Population by Year of Projection, Zambia 2023-2047



Life Expectancy

The figure below shows a steady upward trend in life expectancy for both males and females in Zambia. Male life expectancy is projected to increase by 6.6 years from 64.2 years in 2023 to 70.8 years in 2047, while females's life expectancy is expected to rise by 6.2 years from 69.6 years to 75.8 years over the same period.

Projected Life Expectancy by Year of Projection and Sex, Zambia 2023-2047.



Childhood Stunting in Zambia

What the data tells us — a plain language summary

Based on seven rounds of the Zambia Demographic and Health Survey, 1992–2024

What is this about?

This study was carried out by the **Zambia Statistics Agency (ZamStats)**, in collaboration with the **National Food and Nutrition Commission**, the **University of Zambia (Department of Demography, Population Science, Monitoring and Evaluation and the Department of Food Science and Nutrition)**, and **GIZ Zambia**. It looks at childhood stunting in Zambia over 32 years — from 1992 to 2024.

Stunting means a child is too short for their age. It is a sign of long-term poor nutrition, often caused by not getting enough food, poor hygiene, frequent illness, or lack of care during early childhood. It can affect a child's brain development, school performance, and health for the rest of their life.

The Zambian government has set an ambitious goal: cut stunting from 32% down to 15% by 2030.

Key Numbers at a Glance

National stunting rate in 2024 32.1% Down from 46.4% in 1992
Government target by 2030 15% Requires cutting stunting in half within 6 years
Highest burden province (Luapula, 2024) 45.3% Nearly 1 in 2 children are stunted

How has stunting changed over time?

Overall, the share of children who are stunted has fallen significantly since 1992 — but the pace of improvement has been slowing in recent years.

National trend (% of children under 5 who are stunted):

1992	1996	2001	2007	2013	2018	2024
46.4%	45.0%	47.0%	39.9%	40.0%	34.6%	32.1%

The steepest drop happened between 2001 and 2007 (a decline of 7.1 percentage points). Between 2018 and 2024, it only dropped by 2.5 percentage points — the slowest progress in the entire period.

Rural vs Urban

Children in rural areas are consistently more affected than those in urban areas. By 2024:

- Stunting in Rural areas: 36.3% (down from 52.8% in 1992)
- Stunting in Urban areas: 26.1% (down from 39.2% in 1992)

Both groups still have a long way to go before reaching the 15% target.

Are boys and girls equally affected?

No — boys are consistently more affected than girls across all seven survey rounds.

By 2024: 34.8% of boys were stunted, compared to 29.6% of girls.

The study recommends that nutrition programmes are designed with this difference in mind — for example, by including sex-specific growth monitoring and targeted counselling for boys.

Which age group is most at risk?

Babies under 6 months are least at risk — they are still being breastfed and are largely protected.

The danger window is 12–59 months (1 to 5 years old). This is when children transition to solid foods and the risk of poor nutrition spikes sharply. Children aged 24–59 months were over 4 times more likely to be stunted compared to infants in 2024.

Which provinces are worst affected?

Luapula and Northern provinces have had the highest stunting rates throughout the entire study period — and they remain far above the national average.

Province	1992	2024
Luapula	63.0%	45.3%
Northern	59.9%	42.6%
National average	46.4%	32.1%

Even after 32 years of progress, nearly 1 in 2 children in Luapula is still stunted. These provinces need targeted, urgent attention.

Lusaka and Southern provinces recorded the lowest stunting rates over time. Stunting rates in Lusaka Province reduced from 38.6 percent in 1992 to 20.1 percent in 2024. Southern Province dropped from 42.6 percent to 27.2 percent within the same period.

What has been driving the decline?

The study used statistical analysis to determine what contributed to stunting declining between 2001 and 2024. The contribution of each socio-demographic, economic, maternal and environmental, sanitation and health factors to the decline in stunting was calculated through a decomposition analysis.

Four main factors stand out:

Factor	What the data shows
More educated mothers	When more women completed secondary school, stunting fell. Education accounts for about 10% of the national reduction.
Healthier babies at birth	More babies born at a healthy size (linked to better maternal care during pregnancy) reduced stunting — especially in urban areas, by up to 26%.
Better water & sanitation	Access to clean water and proper toilets made a major difference, particularly in rural and high-burden provinces.
Smaller household sizes	Families with fewer children tended to have better nutrition outcomes for each child.

Is stunting affecting all families equally?

No. The study found that stunting is heavily concentrated among the poorest households and children whose mothers have little or no formal education.

This means that economic and educational inequality is directly linked to nutrition inequality. Reducing poverty and expanding education — especially for girls and women — are therefore central to reducing stunting.

What needs to happen to reach 15% by 2030?

The study makes four key recommendations:

1. Focus on the first 1,000 days

The period from pregnancy through a child's second birthday is the most critical window. Scale up breastfeeding support, maternal nutrition supplements, and appropriate feeding practices for young children.

2. Direct resources to the hardest-hit areas

Northern and Luapula provinces need more investment in infrastructure, water and sanitation, and health services. At the same time, lessons can be learned from provinces like Lusaka and Southern, which have achieved lower rates.

3. Design programmes that account for gender

Since boys face a higher risk of stunting, nutrition and growth monitoring programmes should include sex-specific approaches.

4. Expand social protection and food support

Cash transfers and nutrition-sensitive agricultural programmes can help poor families afford and access nutritious food, which is essential for child growth.

About this summary

This is a plain language summary of the study "Trends in Determinants of Stunting in Zambia (1992–2024): Insights from National Household Surveys", produced by ZamStats, NFNC, UNZA, and GIZ under the National Information Platform for Nutrition.

COMPENDIUM OF STATISTICAL CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS FOR THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEMS (NSS)

The Zambia Statistics Agency as the body that coordinates the National Statistical System (NSS), took the initiative to produce the Compendium of Statistical Concepts and Definitions for the National Statistical System. This was done in consultation with other key stakeholders i.e. the line ministries, research institutions and data users. The Compendium was developed as part of ZamStats' effort to improve coordination of the NSS and to ensure, timely production of relevant and standardized quality statistics that are comparable over time locally and internationally. The development of the Compendium of Statistical Concepts and Definitions was as a result of one major

identified setback in the NSS that, definitions of concepts, variables and classifications used in data production tend to vary and this introduces discrepancies that are making comparison and trend analysis difficult or sometimes impossible.

The Compendium is an instrument meant to guide data collection, data analysis and data dissemination across the entire NSS. It strives to ensure standardisation, coordination and harmonisation of all data collection initiatives in order to have a common understanding of statistics.

KEY ASPECTS OF THE COMPENDIUM:

- **Standardization:**
 - Ensures all data producers within the National Statistical System use the same definitions and methods.
- **Coverage:**
 - Includes concepts for various sectors (e.g. health & human services, education, transport, petroleum) and covers extensive variables.
- **Purpose:**
 - To guide data collection, analysis, and dissemination, improving data quality and comparability for national development planning.
- **Implementation:**
 - Each Ministry, Department, and Agency

(MDA) is expected to adopt it, with Zambia Statistics Agency working with them to ensure compliance.

Use of the Compendium by all actors in the NSS will ensure adherence to common concepts and definitions in data production and use, and enhanced comparability. The Compendium outlines a list of statistical concepts and definitions that are central in the design, implementation and evaluation of development frameworks.

The first edition of the compendium was not exhaustive and comprehensive and thus the revision of this compendium from the 2018 version forms part of activities in the NSS. By its very nature,

the compendium is dynamic as the need to include new terms, revise and refine existing definitions will always arise in future.

Use of Compendium by all stakeholders will ensure adherence to common standards outlined in the Strategy for the Harmonisation of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA), African Charter on Statistics (AfSC) and United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (UNFPOS), among others.

The Compendium of Statistical Concepts and Definitions publication can be assessed from the Zamstats website: www.zamstats.gov.zm



2025/2026

Crop Forecasting Survey (CFS), Food Balance Sheet (FBS) and Livestock Statistics

Highlights of the Crop Forecasting Survey:

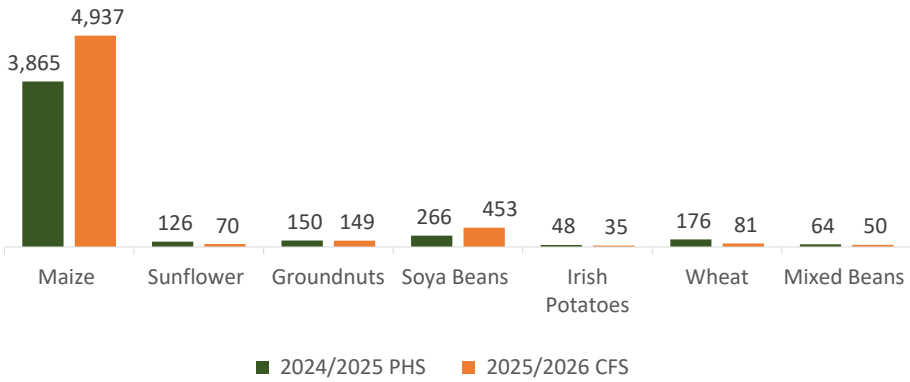
Zambia Projected to have a Bumper Harvest
4,937,605 METRIC TONS



The Ministry of Agriculture, through the Zambia Statistics Agency conducts the annual Crop Forecast Survey to estimate national crop production. Combined with the Food Balance Sheet, this data answers critical question: Will Zambia produce enough to feed itself in 2026? These results guide government, private sector, and farmers on planning, trade and investment.

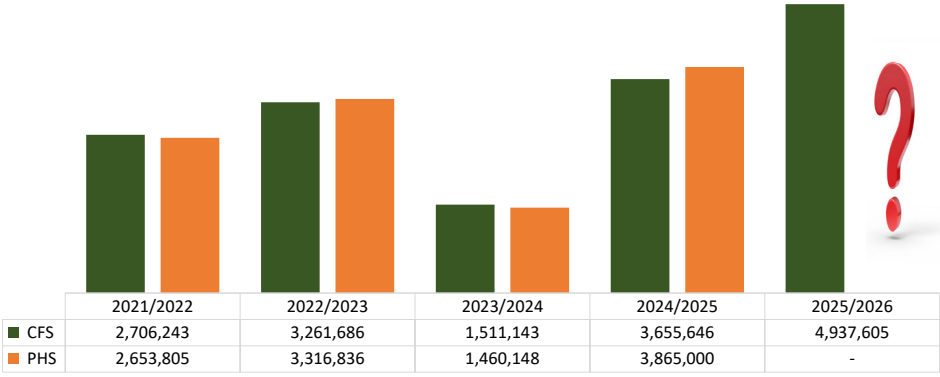
The survey design covered all the provinces across the country and involved small and medium and large-scale farms. The survey had a total of 792 Enumeration Areas (EAs) for small and medium scale and about 3,000 Large Scale farms. The survey is designed to provide national and provincial estimates.

2024/2025 PHS Versus 2025/2026 CFS Production of Some Crops ('000Mt)

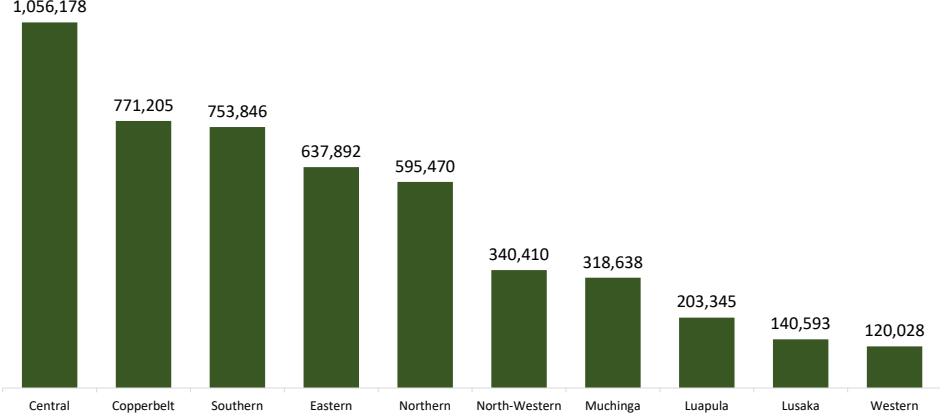


National maize production is estimated at about 4.9 Million, representing a 27.8 percent increase from the 2024/2025 Agriculture Season.

Expected Production versus Actual Production for Maize (Mt)



Distribution of Expected Maize production (MT) by Category, 2025/2026 CFS



Central province is expected to lead in maize production at 1,056,178 MT, followed by Copperbelt at 771,205 MT. Western province is projected to have the least maize to be produced at 120,028 MT.

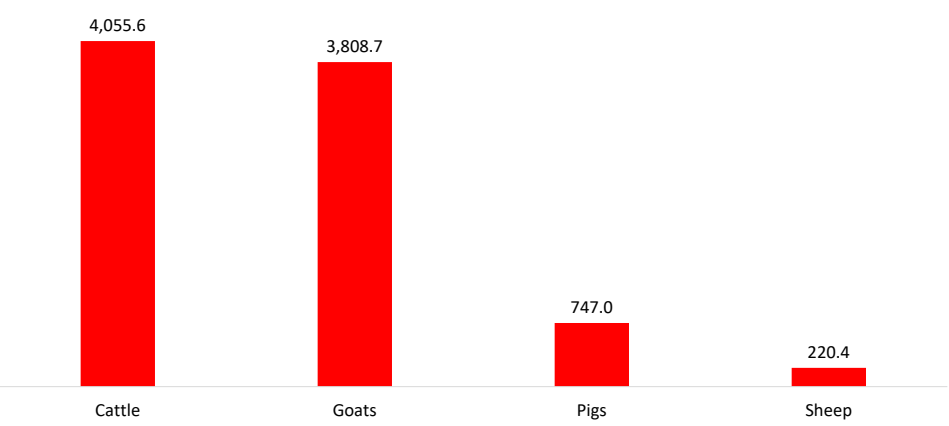
Food Balance Sheet

National (CEREALS AND TUBERS) Food Balance for Zambia for the 2026/2027 Agricultural Marketing Season

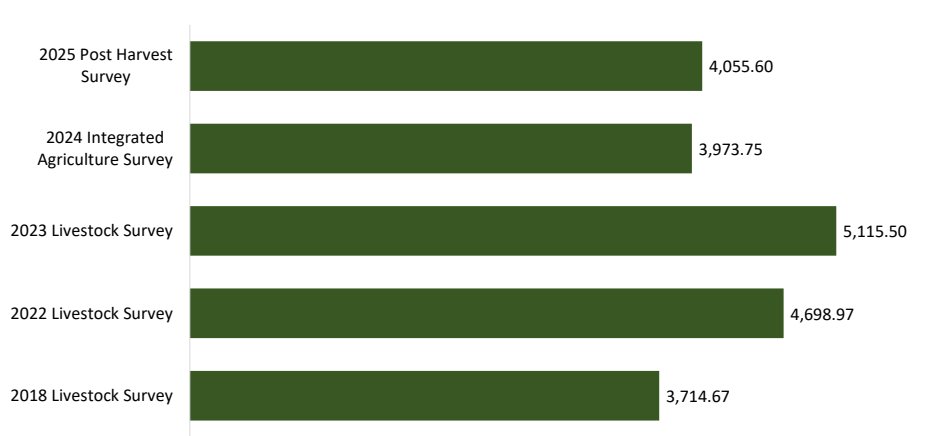
ITEM	QUANTITY (MT)
Total Availability	6,713,142
National Requirement	4,223,916
Surplus/Deficit	2,489,226

Zambia expects a maize surplus of 2,489,226 MT for the 2026/2027 marketing season. This means sufficient stock for local consumption.

2024/2025 Post Harvest Survey National Livestock Figures ('000)



Number of Cattle Across Surveys ('000)



The 2024/2025 PHS cattle estimate is slightly above the 2024 IAS, but still below the 2023 livestock survey peak.

Gender Equality Perception Survey underway

The Zambia Statistics Agency,

in collaboration with key stakeholders is currently conducting the 2026 Gender Equality Perception Survey (GEPS). This is a national wide baseline survey specifically focused on capturing data on public perceptions on the long existing gender issues. The survey will be conducted from May to June 2026.

There is a critical gap in understanding the reasons behind

these gender issues although the current existing data highlights gender disparities across various sectors affecting women, men, boys, and girls.

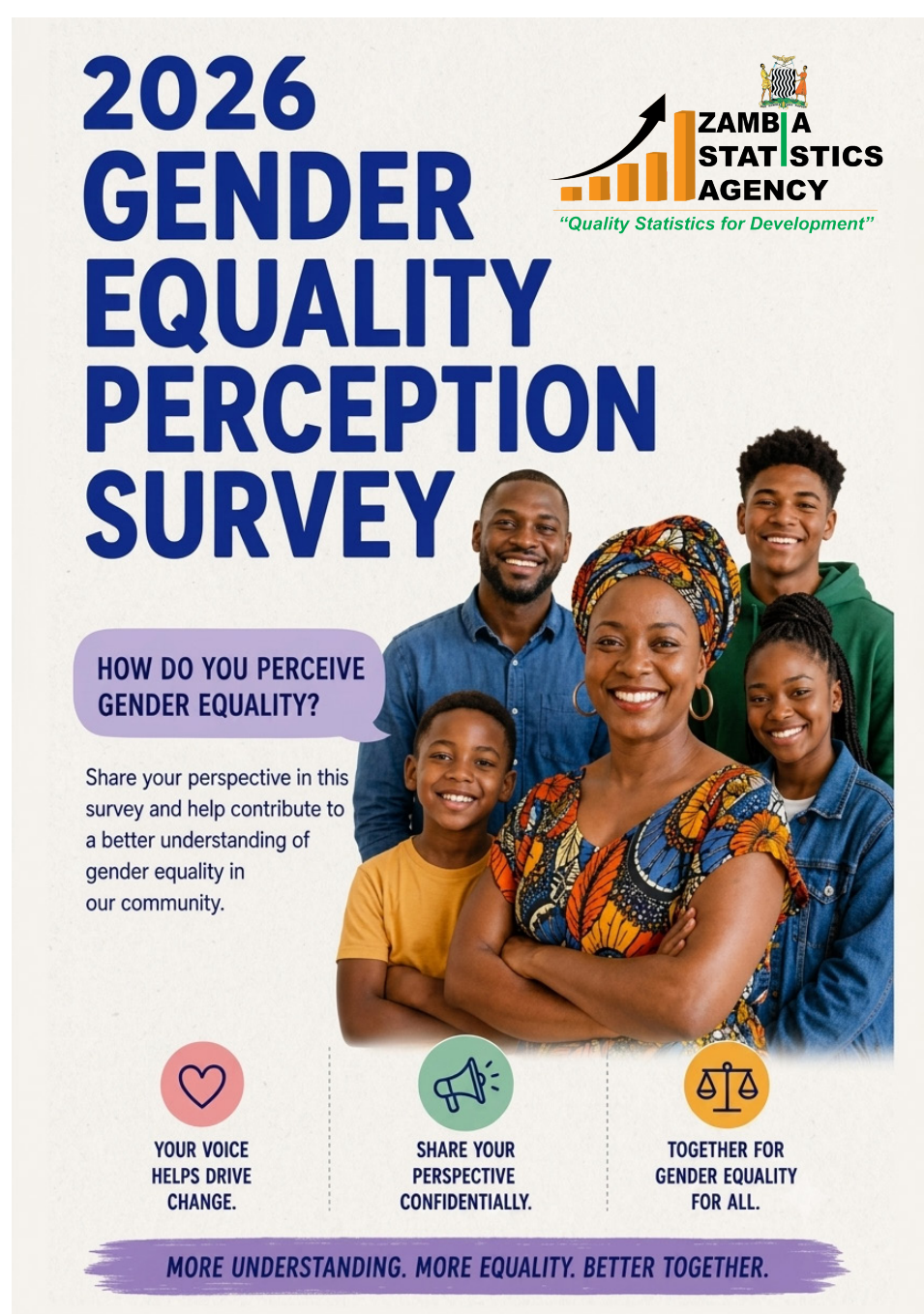
Information from this activity will provide a comprehensive understanding of why gender inequalities persist, and assist with governmental interventions.

ZamStats has employed data collectors who will visit all sampled households across the Nation. Data Collectors from ZamStats will be identified by an Introductory Letter, Identification Card and a Branded T-shirt.

ZamStats appeals to the members of the public that will be visited to cooperate with Data Collectors and provide accurate information.

ZamStats reassures the public that data collected is kept confidential and used for statistical purposes only.

The success of this important national exercise depends on your full support.



**2026
GENDER
EQUALITY
PERCEPTION
SURVEY**

**ZAMBIA
STATISTICS
AGENCY**
 "Quality Statistics for Development"

**HOW DO YOU PERCEIVE
GENDER EQUALITY?**

Share your perspective in this survey and help contribute to a better understanding of gender equality in our community.

**YOUR VOICE
HELPS DRIVE
CHANGE.**

**SHARE YOUR
PERSPECTIVE
CONFIDENTIALLY.**

**TOGETHER FOR
GENDER EQUALITY
FOR ALL.**

MORE UNDERSTANDING. MORE EQUALITY. BETTER TOGETHER.

2026 GENDER EQUALITY PERCEPTION SURVEY

The **Zambia Statistics Agency (ZamStats)**, in collaboration with the **World Bank** is undertaking the **2026 Gender Equality Perception Survey (GEPS)**. This is a national wide baseline survey specifically focused on making an assessment on public perceptions on gender roles, equality and fairness across social, political, economic, and environmental domains. The survey will be held from June to July 2026 in all the ten Provinces of the country.

OBJECTIVES OF THE 2026 GENDER EQUALITY PERCEPTION SURVEY

- To provide policymakers and stakeholders with disaggregated insights on how gender is perceived across demographics (**age, education, income, and location**).
- To generate evidence-based insights that can guide the formulation and prioritization of gender-sensitive policies and interventions.
- To increase public awareness and stimulate national dialogue on gender equality.
- To identify barriers and opportunities for achieving gender equality in Zambia, enabling targeted programmatic responses.
- To support national and international reporting obligations and monitor progress toward gender-related commitments (**including relevant SDG indicators**).

To attain the survey objectives, the **GEPS** will gather data on;

- *Demographic characteristics and household composition*
- *Economic participation and employment*
- *Women's empowerment and household decision-making*
- *Financial inclusion and access to resources*
- *Land and property rights*
- *Education and skills development*
- *Gender-based violence and safety*
- *Health, nutrition and access to services*
- *Political participation, leadership and civic engagement*
- *Norms, attitudes and perceptions related to gender roles across sectors*

Information from this survey is crucial in coming up with interventions that are culturally informed, targeted and measurable.

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ZAMBIA


11 – 15 JULY 2027
Lusaka, Zambia

TAKES CENTRE STAGE IN HOSTING 2027 GLOBAL STATISTICAL EVENT: *Why the 2027 World Statistics Congress Matters to Every Zambian?*



LUSAKA — History is about to be made on home soil. In a major win for the nation's global rising profile, the International Statistical Institute (ISI) has officially announced that Lusaka will play host to the prestigious 66th ISI World Statistics Congress (WSC 2027) from 11 to 15 July 2027.

For five days, the eyes of the global statistical, data and scientific community will be firmly fixed on Zambia. Over 2,000 international delegates from more than 100 countries—including top-tier data scientists, central bankers, academia, researchers, technology innovators and private sector—will descend upon the capital to attend the leading biennial global statistical event.

But this isn't just an event for academics in suits. Hosting the "World Cup of Statistics" right in Lusaka is a massive milestone that will directly impact our local economy, our academic institutions, and our national development.

The Zambia Statistics Agency hosted the 17th IAOS and 3rd ISI Regional Statistics Conference in Livingstone 2023. This was the first such event held in Africa by a National Statistical Office.

What is the ISI, and Why Does This Event Matter to Zambia?

Founded way back in 1885, the ISI has spent over 140 years shaping how the world collects, understands, and uses data. Today, in the era of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and big data,

statistics run the world. From tracking inflation at the Bank of Zambia to measuring the success of our government's free education policy, data is what drives national planning. By bringing this global congress to the Mulungushi International Conference Centre (MICC), Zambia is establishing itself as a hub for data innovation in Africa. With more than 250 scientific sessions on the schedule, our local statisticians at ZamStats, young university lecturers, the academicians and budding data analysts will have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to interact with, learn from, and partner with the best

A Massive Boost for the Local Economy

Hosting 2,000 international visitors is a massive win for local businesses. The economic ripple effects will be felt across Lusaka's service sectors:

- **Hospitality and Tourism:**

Hotels, lodges, and guest houses across the capital are preparing for a major influx of guests.

- **Transport and Retail:**

From local taxi drivers and airport transfer services to shopping malls and restaurants, the demand for local services will skyrocket.

- **The Creative Economy:**

Our local artists, musicians, and craftsmen are getting ready to showcase the very best of Zambian culture.

Showcasing Proudly Zambian Culture and Hospitality

The organizers have made it clear that WSC 2027 will not just be about spreadsheets and formulas—it will be an unforgettable celebration of Zambian heritage. Visitors will experience the true meaning of our legendary Ubuntu hospitality. Delegates will step out of the conference rooms at Mulungushi and straight into the vibrant heartbeat of Lusaka. The world will experience:

- **Zambian Artistry:**

Visitors will have the chance to explore the Kabwata Cultural Village, purchasing hand-carved crafts and traditional

copper pieces directly from local artisans.

- **A Taste of Home:**

International delegates will be treated to authentic Zambian cuisine, from fresh, charcoal-grilled lower-Zambezi bream to properly prepared nshima with chibwantu and local seasonal vegetables.

- **Urban Wildlife:**

Delegates will get to experience Lusaka safaris on the city's outskirts, getting a unique look at our country's spectacular wildlife conservation efforts.

ZamStats will work closely with relevant tourism stakeholders to facilitate attractive, negotiated tourism packages for delegates and accompanying persons, enabling visits to Zambia's major tourist attractions before and after the Congress. This initiative will enhance the delegates' experience, promote domestic tourism, and showcase Zambia's diverse tourism potential to an international audience.

"A Proud Moment for Every Zambian"

The fact that the ISI chose Lusaka over other global cities proves that the international statistical community has immense confidence in Zambia's national statistical office, ZamStats, its organizational capabilities and peaceful reputation. WSC 2027 will be a powerful showcase of a modern, forward-thinking country that is ready to lead the continent's data revolution.

As preparations ramp up across the capital, let us get ready to welcome the world with open arms, fly our flag high, and show global visitors exactly why Zambia is the real warmth of Africa.

Stay tuned as ZamStats and local organizing committees release more details on how local professionals and students can register and participate.





2025
THE HAGUE

At a Glance

