

Zambia



KEY FACTS

Joined Commonwealth:	1964
Population:	14,075,000 (2012)
GDP p.c. growth:	0.8% p.a. 1990–2012
UN HDI 2012:	world ranking 163
Official language:	English
Time:	GMT plus 2hr
Currency:	kwacha (ZK)

Geography

Area:	752,614 sq km
Coastline:	none
Capital:	Lusaka
Zambia is a landlocked, fertile and mineral-rich country on the Southern African plateau. It is bordered by: (clockwise from the north) the United Republic of Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia (via the Caprivi Strip), Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo.	

The country comprises ten provinces (from south to north): Southern, Western, Lusaka, Central, Eastern, North-Western, Copperbelt, Northern, Muchinga (whose creation was announced in October 2011) and Luapula.

Topography: Most of Zambia is high plateau, deeply entrenched by the Zambezi river (and its tributaries, the Kafue and Luangwa) and the Luapula river. The Zambezi flows to the south, turning eastwards to make the border with Zimbabwe. In the north are



three great lakes: the Tanganyika, Mweru and Bangweulu. The man-made Lake Kariba stretches along the southern border. The Mafinga Mountains form part of a great escarpment running down the east side of the Luangwa river valley. The country rises to a higher plateau in the east.

Climate: Tropical, but seldom unpleasantly hot, except in the valleys. There are three seasons: a cool dry season April–August; a hot dry season August–November; and a wet season, which is even hotter, November–April. Frost occurs in some areas in the cool season. Rainfall is 508–1,270 mm p.a.

Environment: The most significant environmental issues are: deforestation, soil erosion, and desertification; health risk posed by inadequate water treatment facilities; threat to big game populations by poaching; and air pollution and resulting acid rain in the areas surrounding mining and refining operations in Copperbelt Province.

Vegetation: Forest – mostly savannah bushveld – covers 66 per cent of the land area, having declined at 0.3 per cent p.a. 1990–2010. The high eastern plateau consists of open grassy plains with small trees and some marshland. Arable land comprises five per cent of the total land area.

Wildlife: Zambia has a wealth of wildlife, including big mammals and numerous species of antelopes. There are 19 national parks and 34 game management areas, about one-third of the country's area. South Luangwa has one of Africa's largest elephant populations. Kafue National Park has the largest number of antelope species of any African park, including the rare red lechwe, an aquatic antelope. It is also a home of the fish eagle, Zambia's national emblem. Decline in animal numbers has been slowed by the government's commitment to wildlife conservation, and the enforcement of measures against poaching and weapon-carrying in the conservation areas. There are 233 mammal species, of which nine are thought to be endangered (2012).

Main towns: Lusaka (capital, pop. 1.45m in 2010), Kitwe (Copperbelt Province, 527,800), Ndola (Copperbelt, 495,800), Kabwe (Central, 214,700), Chingola (Copperbelt, 178,400), Mufulira (Copperbelt, 141,300), Livingstone (Southern, 133,800), Luanshya (Copperbelt, 132,300), Kasama (Northern, 111,500),

Did you know?

The Commonwealth Youth Programme Africa Centre is based in Lusaka.

Kalusha Bwalya, born in Mufulira in 1963, was African Footballer of the Year in 1988.

Zambia is one of seven landlocked Commonwealth countries, all of which are in Africa.

Chipata (Eastern, 109,500), Kalulushi (Copperbelt, 100,900), Mazabuka (Southern, 95,600), Chililabombwe (Copperbelt, 72,000), Mongu (Western, 71,800), Choma (Southern, 58,500), Kapiri Mposhi (Central, 56,800), Kansanshi (North-Western, 51,900), Kafue (Lusaka, 46,500), Mansa (Luapula, 45,100), Monze (Southern, 40,800), Sesheke (Western, 33,400) and Mpika (Northern, 31,100).

Transport: There are 91,440 km of roads, 22 per cent paved, and 1,273 km of railway (not including the Tazara Railway). Roads can be hazardous during the rainy season. There is access to the Mozambican port of Beira (also to Maputo) via Livingstone and the Zimbabwe railway system; to the Tanzanian port of Dar es Salaam, via the Tazara Railway; and to Durban in South Africa, also via Livingstone and the Zimbabwe railway system. In 2003 a South African consortium was granted a 20-year licence to manage Zambia Railways.

The western route to the sea, the Benguela Railway (through the Democratic Republic of Congo to the Angolan port of Benguela) was closed in 1975 due to upheavals in the Democratic Republic of Congo (then Zaire) and Angola. However, by 2007 restoration of the route was in progress following a grant, of up to US\$300 million received by Angola from China. Since 2000, plans have been under way for a new rail route from Lusaka to Blantyre in Malawi, giving access to the port of Nacala in Mozambique.

There are international airports at Lusaka (26 km east of the city) and Mfuwe (in the South Luangwa National Park), and more than 100 other airports and airstrips throughout the country.

Society

KEY FACTS 2012

Population per sq km:	19
Life expectancy:	57 years
Net primary enrolment:	94%

Population: 14,075,000 (2012); 40 per cent of people live in urban areas and 11 per cent in urban agglomerations of more than one million people; growth 2.7 per cent p.a. 1990–2012; birth rate 43 per 1,000 people (49 in 1970); life expectancy 57 years; it fell from a peak of about 52 years in the latter 1980s, due to AIDS, but began to rise again from 2003, when it was 33 years.

There are 73 indigenous ethnic groups of Bantu origin. The largest, representing about 18 per cent of the population, is the Bemba of the north-east and Copperbelt. Others include the Tonga of Southern Province, the Nyanja of Eastern Province and Lusaka, and the Lozi of the west. There are small minorities of Europeans and Asians.

Language: English is the official language and is widely spoken. There are seven main African languages: Bemba, Kaonde, Lozi, Lunda, Luvale, Nyanja and Tonga.

Religion: Mainly Christians (denominations include Roman Catholics, Anglicans, Pentecostals, New Apostolic Church, Lutherans, Seventh Day Adventists); Christian beliefs are often blended with traditional beliefs; plus minorities of Muslims and Hindus.

Health: Public spending on health was four per cent of GDP in 2011. The health service has suffered under cutbacks required by economic adjustment programmes. Some 64 per cent of the

population uses an improved drinking water source and 42 per cent have access to adequate sanitation facilities (2011). Infant mortality was 56 per 1,000 live births in 2012. Infant mortality rates fell from 141 per 1,000 live births in 1965 to 90 in 1980, then, due to AIDS, rose to 112 in 1999 and only began to fall again in 2002. Malaria is prevalent. There are regular outbreaks of cholera. Zambia was one of the first countries to admit the severity of the AIDS pandemic. AIDS prevention, control and management programmes are given prominence in all health programmes. In 2012, 13 per cent of people aged 15–49 were HIV positive.

Education: Public spending on education was one per cent of GDP in 2008. There are seven years of compulsory education starting at the age of seven. Primary school comprises seven years and secondary five, with cycles of two and three years. Some 53 per cent of pupils complete primary school (2008). The school year starts in January.

Public universities include the University of Zambia (established in Lusaka in 1965); Copperbelt University (Kitwe, 1986); and Mulungushi University (Kabwe, 2008). There are a number of private universities, including Zambia Open University (Lusaka, 2004); and Cavendish University (Lusaka, 2004). Literacy among people aged 15–24 is 74 per cent (2010).

Media: The daily newspapers are the state-owned *Zambia Daily Mail* and *Times of Zambia*, and independent *The Post*; all are published in English. Weeklies include the state-owned *Sunday Times of Zambia*.

Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation provides public radio and TV services in the main national languages and English; there are several private commercial and faith radio stations, mainly reaching the urban areas.

There are 11 personal computers per 1,000 people (2005).

Communications: Country code 260; internet domain '.zm'. Most public buildings provide public phones. Mobile phone coverage is limited to urban areas, where there are also some internet cafés.

There are six main telephone lines, 748 mobile phone subscriptions and 135 internet users per 1,000 people (2012).

Public holidays: New Year's Day, Women's Day (8 March), Youth Day (12 March), Labour Day (1 May), Africa Day (25 May), Heroes' Day (first Monday in July), Unity Day (Tuesday following Heroes' Day), Farmers' Day (first Monday in August), Independence Day (24 October) and Christmas Day.

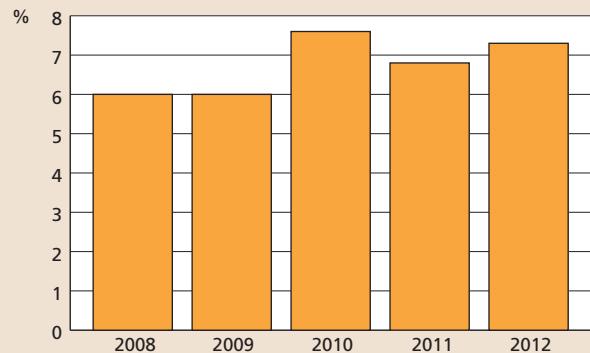
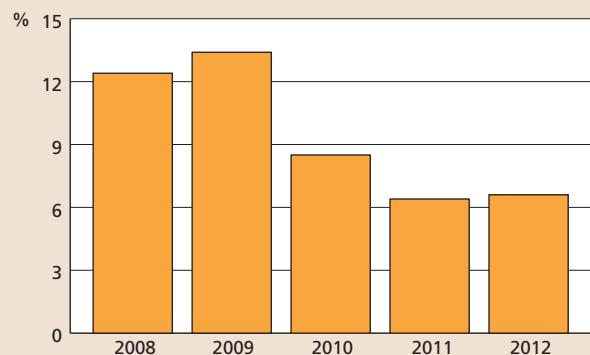
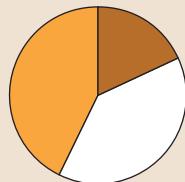
Religious festivals whose dates vary from year to year include Good Friday and Easter Monday.

Economy

KEY FACTS 2012

GNI:	US\$19.1bn
GNI p.c.:	US\$1,350
GDP growth:	6.8% p.a. 2008–12
Inflation:	9.4% p.a. 2008–12

With very large reserves of copper and cobalt, Zambia was one of the most prosperous countries in Sub-Saharan Africa until its economy foundered with the slump in world copper prices in the mid-1970s. This landlocked country's transport network was also crucially disrupted by civil unrest or liberation wars in the

Real Growth in GDP**Inflation****GDP by Sector (2012)**

surrounding countries of Angola, Congo, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. The economy remains vulnerable to fluctuations in copper prices, and to drought.

The early 1990s was a difficult period, with the impact of a two-year drought being exacerbated by weak copper prices. In 1992, the government launched an economic reform programme with substantial divestment of state enterprises. By 2004, 259 state enterprises had been sold off. In 2006 75 per cent of the shares in Zambia National Commercial Bank (one of the few remaining major state-owned enterprises) was sold to Rabobank (of the Netherlands) and to the Zambian public. The reform programme encouraged a more diversified economy and development of exports such as flowers, fruit and vegetables, gemstones, cotton lint and sugar. It was continued, with the support of the IMF, into the 2000s, when the emphasis was on poverty reduction.

Tight fiscal policy brought inflation down from the very high levels of the mid-1990s (183 per cent in 1993) to be generally in single figures from the mid-2000s. Privatisation of the copper mines by 2000 resulted in new investment and better management, and by 2004 world copper prices were rising. However, the decision in

2002 of Anglo-American to pull out of mining in Zambia for a time put in peril the higher levels of growth needed to reduce poverty.

Zambia qualified in 2005 for debt relief under the IMF/World Bank Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, deriving US\$224 million in debt relief, which released it from 80 per cent of its annual debt-service commitments. This development reflected macroeconomic stability and sound fiscal policies, which had resulted in good growth in the 2000s, strengthening to an average 5.9 per cent p.a. over 2005–09. Growth of six to eight per cent p.a. was sustained during 2008–14, despite the adverse international economic climate.

Constitution

Status: Republic with executive President

Legislature: Zambian Parliament

Independence: 24 October 1964

The 1996 constitution provides for an executive President, who is head of state and commander-in-chief of the armed forces. The President is limited to a maximum of two five-year terms. The Vice-President and the cabinet are appointed by the President from the National Assembly. The cabinet is responsible for formulating policy and for advising the President on policy. It is accountable to the National Assembly.

The legislative powers of the republic are vested in parliament, which consists of the President and the National Assembly, whose 150 members are elected every five years from single-member constituencies. The President has the power to nominate eight special members of the National Assembly, five of whom can serve in the cabinet.

Both the President and the National Assembly are elected by universal adult suffrage. The election regulations are drawn up by an Electoral Commission, which may also prescribe and review the limits of constituency boundaries. The constitution contains a bill of rights, setting out the fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual, and providing protection from discrimination on the grounds of race, tribe, gender, place of origin, marital status, political opinions, colour or creed.

The most controversial of the recommendations of the draft report of the National Constitutional Conference, published in July 2009, concerned limiting the powers of the President and changing the basis of presidential elections so that Presidents are elected by at least 50 per cent of the electorate, rather than the simple majority required by the 1996 constitution, thus introducing the potential for multiple rounds of voting. Supporters of this change believed that this would strengthen the prospects of a fragmented opposition, while detractors argued it would increase the cost of elections.

Politics

Last elections: 20 September 2011 (presidential and legislative)

Next elections: 2016 (presidential and legislative)

Head of state: President Michael Sata

Head of government: the President

Ruling party: Patriotic Front

Women MPs: 11%

In May 2001 Vice-President Christon Tembo and more than 80 senior members of the Movement for Multiparty Democracy (MMD) left the party to form the Forum for Democracy and Development (FDD). Since, under the 1996 constitution, Frederick Chiluba could not stand for a third term of office and he was unable to muster enough support for constitutional change, Levy Patrick Mwanawasa was chosen in August as MMD's candidate for the 2001 presidential election, the third since the restoration of multiparty politics in July 1990.

History

Archaeological findings at Kabwe indicate that Zambia was inhabited around 10,000 BCE. More complete records date from the arrival of the Luba and Lunda peoples during the 14th to 15th century, from what are now the Democratic Republic of Congo and Angola. The Bemba are descendants of the Luba and the Lozi of the Lunda. The Ngoni peoples came north from South Africa to eastern Zambia. David Livingstone, the British missionary and explorer, travelled through Zambia in the mid-19th century. He was followed by British settlers in the 1880s and 1890s. Arab slave-trading flourished in the territory throughout the 19th century, until it was ended by the British in 1893.

In 1889, the British South Africa Company received a Royal Charter to explore, develop and administer the territory. In 1924 the company ceded administrative control of Zambia, called Northern Rhodesia, to the British Crown and serious exploitation of the country's main resource, copper, began. The capital moved from Livingstone to Lusaka in 1935. The Federation of Northern and Southern Rhodesia and Nyasaland, with its own constitution, existed from 1953 to 1963.

In the mid-1950s Kenneth Kaunda founded the Zambia African National Congress (ZANC), a breakaway from the more conservative African National Congress (ANC), to fight for civil and voting rights for the African population. ZANC was quickly banned by the colonial authorities, and Kaunda arrested. During his internment, his followers evaded the ban by remoulding the ZANC as the United National Independence Party (UNIP), taking the name from the main platform of its programme. Kaunda became chairman of the UNIP on his release in 1960. In turn, the UNIP was outlawed but it had caught the popular imagination and political demonstrations spread across the country. The UK accepted the demands and, in January 1964, introduced a new constitution giving the country internal self-government, and organising elections. UNIP emerged as the majority party and proceeded towards independence; the Republic of Zambia became independent and a member of the Commonwealth on 24 October 1964.

United National Independence Party

Within a decade of independence, economic conditions worsened. Demand for copper was already beginning to fall and there was tumult in Southern Africa. Landlocked Zambia was badly affected by all the major conflicts of the period. The closure of the border with Zimbabwe, then Rhodesia (under the sanctions programme aimed at Ian Smith's illegal regime), disrupted exports. Civil war broke out in Angola and, in 1975, the Benguela railway was closed. Mozambique's long battle against the Renamo dissidents began shortly after its independence in 1975; rail and oil lines were targets for attack. Sanctions against South Africa also affected Zambia's trade and transport. Refugees from these troubled countries and Namibia

In a very close contest and with only 29 per cent of the votes Mwanawasa won the December 2001 presidential election, Anderson Mazoka of the United Party for National Development (UPND) came second with 27 per cent, Tembo (FDD) secured 13 per cent, Tilyeni Kaunda (United National Independence Party – UNIP) ten per cent and Ben Mwila (Republican Party) five per cent. In the simultaneous general election the MMD won 69 seats, the UPND 49, UNIP 13 and the FDD 12, but, even with its eight nominated members, the MMD was short of an absolute majority.



(engaged in the independence war with South Africa) were given sanctuary in Zambia.

The UNIP government of Kenneth Kaunda created a one-party state (lasting from 1973 until 1991) in an unsuccessful attempt to strengthen national unity. A coup plot in 1980 involved local business leaders and the Governor of the Bank of Zambia. Several trade union leaders, including Frederick Chiluba, were detained during a wave of strikes in 1981, unions now having become the main focus of opposition to UNIP. Popular discontent was fuelled by the effects of IMF-backed recovery programmes. From 1986, demonstrations (sometimes violent) against food price increases began to take a more political form, leading to demands for a more democratic system of government.

Restoration of multiparty democracy

In July 1990, the 17-year ban on organised opposition groups was lifted. Three days later, the Movement for Multiparty Democracy (MMD) was founded. The elections in October 1991 gave a substantial majority to the MMD and its presidential candidate, Frederick Chiluba. However, continuing discontent with economic conditions and the effects of severe drought led to a new wave of strikes within a year. A breakaway group of nine MMD MPs formed the National Party in August 1993.

In March 1994 the government appointed a commission to rewrite the constitution and a draft new constitution was submitted to the President in June 1995, the commission recommending that it should be approved by a national referendum. The government argued that it should instead be adopted by the National Assembly before the elections that were due in November 1996. The Assembly did so in June 1996, despite international criticism and the suspension of some aid. Among controversial government amendments to the constitution were clauses that specified that a President could serve a maximum of two five-year terms, thus disallowing the candidacy of Kenneth Kaunda, former President for 27 years and presidential candidate of the opposition UNIP. UNIP also objected to clauses debarring any person from candidacy whose parents are not or were not Zambian citizens (Kaunda's parents came from Malawi).

Most of the opposition parties boycotted the November 1996 elections (UNIP because its leader was debarred under the new constitution). There was a landslide victory for the MMD. But because of the boycott, many leading opposition parties did not have any seats in the National Assembly. Turnout was 56 per cent of those registered to vote, although it is estimated that only 50 per cent of those eligible were registered. The MMD won 131 of the 150 Assembly seats, and Chiluba won 73 per cent of the presidential vote. The largest opposition party was then the National Party, with five seats.

The opposition was, however, fragmented and during 2003 Mwanawasa encouraged further fragmentation by bringing several individual opposition members into positions in his government.

In a fiercely contested presidential election in September 2006, Mwanawasa won a second term substantially increasing his share of the votes to 43 per cent. Michael Sata of the Patriotic Front came second with 29 per cent of the votes; Hakainde Hichilema of United Democratic Alliance came third with 25 per cent. In the parliamentary elections that were held on 28 September and 26 October 2006, Mwanawasa's MMD gained 74 seats and with the eight nominated members an overall majority in the National Assembly. The Patriotic Front won 43 seats and the United Democratic Alliance 26. Turnout was 71 per cent.

President Levy Mwanawasa suffered a stroke in June 2008 and died in August of that year. Vice-President Rupiah Banda became acting President in June 2008 and was sworn in as President in November, shortly after he won the October 2008 presidential by-election with 40.6 per cent of votes. He defeated Sata of the Patriotic Front (38.6 per cent) and Hichilema of the UPND (20 per cent). Turnout was 45 per cent.

Presidential, parliamentary and local elections were held on the same day in September 2011. Michael Sata (Patriotic Front) won the presidential election, securing about 43 per cent of the votes cast; the incumbent Banda (MMD) took about 36 per cent and Hichilema (UPND) about 18 per cent. In the parliamentary elections the Patriotic Front won 61 seats, MMD 55 and UPND 29. Turnout was 54 per cent. A Commonwealth observer group led by former Nigerian President General Yakubu Gowon affirmed that the elections represented further progress for Zambia in strengthening its democratic processes and that voters were able to express their will freely.

International relations

Zambia is a member of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, African Union, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, Non-Aligned Movement, Southern African Development Community, United Nations and World Trade Organization.

Zambia hosts the headquarters of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa in Lusaka.

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Traveller information

Immigration and customs: Passports must be valid for at least six months from the date of arrival. Visas are required by most Commonwealth nationals. If you are travelling on from Zambia, some countries will require you to have a yellow fever vaccination certificate (see *Travel Health* below).

Travel within the country: Traffic drives on the left. Visitors wishing to drive will need an international driving permit. It is illegal to drink and drive or to use a mobile phone while driving. Chauffeur-driven cars are also available for hire.

Scheduled flights fly between the main centres. There are three main railway lines affording services between Lusaka and Livingstone, Lusaka and the Copperbelt, and Kapiri Mposhi and the northern border with United Republic of Tanzania. Taxis are widely available in urban areas but are not metered and fares should be agreed in advance.

Travel health: Prevalent diseases where appropriate precautionary measures are recommended include cholera, diphtheria, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, malaria, rabies, schistosomiasis (bilharzia) and typhoid. Vaccination against yellow fever is not generally recommended by the World Health Organization.

There were 906,000 tourist arrivals in 2011.

Further information

President's Office: www.statehouse.gov.zm

Electoral Commission of Zambia: www.elections.org.zm

Zambian Parliament: www.parliament.gov.zm

Central Statistical Office of Zambia: www.zamstats.gov.zm

Bank of Zambia: www.boz.zm

Zambia Tourism Board: www.zambiatourism.com

Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa:
about.comesa.int

Commonwealth Secretariat: www.thecommonwealth.org

Commonwealth of Nations:
www.commonwealthofnations.org/country/Zambia

Media

The Post: www.postzambia.com

Zambia Daily Mail: www.daily-mail.co.zm

Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation: www.znbc.co.zm

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