

# United Republic of Tanzania



## KEY FACTS

Joined Commonwealth:	1961
Population:	46,218,000 (2011)
GDP p.c. growth:	2.5% p.a. 1990–2011
UN HDI 2011:	world ranking 152
Official languages:	Kiswahili, English
Time:	GMT plus 3hr
Currency:	Tanzanian shilling (TSh)

## Geography

Area:	945,090 sq km
Coastline:	1,420km
Capital:	Dodoma

The United Republic of Tanzania borders the Indian Ocean to the east, and has land borders with eight countries: (anti-clockwise from the north) Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (across Lake Tanganyika), Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique. The country includes Zanzibar (consisting of the main island Unguja, plus Pemba and other smaller islands).

**Topography:** The country comprises several distinct zones: a fertile coastal belt; the Masai Steppe and mountain ranges to the north

(with Mt Kilimanjaro rising to 5,895m); and a high plateau in the central and southern regions. There are over 61,000 sq km of inland water. Unguja Island (36km from the mainland) is fertile, hilly and densely populated on the west side, low and thinly peopled in the east.

**Climate:** Varies with geographical zones: tropical on the coast, where it is hot and humid (rainy season March–May); semi-temperate in the mountains (with the Short Rains in November–December and the Long Rains in February–May); and drier in the plateau region with considerable seasonal variations in temperature.

**Environment:** The most significant environmental issues are drought, soil degradation, deforestation, desertification and destruction of coral reefs.

**Vegetation:** Lush tropical at the coast; the rest of the country, apart from urban areas, is savannah and bush. Forest and woodland cover 38% of the land area, having declined at 1.1% p.a. 1990–2010. Arable land comprises 11% and permanent cropland 1% of the total land area.

**Wildlife:** The national parks and game reserves cover 16% of the country and include Serengeti National Park (famous for its vast migratory herds of plains animals, notably wildebeest, zebra, eland and kudu). Small bands of chimpanzees are found in the Gombe National Park along Lake Tanganyika. The steep mountain walls of Ngorogoro Park's volcanic crater have provided protection and a natural enclosure for animals in an environment of great natural beauty. Rhino and elephant populations are still being depleted by poaching despite government protective measures.

**Main towns:** Dodoma (capital, pop. 179,800 in 2010), Dar es Salaam (commercial and administrative centre, 3.21m), Mwanza (581,200), Zanzibar Town (495,100), Arusha (448,400), Mbeya (317,700), Morogoro (279,400), Tanga (245,200), Kigoma (182,800), Tabora (161,200), Moshi (157,900), Kasulo (142,700),



## did you know?

Filbert Bayi took the Commonwealth Games Men's 1,500 Metres record at the Christchurch Games (New Zealand) in 1974.

The country includes the highest and lowest points in Africa – the summit of Mt Kilimanjaro (5,895m above sea level) and the floor of Lake Tanganyika (358m below sea level).

Tanzanian national Dr William Shija was appointed Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in 2007, and Dr Asha-Rose Migiro served as UN Deputy Secretary-General 2007–12.



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## PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN



Extensions to Bank of Tanzania Headquarters



Interior of the Bank of Tanzania



Tegeta Power Plant, Dar es Salaam

Musoma (139,100), Songea (138,000), Iringa (111,000), Shinyanga (97,300), Sumbawanga (96,200) and Mtwara (79,500).

**Transport:** There are 78,890km of roads, 8.6% paved. There are also two railway systems, extending to a total of 4,460km, and running on two different gauges. One links Dar es Salaam with central, western and northern Tanzania and Kenya (Tanzania Railways Corporation, gauge 1m, extending to 2,600km); the other links Dar es Salaam to Zambia (Tanzania–Zambia Railways Authority, or Tazara).

The main ports are at Dar es Salaam, Mtwara, Tanga and Zanzibar. Regular boat services carry passengers and freight between Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar. Ferries provide freight and passenger transport on Lake Victoria.

There are three international airports (Dar es Salaam, Kilimanjaro and Zanzibar) and more than 50 local airports and airstrips. Because of the size of the country and scattered population, air services have become the most significant form of internal transport for official and business travel.

## Society

### KEY FACTS 2011

Population per sq km:	49
Life expectancy:	58 years
Net primary enrolment:	98% (2008)

**Population:** 46,218,000 (2011); 27% lives in urban areas and 7% in urban agglomerations of more than 1 million people; growth 2.8% p.a. 1990–2011; birth rate 41 per 1,000 people (48 in 1970); life expectancy 58 years (47 in 1970 and 51 in 1990).

Most of the people are of Bantu origin, with some 120 ethnic groups on the mainland, none of which exceeds 10% of the population. The biggest group is the Sukuma; others include Nyamwezi, Masai, Haya Gogo, Chagga, Nyaliyusa and Hehe. The population also includes Asian and expatriate minorities. The people of Zanzibar are of Bantu, Persian and Arab origin.

**Language:** The official language is Kiswahili (which is universally spoken in addition to various other African languages), and is the medium of instruction in primary schools. English is the second official language, the country's commercial language, and also the teaching language in secondary schools and higher education.

**Religion:** (on mainland) Muslims 35%, Christians 30%, and a small number of Hindus, with most of the rest holding traditional beliefs; (in Zanzibar) Muslims virtually 100%.

**Health:** Public spending on health was 3% of GDP in 2010. Muhimbili Medical Centre, Dar es Salaam, is the country's principal referral centre and teaching hospital. Other referral hospitals are at Moshi, Mwanza and Mbeya. 53% of the population uses an improved drinking water source and 10% have adequate sanitation facilities (2010). Infant mortality was 45 per 1,000 live births in 2011 (142 in 1960). In 2011, 5.8% of people aged 15–49 were HIV positive.

**Education:** Public spending on education was 6.2% of GDP in 2010. There are seven years of compulsory education starting at age seven. Primary school comprises seven years and secondary six, with cycles of four and two years. Some 81% of pupils complete primary school (2009). The school year starts in January.

## History

According to evidence at Olduvai Gorge and in the Manonga Valley, Tanzania may be humanity's place of origin. Around AD 500 Bantu peoples, the ancestors of the majority of the modern population, began entering the area. Arab coastal settlement and the introduction of Islam took place between AD 800 and 900. Around AD 1200 the Omanis settled in Zanzibar; in collaboration with some of the coastal peoples of the mainland, they set up a slave trade, with parties of slavers raiding communities in the interior and driving people to local markets at such inland centres as Tabora. From there, they would be sold on to major centres at the ports. The sultanate of Kilwe enjoyed a period of prosperity in the 14th and 15th centuries but the coastal towns suffered a decline thereafter, with the arrival of Portuguese adventurers (though there was little Portuguese settlement).

In 1884 Dr Karl Peters journeyed into the interior to acquire territory, through treaties with chiefs, on behalf of the German emperor. In the late 1880s Germany took over the area from the coast to (and including) Ruanda and Urundi, calling it the Protectorate of German East Africa. There was rather sparse German settlement: the people objected to being 'protected'. In 1905–06 there was an all-out rebellion, which was put down by a strategically engineered famine, leading to about 200,000 deaths.

At the time, Britain was concerned with the islands of Zanzibar and Pemba, which were declared a British Protectorate in 1890. In 1919, the League of Nations gave Britain a mandate to administer part of German East Africa, now known as Tanganyika. (Belgium, with a similar mandate, took over the administration of Rwanda and Burundi.) In 1946 Tanganyika became a UN trust territory.

A legislative council was set up in 1926. It was enlarged in 1945 and restructured in 1955 to give equal representation to Africans, Asians and Europeans, sitting as 30 'unofficials' with the 31 'officials'. In 1954, a schoolteacher, Julius Nyerere, founded the Tanganyikan African National Union (TANU), which promoted African nationalism and won a large public following. The colonial authorities responded with constitutional changes increasing the voice of the African population while reserving seats for minority communities. Elections were held in 1958–59 and again in 1960. The result was overwhelming victory for TANU, which by this period was campaigning for independence as well as majority rule. The new government and the UK agreed at a constitutional conference to full independence for Tanganyika in December 1961. Zanzibar achieved independence in 1963 as a separate country.

Tanganyika became a republic in December 1962, one year after achieving independence, and the first presidential election brought the TANU leader, Julius Nyerere, to the presidency. In 1965 the constitution was changed to establish a one-party system. Meanwhile, in Zanzibar, the Sultan was overthrown in a revolution in January 1964, the constitution was abrogated and the country became a one-party state under the Afro-Shirazi Party. In April 1964 Tanganyika and Zanzibar united as the United Republic of Tanzania. In 1967 Nyerere made the Arusha Declaration, unveiling his political philosophy of egalitarianism, socialism and self-reliance. In 1977, TANU and the Afro-Shirazi

Party merged to form the Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM). Ali Hassan Mwinyi succeeded Nyerere in 1985.

Presidential elections were held every five years from 1965 with, under the one-party system, the electorate voting 'yes' or 'no' to a single presidential candidate. In general elections (held at the same time as the presidential elections) the choice was between two candidates put forward by the CCM. Pressure for reform grew within the United Republic, and among international donors. The government responded with constitutional changes that permitted opposition parties from 1992 and so brought in a multiparty system, under which parliamentary and presidential elections were held in October 1995 and contested by 13 political parties.

The October 1995 elections were not completed on schedule, as the National Electoral Commission found irregularities at certain polling stations. The vote in seven Dar es Salaam constituencies was annulled and re-run on 17 November. Ten opposition parties announced that they would boycott the repeat elections, and all the opposition presidential candidates withdrew. The CCM emerged with a substantial majority (approximately 75% of the vote) in the parliamentary elections. The presidential election held at the same time brought to power CCM leader Benjamin Mkapa. (Ali Hassan Mwinyi, who had served two terms as president, was not eligible to stand again and had retired before the election.)

Former President Julius Nyerere died in October 1999 after a long illness. As one of Africa's foremost international statesmen he was widely mourned and many world leaders attended his funeral in Dar es Salaam.

### Zanzibar

The October 1995 presidential and legislative elections in Zanzibar, the first to be held since the restoration of multiparty democracy, were fiercely contested by CCM and the Zanzibar-based Civic United Front (CUF) and the results – which gave the CCM a very small majority in both elections – were strongly disputed by the CUF, whose members began to boycott the Zanzibar parliament. This impasse was finally resolved when an agreement was reached through the good offices of the Commonwealth Secretary-General.

At the October 2000 elections in Zanzibar Abeid Amani Karume, the CCM's presidential candidate, and the CCM were officially declared the winners but a high level of tension persisted. Then, through the good offices of the Commonwealth Secretary-General and with continuing pressure from the national government and the international community, talks got under way, and in October 2001 the parties reached agreement on a peace accord. The main planks of the accord were the holding of by-elections in those seats of the Zanzibar parliament which had been declared vacant when CUF members refused to take them up; reform of Zanzibar's election law and setting up of a permanent election register; and giving statutory force to the impartiality of Zanzibar's state-owned press. Progress in implementing the accord was slow, but the by-elections in Pemba were held peacefully in May 2003, the results were readily accepted by CCM and CUF, and efforts to foster political reconciliation continued.



The principal public universities are University of Dar es Salaam (established in 1970); Sokoine University of Agriculture, Morogoro (1984, before which it was the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry of University of Dar es Salaam); and Open University of Tanzania (established for distance education in 1995). There are a number of private universities including Hubert Kairuki Memorial University (with faculties of medicine and nursing, in Dar es Salaam, established 1997); and International Medical and Technological University (Dar es Salaam, 1995). The female–male ratio for gross enrolment in tertiary education is 0.82:1 (2010). Literacy among people aged 15–24 is 77% (2010).

**Media:** The government-owned *Daily News* is published in English. *Uhuru* is owned by the ruling party (CCM) and is in Kiswahili. There are several independent newspapers including *The Guardian* and *Daily Mail*, plus the weeklies *The Arusha Times*, *Business Times* and *The Express*.

The Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation provides public radio and TV services in Kiswahili and English; there are several private TV channels, and many private radio stations, especially in the urban areas.

The first private television channel was launched in mainland Tanzania in 1994, following the introduction of multiparty democracy, and public-service TV followed in 2001.

There are no private broadcasters or newspapers in Zanzibar, though many people on the islands receive mainland broadcasts and read the mainland press. TV Zanzibar and Voice of Tanzania–Zanzibar are both state-operated.

Some 8% of households have TV sets (2007). There are 9 personal computers per 1,000 people (2005).

**Communications:** Country code 255; internet domain '.tz'. There are many public phones throughout the country. Mobile phone coverage is limited to urban areas. Internet cafes are found in main towns; those in more remote places rely on satellite access. Postal services are good.

There are 3 main telephone lines, 555 mobile phone subscriptions and 120 internet users per 1,000 people (2011).

**Public holidays:** New Year's Day, Zanzibar Revolution Day (12 January, 1964), Sheikh Abeid Amani Karume Day (7 April, Zanzibar only), Union Day (26 April), Labour Day (1 May), Saba Saba (Industry Day, 7 July), Nane Nane (Farmers' Day, 8 August), Nyerere Day (14 October), Republic Day (9 December), Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

Religious festivals whose dates vary from year to year include Prophet's Birthday, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Eid al-Fitr (End of Ramadan, two days) and Eid al-Adha (Feast of the Sacrifice).

## Economy

### KEY FACTS 2011

GNI:	US\$24.2bn
GNI p.c.:	US\$540
GDP growth:	6.8% p.a. 2007–11
Inflation:	9.6% p.a. 2007–11

Tanzania came to independence in 1961 with a severely underdeveloped economy and extremely limited infrastructure. In

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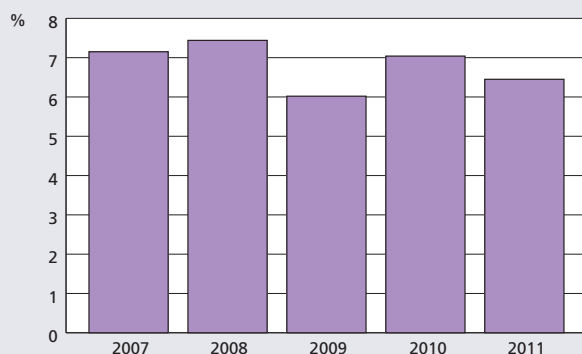
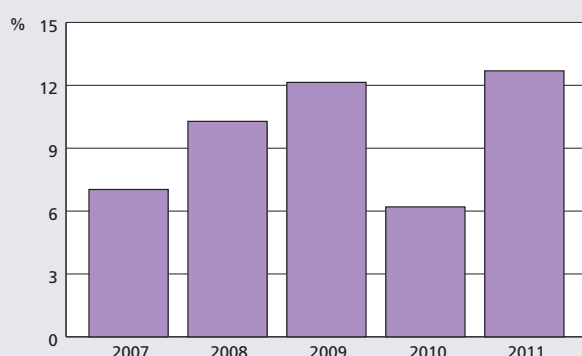
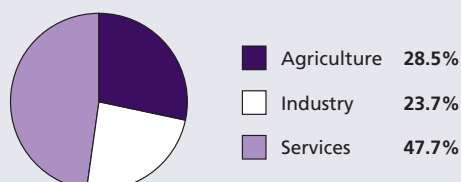
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**Real Growth in GDP****Inflation****GDP by Sector (2011)**

an effort to bring about rapid yet socially equitable development, it became an early proponent of African socialism, launched in 1967 with nationalisation of banking, finance, industry and marketing boards; and the resettlement of peasants in communal *ujamaa* villages, created out of large estates.

However, after an initial boom, the formal economic base shrank, production fell and the parallel economy became a way of life. The Ugandan war, falls in commodity prices and failures of the policy itself brought the country to the verge of bankruptcy by the mid-1980s.

Since 1986 new policy directions and IMF-backed structural adjustment programmes have, at considerable cost to social programmes, helped integrate the parallel economy and stimulate growth, which for the most part has been ahead of population growth since the policy change. From the mid-1990s the government embarked on a programme of economic liberalisation and diversification.

The Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange was opened in March 1998. The government has encouraged foreign investment in industry,

and especially mining where investments have been made in gold, nickel and cobalt mining. Hundreds of public enterprises were privatised during the 1990s and the programme continued in the 2000s, with privatisation of Air Tanzania and Tanzania Railways Corporation. The principal exports are gold, diamonds and other gemstones, coffee, fish and seafood, tobacco, cotton, cashew nuts and tea.

In July 2001, an immense new gold mine was commissioned near Mwanza, with the potential to make the country one of the world's largest producers of gold. In 2004, natural gas began to flow from the island of Songo Songo, in southern Tanzania, via pipeline to a power station and cement plant at Dar es Salaam. Following new discoveries of offshore gas in 2012, the government has estimated proven gas reserves to be 813 billion cubic metres. Good indications of substantive oil deposits have also been found.

After averaging 2.9% p.a. in the 1990s, GDP growth strengthened in the 2000s. It was sustained at 6% p.a. or more during 2001–12, despite the adverse international economic climate.

**Constitution**

Status:	Republic with executive president
Legislature:	Parliament
Independence:	9 December 1961 (mainland), 10 December 1963 (Zanzibar)

The unicameral legislature, the National Assembly, includes some members directly elected by universal adult suffrage (in 239 constituencies in 2010), some women members nominated by the parties in proportion to the number of seats they hold in the Assembly (102 following the October 2010 election), up to ten presidential appointees, five delegates from the Zanzibar parliament and, *ex officio*, the attorney-general. General elections are held every five years.

The executive president is elected in separate presidential elections held simultaneously with general elections. He or she must represent a registered political party and have a running mate for the position of vice-president of the Union. The president may serve a maximum of two five-year terms.

The Zanzibar administration has its own president and a House of Representatives of 50 directly elected members, 15 female nominees (by the parties in proportion to the number of seats they hold in the House), ten presidential nominees, and five *ex officio* members; one seat is reserved for the attorney-general. The House is responsible for legislation on domestic matters and, in practice, external trade.

From October 2000, use of the full official name of United Republic of Tanzania was adopted.

**Politics**

Last elections:	October 2010 (presidential and legislative)
Next elections:	2015 (presidential and legislative)
Head of state:	President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete
Head of government:	the president
Ruling party:	Chama Cha Mapinduzi

In October 2000, in the United Republic's second multiparty elections, Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) leader Benjamin Mkapa

won more than 70% of the votes in the national presidential election, and the ruling CCM took 244 seats in the National Assembly, with the balance of 31 seats won by the Zanzibar-based Civic United Front (CUF; 15) and smaller parties.

Presidential and legislative elections were held in Zanzibar in October 2005 ahead of the national elections. The CCM's candidate, Abeid Amani Karume, won the presidential poll with 53% of the votes, while the CUF's Seif Sharif Hamad took 46%. The ruling CCM also won the parliamentary elections with 30 of the 50 elective seats. The CUF did not accept the result of these fiercely contested, and in places violent elections but the Commonwealth observer group present said that the conditions overall were such as to enable the people to express their will.

In December 2005 the CCM was also successful in the national presidential and legislative elections. Having served two full terms Mkapa was not eligible to stand again for the presidency and, in a 72% turnout, CCM candidate Jakaya Kikwete was elected president. CCM took 206 seats in the National Assembly, with Zanzibar-based CUF (19 seats) accounting for most of the rest.

In the October 2010 national presidential election, with a turnout of 42%, Kikwete was returned with 61.2% of the votes cast, while Willbrod Slaa of Chama Cha Demokrasia na Maendeleo (CHADEMA) secured 26.3% and Ibrahim Lipumba (CUF) 8.1%. In the concurrent parliamentary elections the CCM won 186 seats, the CUF 23 and CHADEMA 22. In Zanzibar, CCM's Ali Mohamed Shein narrowly won the presidency with 50.1% of the votes cast; his main challenger Seif Sharif Hamad of the CUF received 49.1%.

## International relations

United Republic of Tanzania is a member of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, African Union, East African Community, Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation, Non-Aligned Movement, Southern African Development Community, United Nations and World Trade Organization.

United Republic of Tanzania was a member (with Kenya and Uganda) of the East African Community, which from 1967 had a common market and many shared services, but collapsed in 1977. The three countries again embarked on developing regional co-operation in 1993, bringing about progressive harmonisation of standards and policies across a wide range of activities, and

launching a new East African Community in January 2001 and East African Customs Union in January 2005. The Community was enlarged in July 2007 when Burundi and Rwanda became members. United Republic of Tanzania hosts the headquarters of the East African Community in Arusha.

## Traveller information

**Immigration and customs:** Passports must be valid for at least six months from the date of arrival. Visas are required by all Commonwealth nationals. If you are travelling on from United Republic of Tanzania, some countries will require you to have a yellow fever vaccination certificate (see *Travel Health* below). Prohibited imports include some fresh food, plants and seeds (except with the relevant health certificate).

**Travel within the country:** Traffic drives on the left. Visitors wishing to drive will need an international driving permit.

Scheduled flights fly to main towns and to Zanzibar. Some intercity buses are modern, with air-conditioning, toilets and refreshments. Taxis cannot be hailed in the street but are none the less widely available in urban areas. They do not have meters, so fares should be agreed before starting out. It is also possible to hire a chauffeur-driven car.

**Travel health:** Prevalent diseases where appropriate precautionary measures are recommended include cholera, dengue fever, 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 754,000 tourist arrivals in 2010.

## Further information

**National Website:** [www.tanzania.go.tz](http://www.tanzania.go.tz)

**Parliament:** [www.parliament.go.tz](http://www.parliament.go.tz)

**Bank of Tanzania:** [www.bot-tz.org](http://www.bot-tz.org)

**Tanzania Tourist Board:** [www.tanzaniatouristboard.com](http://www.tanzaniatouristboard.com)

**Commonwealth Secretariat:** [www.thecommonwealth.org](http://www.thecommonwealth.org)

**Commonwealth of Nations:** [www.commonwealthofnations.org/country/united\\_republic\\_of\\_tanzania](http://www.commonwealthofnations.org/country/united_republic_of_tanzania)