

# Macro-economics of Zambia (January 2022)

Embassy of Japan in the Republic of Zambia  
Economic Cooperation/Affairs Section

## 1. Monthly News (Economics)

<p><b>1. "JICA takes rice project to 3 regions" (Daily Mail, Monday 3rd)</b> Mr. Kazuhiko Tokuhashi, JICA Zambia Chief Representative, said in an interview that JICA is implementing a US\$6 million Market Oriented Rice Development Project (MOREDeP) to empower 6,000 rice growers in Western, Luapula and Lusaka provinces.</p>
<p><b>2. "\$500m lost via timber illegalities" (Times of Zambia, Monday 10th)</b> With an estimated US\$500 million annual loss due to illegalities in Zambia's timber industry, the Government has suspended the issuance of export permits to conduct a stock of wood availability and countercheck exports.</p>
<p><b>3. "COVID testing restricted to the symptomatic" (Daily Mail, Tuesday 11th)</b> With one in every three to four Zambians believed to have COVID-19 due to escalating community transmissions, the Ministry of Health has revised the testing criteria and will now prioritize people with symptoms of the disease.</p>
<p><b>4. "Copper price keeps soaring" (Daily Mail; Daily Nation, Friday 14th)</b> The price of copper on the London Metal Exchange (LME) has continued rising and getting closer to US\$10,072 a metric ton, the highest it reached since October last year. Experts have predicted that the commodities prices may stay high for decades as mining companies struggle to keep up with demand from the energy transition.</p>
<p><b>5. "Bank of Zambia buys K345m gold" (Times of Zambia, Tuesday 18th)</b> The Bank of Zambia (BoZ) has procured 282.79 kilograms of gold at cost of K345.6 million from December 2020. Gold weighing 195.95 kg was bought from Kansanshi Copper Mines at the cost of K241.8 million, while 86.84kg was purchased from Zambia Gold Company, a subsidiary of ZCCM-IH at a cost of K103.8 million.</p>
<p><b>6. "Rubbish contracts" (Times of Zambia, Thursday 20th)</b> With the continued heaps of garbage littered in most cities and towns, the Government has directed councils throughout the country to review all contracts with waste management firms in order to terminate the contracts of non-performing companies immediately.</p>
<p><b>7. "Zambia's economic growth projected at 3.8 p.c" (Times of Zambia, Friday 21st)</b> According to a statement issued by the First National Bank (FNB) Africa yesterday, Zambia's economic condition is expected to improve over the next few years, with growth projected at 3.8 per cent this year. Also, the bank further expected manufacturing and the broader retail sector to see some improvement in 2022.</p>
<p><b>8. "Mathematics continues being a headache for pupils" (Daily Mail, Saturday 29th)</b> Out of over 120,000 pupils who sat Grade 12 examinations last year, more than 80,000, or about 68%, have passed, with the highest score being in practical subjects like design and technology while the lowest marks were in mathematics. By province, the Southern Province had the highest pass rate (78%) and Luapula the lowest (61%).</p>
<p><b>9. "Ana devastates Lusaka houses" (Daily Mail, Monday 31st)</b> Heavy rains that Zambia has continued to experience in the recent days, largely attributed to tropical cyclone Ana, on Saturday left a trail of destruction in Lusaka, with several townships flooded following a hailstorm. Hundreds of families have been left homeless as floodwaters overwhelmed their houses, rendering them inhabitable.</p>

## 2. Main Economic Statistical Indexes

Economic Index	2021	2022
1. Population (millions)	17.89 (2020)	-
2. Population growth rate (%)	2.89 (2020)	-
3. Unemployment rate (%)	13 (est)	13 (est)
4. Life expectancy (age, M/F)	60.8/66.9 (2019)	-
5. GDP (million USD)*1	21,699 (est)	23,967 (est)
6. GDP growth rate (%)	1.6 (est)	-
7. GNI per capita (USD)	1,160 (2020)	-
8. Inflation rate (%)	16.4 (Dec)	15.1 (Jan)
9. Consumer Price Index (year 2009 =100)	336.31 (Dec)	344.90 (Jan)
10. Balance of trade (million USD)	4,008.02 *2	-
11. Balance of trade against Japan (million USD)	-509.99 *3	-
12. Export (million USD)	11,007.01 *2	-
13. Export against Japan (million USD)	175.73 *3	-
14. Import (million USD)	6,998.10 *2	-
15. Import against Japan (million USD)	685.72 *3	-
16. Balance of current account (million USD)	2,319.9 (est)	-
17. Outward direct investment (million USD)	133 (2020)	-
18. Inward direct investment (million USD)	234 (2020)	-
19. Gold, Foreign currency reserve (million USD)	2,900 (Sep)	-
20. External public debt (million USD)	16,860 (Jun)	-
21. Exchange rate (Kwacha/USD, average)	19.96ZMW	17.26ZMW (Jan)
22. Main policy interest rate (annual rate, %)	9.0 (Nov)	-

\*1 GDP at market prices (Current USD)

\*2 Accumulated average rate: January-December 2021. 1USD = 19.96ZMW (Bank of Zambia)

\*3 Accumulated average rate: January-December 2021. 1USD = 107.92JPY (Bank of Japan)

<Source> 1, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14: Central Statistics Office / 2, 4, 7: World Bank / 3: ILO / 5: IMF / 6, 16, 20: Ministry of Finance / 11, 13, 15: Trade Statistics of Japan (Ministry of Finance Japan) / 17, 18: UNCTAD / 19, 21, 22: Bank of Zambia

## 3. Trade Statistics

### • Export

#### 1. Export destination (December 2021)

1<sup>st</sup>: Switzerland 44.3%  
2<sup>nd</sup>: China 17.1%  
3<sup>rd</sup>: Singapore 12.7%  
4<sup>th</sup>: Congo DR 11.6%  
5<sup>th</sup>: South Africa 2.4%  
Other destination 11.9%

#### 2. Export products

Copper anodes for electrolytic refining; Copper blister; Rubbies, Sapphires and emeralds, worked but not set; Electro-won copper cathodes; Bullion semi-manufactured forms; and Sulphur of all kinds.

### • Import

#### 1. Import destination (December 2021)

1<sup>st</sup>: South Africa 34.5%  
2<sup>nd</sup>: UAE 12.9%  
3<sup>rd</sup>: China 12.5%  
4<sup>th</sup>: India 5.7%  
5<sup>th</sup>: Japan 3.4%  
Other destination 31.1%

#### 2. Import products

Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, Crude; Gas Oils; Sulphur of all kinds (excl. sublimed, precipitated and colloidal sulphur); Motor Spirit; and, Road Tractors for semi-trailers.