

Macro-economics of Zambia (March 2022)

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

1. Monthly News (Economics)

<p>1. "Fuel pump prices hiked by over K2" (Daily Mail, Tuesday 1st) Owing to the continued depreciation of the Kwacha against major foreign currencies, coupled with the rise in international prices of petroleum products, Energy Regulation Board (ERB) has increased pump prices for fuel by over K2. The new prices, which take effect today, have increased by K2.12 per liter for petrol while the same quantity for diesel has been adjusted by K2.61.</p>
<p>2. "Chilengi is new ZNPHI boss" (Daily Mail, Wednesday 2nd) Special Advisor to the President for COVID-19 Roma Chilengi is the new director general for Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI). Dr. Chilengi has taken over from Victor Mukonka who is designated for foreign service.</p>
<p>3. "Japan donates US\$1.18 million medical kit" (Daily Mail; Times of Zambia, Saturday 5th) The Japanese Government has announced an emergency grant totaling US\$ 1.18 million to the Ministry of Health, through United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF), for Cold Chain medical equipment to keep vaccines for COVID-19 under cool temperature.</p>
<p>4. "Health jobs galore on Apr 1" (Times of Zambia, Wednesday 16th) The Zambian Government has set April 1, this year as the commencement date for the recruitment of 11,200 health workers, with K930 million allocated towards the exercise. Health Minister Sylvia Masebo said the Civil Service Commission (CSC) will advertise the process this month.</p>
<p>5. "Russia, Ukraine uncertainty affects Zambia" (Daily Nation, Thursday 17th) The Russian-Ukraine uncertainty has begun to impact commodity prices and the fiscal space amid Zambia's worsening debt burden, according to the Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). This has translated into price hike across the board for transportation and goods, UNECA Sub-Regional office for Southern Africa Director, Eunice Kamwendo has said.</p>
<p>6. "Swine fever hits Lusaka" (Daily Nation; Times of Zambia, Sunday 20th) In accordance with the Animal Health Act, the movement of all pigs, pig products and by-products has been banned in Lusaka Province owing to the outbreak of swine fever in the Province. Also, all pig sale yards, pig slaughter facilities and all processing plants in Lusaka Province had been closed with immediate effect.</p>
<p>7. "Polio vaccine campaign launched" (Daily Mail, Thursday 24th) The Zambian Government has launched the national oral polio vaccination campaign following the outbreak of the disease in neighbouring Malawi last year. In the first round, the exercise is targeting 1.2 million children under five years old in Eastern, Muchinga and Lusaka provinces.</p>
<p>8. "Japanese continued links with Zambian students praised" (Daily Nation, Saturday 26th) The Japanese Government has been commended for building a continuous and robust network with Zambian students to that country. Ministry of Education permanent secretary Joel Kamoko was speaking when he officiated at the awarding ceremony of the Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation for the fiscal year 2021 to Dr. Michelo Syakalima, President of the MEXT Scholarship Association of Zambia.</p>
<p>9. "Visa fees slashed to boost tourism" (Times of Zambia, Sunday 27th) The Zambian Government has reduced VISA fees for international travelers to Zambia by 50 percent to boost the tourism industry which suffered reduced revenues caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>
<p>10. "K805m released for CDF" (Times of Zambia, Thursday 31st) The Zambian Government has released K805 million as Constituency Development Fund (CDF) for the first quarter of 2022 and K99.26 million to cover for bursaries for secondary schools and skills training for the same period. Local Government and Rural Development Minister Gary Nkombo said the funds would be shared among all the 156 constituencies countrywide.</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)	13.1 (March)
9. Consumer Price Index (year 2009 =100)	336.31 (Dec)	353.61 (March)
10. Balance of trade (million USD)	4,008.02	707.64 *2
11. Balance of trade against Japan (million USD)	-509.99	-82.61 *3
12. Export (million USD)	11,007.01	1,911.19 *2
13. Export against Japan (million USD)	175.73	62.76 *3
14. Import (million USD)	6,998.10	1,203.55 *2
15. Import against Japan (million USD)	685.72	145.37 *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)	2,800 (Dec)	-
20. External public debt (million USD)	17,270 (Dec)	-
21. Exchange rate (Kwacha/USD, average)	19.96ZMW	17.94ZMW (Mar)
22. Main policy interest rate (annual rate, %)	9.0 (Nov)	9.0 (Nov, 2021)

*1 GDP at market prices (Current USD)

*2 Accumulated average rate: January-February 2022. 1USD = 17.68ZMW (Bank of Zambia)

*3 Accumulated average rate: January-February 2022. 1USD = 114JPY (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 (February 2022)

1st: Switzerland 48.7%
2nd: China 18.5%
3rd: Singapore 10.5%
4th: Congo DR 10.0%
5th: South Africa 2.2%
Other destination 10.1%

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 (February 2022)

1st: South Africa 29.5%
2nd: China 13.9%
3rd: UAE 9.0%
4th: India 6.4%
5th: Congo DR 5.7%
Other destination 35.5%

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.