

Macro-economics of Zambia (April 2022)

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

1. Monthly News (Economics)

<p>1. "ERB hikes fuel pump prices" (Daily Mail; Daily Nation; Times of Zambia, Friday 1st) At midnight on 31 March, the Energy Regulation Board (ERB) has adjusted upwards the pump prices of petroleum products, due to the continued strain in global oil supply mainly caused by the geopolitical conflict between Russia and Ukraine. The prices have been increased by K4.54 per liter for petrol, K4.68 for diesel and K3.93 for kerosene.</p>
<p>2. "Government lifts COVID restrictions" (Times of Zambia, Saturday 2nd) The Government has released a statement yesterday in the name of Hon. Sylvia T. Masebo, Minister of Health, announcing the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions on public gatherings, travel and all learning institutions, places of work as well as worship. The statement also says that travelers to Zambia will no longer need to have a PCR test if they have been fully vaccinated, but those who have not yet completed the vaccination must provide evidence of SAR-Cov-2 negative by PCR test.</p>
<p>3. "Zambia, Rwanda ink trade deal" (Daily Mail; Times of Zambia, Tuesday 5th) Delegations from Zambia and Rwanda have signed seven Memoranda of Understandings (MoU) in Livingstone yesterday, aimed at fostering trade and investment cooperation, immigration matters, health, fisheries and livestock development among other things. Earlier, H.E. Mr. Hakainde Hichilema, President of the Republic of Zambia, and H.E. Mr. Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda, held bilateral talks to discuss various developmental matters that will foster economic prosperity for the two countries.</p>
<p>4. "Cabinet approves draft 8NDP" (Daily Mail, Wednesday 6th) Cabinet has approved the draft Eighth National Development Plan (8NDP) with the aim of achieving socio-economic transformation for improved livelihoods in the country. The 8NDP, which covers 2022-2026 period, is anchored on four key development pillars of economic transformation and job creation, human and social development, environmental sustainability and good governance.</p>
<p>5. "Lusaka records cholera case" (Daily Mail; Times of Zambia, Tuesday 12th) Lusaka has recorded one case of cholera involving a three-year-old girl and bilharzia affecting 99 people in Chirundu. Health Minister Sylvia Masebo said a cholera victim had been admitted to Kalingalinga Clinic after being diagnosed with cholera.</p>
<p>6. "LSMFEZ attracts \$100 million worth of investment" (Daily Mail, Thursday 21st) Lusaka South Multi-Facility Economic Zone (LSMFEZ) attracted US\$100 million worth of investment in manufacturing, agro-processing and steel factories in the first quarter of this year.</p>
<p>7. "Zambia's debt restructuring: China gets on board" (Daily Mail; Times of Zambia, Saturday 23rd) China has committed to joining Zambia's creditor committee, International Monetary Fund managing director Kritsalina Georgeiva said last Thursday, amid complaints from Zambia's Finance Minister Situmbeko Musokotwane about delays to its debt restructuring.</p>
<p>8. "Zambia sees reduced malaria cases" (Daily Mail, Tuesday 26th) Over six million malaria cases were noted in Zambia last year compared to 7.4 million in 2020. The reduction in cases has been attributed to investments in preventive and curative interventions by the Government. Minister of Health Sylvia Masebo said this yesterday when she launched World Malaria Day in Solwezi.</p>
<p>9. "Japan donates K16m worth biometric kits" (Daily Mail, Wednesday 27th) Japan has donated 116 biometric kits worth K 16 million yesterday to support the Government's effort to implement the Integrated National Registration Information System (INRIS) in partnership with UNDP and UNICEF. In the handover ceremony, Minister of Home Affairs and Internal Security Jack Mwiimbu said INRIS was intended to provide biometric enabled national registration cards (NRCs) and issuance of birth and death certificates.</p>
<p>10. "Zambia, DRC pen deal" (Daily Mail; Daily Nation; Times of Zambia, Saturday 30th) Zambia and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have signed a historic cooperation agreement yesterday to facilitate the development of a value chain in electric vehicle batteries and clean energy. Once this agreement actualised, the combined trade strategy in the development of electric vehicle batteries and renewable energy value chain will create jobs for thousands of Congolese and Zambians and boost economies for the two countries.</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)	61.1/67.2 (2020)	-
5. GDP (million USD)*1	20,753 (est)	26,665 (est)
6. GDP growth rate (%)	1.6 (est)	-
7. GNI per capita (USD)	1,160 (2020)	-
8. Inflation rate (%)	16.4 (Dec)	11.5 (Apr)
9. Consumer Price Index (year 2009 =100)	336.31 (Dec)	356.02 (Apr)
10. Balance of trade (million USD)	4,008.02	1041.08 *2
11. Balance of trade against Japan (million USD)	-509.99	-179.55 *3
12. Export (million USD)	11,007.01	2,954.42 *2
13. Export against Japan (million USD)	175.73	79.80 *3
14. Import (million USD)	6,998.10	1,913.34 *2
15. Import against Japan (million USD)	685.72	259.35 *3
16. Balance of current account (million USD)	2,319.9 (est, 2020)	-
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	17.39ZMW (Apr)
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-March 2022. 1USD = 17.77ZMW (Bank of Zambia)

*3 Accumulated average rate: January-March 2022. 1USD = 114.33JPY (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 (March 2022)

- 1st: Switzerland 41.7%
- 2nd: China 21.4%
- 3rd: Singapore 12.2%
- 4th: Congo DR 9.1%
- 5th: South Africa 3.5%
- Other destination 12.1%

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 (March 2022)

- 1st: South Africa 23.0%
- 2nd: China 13.6%
- 3rd: UAE 8.1%
- 4th: India 4.9%
- 5th: Japan 2.8%
- Other destination 47.6%

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.