



ZAMBIA

Following independence from Britain in 1964, Zambia's affairs were dominated by three considerations: the price of copper, her relationships with what for years were white-ruled neighbouring African states, and communications. Copper has traditionally accounted for a disproportionately high proportion of the country's exports and gross domestic product (GDP). The rise and fall of copper prices have played a critical role in Zambia's economic fortunes. The independence struggles in neighbouring Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Angola and South Africa placed Zambia squarely in the front line of Black African states facing a white controlled south. Zambia's relations with her neighbours have always been coloured by the landlocked country's dependence on

Key facts

Official name: Republic of Zambia

Head of State: President Levy Mwanawasa (MMD) (elected 27 Dec 2001; inaugurated 2 Jan 2002)

Head of government: President Levy Mwanawasa

Area: 752,614 square km

Capital city: Lusaka

Official language/s: English

English is the usual medium for business.

There are 73 identified African languages, all Bantu, of which seven are recognised as official vernaculars – Tonga, Lozi, Bemba, Kaonde, Luvale, Lunda and Nyanja. Zambian traders usually have a working knowledge of English.

Population: 11.00 million (2004)

Around 58 per cent of the total population is under 15 years of age. Seventy-three per cent of the population lived below the national poverty line (1995–2001).

The majority of people live in the northern Copperbelt towns and Lusaka.

Ethnic make-up: There are 73 ethnic groups in Zambia. The largest single group, comprising 34 per cent of the population, is the Bemba (north-east and Copperbelt areas). Other important groups include the Tonga of the southern province with 16 per cent of the population; the Nyanja of the eastern provinces (14 per cent) who are well represented in the capital, Lusaka; and the Lozi (9 per cent) of the west.

The European population live and work mostly in the urban areas, or on the farmlands along the railway lines. A high proportion of the Asian community is to be found on the Copperbelt and other urban centres.

Religions: Christian, Muslim and indigenous beliefs. Approximately 70 per cent of the population is Christian (mainly Roman Catholic and Protestant).

Form of state: Republic

Independence date: 24 October 1964

Ruling party: Movement for Multi-party Democracy (MMD) (re-elected 27 Dec 2001)

Last elections: 27 December 2001 (presidential and legislative)

Results

Presidential: Levy Mwanawasa (MMD) won 29.1 per cent of the vote; Anderson Mazoka 27.2 per cent.

Parliamentary: Movement for Multi-party Democracy (MMD) won 27.5 per cent of the vote (69 seats out of 159); United Party for National Development (UPND) 23.3 per cent (49 seats); Forum for Democracy and Development (FDD) 15.3 per cent (12 seats); United National Independence Party (UNIP) 10.4 per cent (13 seats); Heritage Party 7.4 per cent (4 seats); Patriotic Front 2.8 per cent (1 seat); Zambia Republican Party 5.5 per cent (1 seat); non-partisan 1; appointed members 8; Speaker 1.

Next elections: 2006 (presidential and legislative)

KEY INDICATORS

	Unit	2002	2003	2004
Population	m	10.70	10.85	*11.00
Gross domestic product (GDP)	US\$bn	4.10	4.80	*5.39
GDP per capita	US\$	381	447	448
GDP real growth	%	3.0	3.1	5.0
Inflation	%	22.2	21.5	18.0
Exports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	945.0	1,117.0	1,548.0
Imports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	1,200.0	1,633.0	1,519.0
Current account	US\$m	-470.0	-628.0	-620.0
Foreign debt	US\$bn	5.4	6.5	0.0
Total reserves minus gold	US\$m	535.1	247.7	337.1
Foreign exchange	US\$m	464.8	247.2	312.2

* estimated figure

