

Zimbabwe



Introduction Zimbabwe

Background: The UK annexed Southern Rhodesia from the [British] South Africa Company in 1923. A 1961 constitution was formulated that favored whites in power. In 1965 the government unilaterally declared its independence, but the UK did not recognize the act and demanded more complete voting rights for the black African majority in the country (then called Rhodesia). UN sanctions and a guerrilla uprising finally led to free elections in 1979 and independence (as Zimbabwe) in 1980. Robert MUGABE, the nation's first prime minister, has been the country's only ruler (as president since 1987) and has dominated the country's political system since independence. His chaotic land redistribution campaign, which began in 2000, caused an exodus of white farmers, crippled the economy, and ushered in widespread shortages of basic commodities. Ignoring international condemnation, MUGABE rigged the 2002 presidential election to ensure his reelection. Opposition and labor strikes in 2003 were unsuccessful in pressuring MUGABE to retire early; security forces continued their brutal repression of regime opponents. The ruling ZANU-PF party used fraud and intimidation to win a two-thirds majority in the March 2005 parliamentary election, allowing it to amend the constitution at will and

recreate the Senate, which had been abolished in the late 1980s. In April 2005, Harare embarked on Operation Restore Order, ostensibly an urban rationalization program, which resulted in the destruction of the homes or businesses of 700,000 mostly poor supporters of the opposition, according to UN estimates. ZANU-PF announced in December 2006 that they would combine presidential and parliamentary elections in 2010 to ensure MUGABE remains in office.

Geography	Zimbabwe
Location:	Southern Africa, between South Africa and Zambia
Geographic coordinates:	20 00 S, 30 00 E
Map references:	Africa
Area:	<i>total:</i> 390,580 sq km <i>land:</i> 386,670 sq km <i>water:</i> 3,910 sq km
Area - comparative:	slightly larger than Montana
Land boundaries:	<i>total:</i> 3,066 km <i>border countries:</i> Botswana 813 km, Mozambique 1,231 km, South Africa 225 km, Zambia 797 km
Coastline:	0 km (landlocked)
Maritime claims:	none (landlocked)
Climate:	tropical; moderated by altitude; rainy season (November to March)
Terrain:	mostly high plateau with higher central plateau (high veld); mountains in east
Elevation extremes:	<i>lowest point:</i> junction of the Runde and Save rivers 162 m <i>highest point:</i> Inyangani 2,592 m
Natural resources:	coal, chromium ore, asbestos, gold, nickel, copper, iron ore, vanadium, lithium, tin, platinum group metals
Land use:	<i>arable land:</i> 8.24% <i>permanent crops:</i> 0.33% <i>other:</i> 91.43% (2005)
Irrigated land:	1,740 sq km (2003)

Natural hazards:	recurring droughts; floods and severe storms are rare
Environment - current issues:	deforestation; soil erosion; land degradation; air and water pollution; the black rhinoceros herd - once the largest concentration of the species in the world - has been significantly reduced by poaching; poor mining practices have led to toxic waste and heavy metal pollution
Environment - international agreements:	<i>party to:</i> Biodiversity, Climate Change, Desertification, Endangered Species, Law of the Sea, Ozone Layer Protection <i>signed, but not ratified:</i> none of the selected agreements
Geography - note:	landlocked; the Zambezi forms a natural riverine boundary with Zambia; in full flood (February-April) the massive Victoria Falls on the river forms the world's largest curtain of falling water

People	Zimbabwe
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Population:	12,236,805 <i>note:</i> estimates for this country explicitly take into account the effects of excess mortality due to AIDS; this can result in lower life expectancy, higher infant mortality and death rates, lower population and growth rates, and changes in the distribution of population by age and sex than would otherwise be expected (July 2006 est.)
Age structure:	<i>0-14 years:</i> 37.4% (male 2,307,170/female 2,265,298) <i>15-64 years:</i> 59.1% (male 3,616,528/female 3,621,190) <i>65 years and over:</i> 3.5% (male 199,468/female 227,151) (2006 est.)
Median age:	<i>total:</i> 19.9 years <i>male:</i> 19.7 years <i>female:</i> 20 years (2006 est.)
Population growth rate:	0.62% (2006 est.)
Birth rate:	28.01 births/1,000 population (2006 est.)
Death rate:	21.84 deaths/1,000 population (2006 est.)
Net migration rate:	0 migrant(s)/1,000 population <i>note:</i> there is an increasing flow of Zimbabweans into South Africa and Botswana in search of better economic opportunities (2006 est.)
Sex ratio:	<i>at birth:</i> 1.03 male(s)/female <i>under 15 years:</i> 1.02 male(s)/female <i>15-64 years:</i> 1 male(s)/female

65 years and over: 0.88 male(s)/female
total population: 1 male(s)/female (2006 est.)

Infant mortality rate: *total: 51.71 deaths/1,000 live births*
male: 54.5 deaths/1,000 live births
female: 48.83 deaths/1,000 live births (2006 est.)

Life expectancy at birth: *total population: 39.29 years*
male: 40.39 years
female: 38.16 years (2006 est.)

Total fertility rate: 3.13 children born/woman (2006 est.)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate: 24.6% (2001 est.)

HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS: 1.8 million (2001 est.)

HIV/AIDS - deaths: 170,000 (2003 est.)

Major infectious diseases: *degree of risk: high*
food or waterborne diseases: bacterial diarrhea, hepatitis A, and typhoid
vectorborne disease: malaria
water contact disease: schistosomiasis (2005)

Nationality: *noun: Zimbabwean(s)*
adjective: Zimbabwean

Ethnic groups: African 98% (Shona 82%, Ndebele 14%, other 2%), mixed and Asian 1%, white less than 1%

Religions: syncretic (part Christian, part indigenous beliefs) 50%, Christian 25%, indigenous beliefs 24%, Muslim and other 1%

Languages: English (official), Shona, Sindebele (the language of the Ndebele, sometimes called Ndebele), numerous but minor tribal dialects

Literacy: *definition: age 15 and over can read and write English*
total population: 90.7%
male: 94.2%
female: 87.2% (2003 est.)

Government Zimbabwe

Country name: *conventional long form:* Republic of Zimbabwe
conventional short form: Zimbabwe
former: Southern Rhodesia, Rhodesia

Government type: parliamentary democracy

Capital: *name:* Harare
geographic coordinates: 17 50 S, 31 03 E
time difference: UTC+2 (7 hours ahead of Washington, DC during Standard Time)

Administrative divisions: 8 provinces and 2 cities* with provincial status; Bulawayo*, Harare*, Manicaland, Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland East, Mashonaland West, Masvingo, Matabeleland North, Matabeleland South, Midlands

Independence: 18 April 1980 (from UK)

National holiday: Independence Day, 18 April (1980)

Constitution: 21 December 1979

Legal system: mixture of Roman-Dutch and English common law

Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal

Executive branch: *chief of state:* Executive President Robert Gabriel MUGABE (since 31 December 1987); Vice President Joseph MSIKA (since December 1999) and Vice President Joyce MUJURU (since 6 December 2004); note - the president is both the chief of state and head of government
head of government: Executive President Robert Gabriel MUGABE (since 31 December 1987); Vice President Joseph MSIKA (since December 1999) and Vice President Joyce MUJURU (since 6 December 2004); note - the president is both the chief of state and head of government
cabinet: Cabinet appointed by the president; responsible to the House of Assembly
elections: presidential candidates nominated with a nomination paper signed by at least 10 registered voters (at least one from each province) and elected by popular vote for a six-year term (no term limits); election last held 9-11 March 2002 (next to be held March 2008); co-vice presidents appointed by the president
election results: Robert Gabriel MUGABE reelected president; percent of vote - Robert Gabriel MUGABE 56.2%, Morgan TSVANGIRAI 41.9%

Legislative bicameral Parliament consists of a House of Assembly

branch: (150 seats - 120 elected by popular vote for five-year terms, 12 nominated by the president, 10 occupied by traditional chiefs chosen by their peers, and eight occupied by provincial governors appointed by the president) and a Senate (66 seats - 50 elected by popular vote for a five-year term, six nominated by the president, 10 nominated by the Council of Chiefs)
elections: House of Assembly last held 31 March 2005 (next to be held in 2010), Senate last held 26 November 2005 (next to be held in 2010)
election results: House of Assembly - percent of vote by party - ZANU-PF 59.6%, MDC 39.5%, other 0.9%; seats by party - ZANU-PF 78, MDC 41, independents 1; Senate - percent of vote by party - ZANU-PF 73.7%, MDC 20.3%, other 4.4%, independents 1.6%; seats by party - ZANU-PF 43, MDC 7

Judicial branch: Supreme Court; High Court

Political parties and leaders: African National Party or ANP; Movement for Democratic Change or MDC [Morgan TSVANGIRAI]; Peace Action is Freedom for All or PAFA; United Parties [Abel MUZOREWA]; United People's Party [Daniel SHUMBA]; Zimbabwe African National Union-Ndonga or ZANU-Ndonga [Wilson KUMBULA]; Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front or ZANU-PF [Robert Gabriel MUGABE]; Zimbabwe African Peoples Union or ZAPU [Agrippa MADLELA]; Zimbabwe Youth in Alliance or ZIYA

Political pressure groups and leaders: Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition [Wellington CHIBEBE]; National Constitutional Assembly or NCA [Lovemore MADHUKU]; Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions or ZCTU [Lovemore MATOMBO]

International organization participation: ACP, AfDB, AU, COMESA, FAO, G-15, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICCt (signatory), ICRM, IDA, IFAD, IFC, IFRC, ILO, IMF, IMO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO, ITU, ITUC, MIGA, NAM, OPCW, PCA, SADC, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNMIS, UNWTO, UPU, WCL, WCO, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

Diplomatic representation in the US: *chief of mission:* Ambassador Dr. Machivenyika T. MAPURANGA
chancery: 1608 New Hampshire Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20009
telephone: [1] (202) 332-7100
FAX: [1] (202) 483-9326

Diplomatic representation *chief of mission:* Ambassador Christopher W. DELL
embassy: 172 Herbert Chitepo Avenue, Harare

from the US: *mailing address:* P. O. Box 3340, Harare
telephone: [263] (4) 250-593 and 250-594
FAX: [263] (4) 796-488

Flag description: seven equal horizontal bands of green, yellow, red, black, red, yellow, and green with a white isosceles triangle edged in black with its base on the hoist side; a yellow Zimbabwe bird representing the long history of the country is superimposed on a red five-pointed star in the center of the triangle, which symbolizes peace; green symbolizes agriculture, yellow - mineral wealth, red - blood shed to achieve independence, and black stands for the native people

Economy Zimbabwe

Economy - overview: The government of Zimbabwe faces a wide variety of difficult economic problems as it struggles with an unsustainable fiscal deficit, an overvalued exchange rate, soaring inflation, and bare shelves. Its 1998-2002 involvement in the war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo drained hundreds of millions of dollars from the economy. The government's land reform program, characterized by chaos and violence, has badly damaged the commercial farming sector, the traditional source of exports and foreign exchange and the provider of 400,000 jobs, turning Zimbabwe into a net importer of food products. Badly needed support from the IMF has been suspended because of the government's arrears on past loans, which it began repaying in 2005. The official annual inflation rate rose from 32% in 1998, to 133% in 2004, 585% in 2005, and approached 1000% in 2006, although private sector estimates put the figure much higher. Meanwhile, the official exchange rate fell from approximately 1 (revalued) Zimbabwean dollar per US dollar in 2003 to 250 per US dollar in August 2006.

GDP (purchasing power parity): \$25.05 billion (2006 est.)

GDP (official exchange rate): \$3.146 billion (2006 est.)

GDP - real growth rate: -4.4% (2006 est.)

GDP - per capita (PPP): \$2,000 (2006 est.)

GDP - agriculture: 17.7%

composition by sector: *industry: 22.9%*
services: 59.4% (2006 est.)

Labor force: 3.958 million (2006 est.)

Labor force - by occupation: *agriculture: 66%*
industry: 10%
services: 24% (1996)

Unemployment rate: 80% (2005 est.)

Population below poverty line: 80% (2004 est.)

Household income or consumption by percentage share: *lowest 10%: 2%*
highest 10%: 40.4% (1995)

Distribution of family income - Gini index: 56.8 (2003)

Inflation rate (consumer prices): 976.4% official data; private sector estimates are much higher (2006 est.)

Investment (gross fixed): 16.1% of GDP (2006 est.)

Budget: *revenues: \$1.411 billion*
expenditures: \$1.924 billion; including capital expenditures of \$NA (2006 est.)

Public debt: 108.4% of GDP (2006 est.)

Agriculture - products: corn, cotton, tobacco, wheat, coffee, sugarcane, peanuts; sheep, goats, pigs

Industries: mining (coal, gold, platinum, copper, nickel, tin, clay, numerous metallic and nonmetallic ores), steel; wood products, cement, chemicals, fertilizer, clothing and footwear, foodstuffs, beverages

Industrial production growth rate: -1.8% (2006 est.)

Electricity - production: 9.412 billion kWh (2004)

Electricity - production by: *fossil fuel: 47%*
hydro: 53%

source: *nuclear:* 0%
other: 0% (2001)

Electricity - consumption: 11 billion kWh (2004)

Electricity - exports: 0 kWh (2004)

Electricity - imports: 2.25 billion kWh (2004)

Oil - production: 0 bbl/day (2004 est.)

Oil - consumption: 22,500 bbl/day (2004 est.)

Oil - exports: 0 bbl/day (2004 est.)

Oil - imports: 23,000 bbl/day (2004 est.)

Natural gas - production: 0 cu m (2004 est.)

Natural gas - consumption: 0 cu m (2004 est.)

Current account balance: \$-264.6 million (2006 est.)

Exports: \$1.766 billion f.o.b. (2006 est.)

Exports - commodities: cotton, tobacco, gold, ferroalloys, textiles/clothing

Exports - partners: South Africa 27%, China 7.9%, Japan 6.8%, Zambia 5.6%, Netherlands 5.4%, US 4.9%, Italy 4.5%, Germany 4.4% (2005)

Imports: \$2.055 billion f.o.b. (2006 est.)

Imports - commodities: machinery and transport equipment, other manufactures, chemicals, fuels

Imports - partners: South Africa 52.5%, China 5.7%, Botswana 4.1% (2005)

Reserves of foreign exchange and gold: \$140 million (2006 est.)

Debt - external: \$5.26 billion (2006 est.)

Economic aid - recipient: \$178 million; note - the EU and the US provide food aid on humanitarian grounds (2000 est.)

Currency (code): Zimbabwean dollar (ZWD)

Currency code: ZWD

Exchange rates: Zimbabwean dollars per US dollar - 195.107 (2006), 77.965 (2005), 5.729 (2004), 0.824 (2003), 0.055 (2002), note, these are official exchange rates; non-official rates vary significantly

Fiscal year: calendar year

Communications Zimbabwe

Telephones - main lines in use: 328,000 (2005)

Telephones - mobile cellular: 699,000 (2005)

Telephone system: *general assessment:* system was once one of the best in Africa, but now suffers from poor maintenance; more than 100,000 outstanding requests for connection despite an equally large number of installed but unused main lines
domestic: consists of microwave radio relay links, open-wire lines, radiotelephone communication stations, fixed wireless local loop installations, and a substantial mobile cellular network; Internet connection is available in Harare and planned for all major towns and for some of the smaller ones
international: country code - 263; satellite earth stations - 2 Intelsat; two international digital gateway exchanges (in Harare and Gweru)

Radio broadcast stations: AM 7, FM 20 (plus 17 repeater stations), shortwave 1 (1998)

Radios: 1.14 million (1997)

Television broadcast stations: 16 (1997)

Televisions: 370,000 (1997)

Internet country code: .zw

Internet hosts: 7,954 (2006)

Internet Service Providers (ISPs): 6 (2000)

Internet users: 1 million (2005)

Transportation Zimbabwe

Airports: 403 (2006)

Airports - with paved runways: *total: 17
over 3,047 m: 3
2,438 to 3,047 m: 2
1,524 to 2,437 m: 4
914 to 1,523 m: 8 (2006)*

Airports - with unpaved runways: *total: 386
1,524 to 2,437 m: 5
914 to 1,523 m: 187
under 914 m: 194 (2006)*

Pipelines: refined products 261 km (2006)

Railways: *total: 3,077 km
narrow gauge: 3,077 km 1.067-m gauge (313 km electrified)
(2005)*

Roadways: *total: 97,440 km
paved: 18,514 km
unpaved: 78,926 km (2002)*

Waterways: on Lake Kariba, length small (2005)

Ports and terminals: Binga, Kariba

Military Zimbabwe

Military branches: Zimbabwe Defense Forces (ZDF): Zimbabwe National Army, Air Force of Zimbabwe (AFZ), Zimbabwe Republic Police (2005)

Military service age and obligation: 18 years of age (est.) (2004)

Manpower available for *males age 18-49: 2,778,404
females age 18-49: 2,681,531 (2005 est.)*

**military
service:**

**Manpower fit
for military
service:** *males age 18-49:* 1,304,424
females age 18-49: 1,115,096 (2005 est.)

**Military
expenditures
- dollar
figure:** \$124.7 million (2005 est.)

**Military
expenditures
- percent of
GDP:** 4% (2005 est.)

Transnational Issues	Zimbabwe
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**Disputes -
international:** Botswana has built electric fences and South Africa has placed military along the border to stem the flow of thousands of Zimbabweans fleeing to find work and escape political persecution; Namibia has supported and in 2004 Zimbabwe dropped objections to plans between Botswana and Zambia to build a bridge over the Zambezi River, thereby de facto recognizing a short, but not clearly delimited Botswana-Zambia boundary in the river

**Refugees
and
internally
displaced
persons:** *refugees (country of origin):* 6,536 (Democratic Republic of Congo)
IDPs: 569,685 (MUGABE-led political violence, human rights violations, land reform, and economic collapse) (2006)

**Trafficking in
persons:** *current situation:* Zimbabwe is a source, transit, and destination country for women and children trafficked for forced labor and sexual exploitation; children may be trafficked internally for forced agricultural labor, domestic servitude, and sexual exploitation; women and girls are lured out of the country to South Africa, China, Egypt, and Zambia with false job or scholarship promises that result in domestic servitude or commercial sexual exploitation; there are reports of South African employers demanding sex from undocumented Zimbabwean workers under threat of deportation; women and children from Malawi, Zambia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo transit Zimbabwe en route to South Africa; small numbers of South African girls are trafficked to Zimbabwe for domestic labor
tier rating: Tier 3 - Zimbabwe does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to do so

Illicit drugs: transit point for African cannabis and South Asian heroin, mandrax, and methamphetamines destined for the South African and European markets