🇿🇲 Zambia: trade brief

Customs figures for 2025 and 2026 to date; products for 2024; long-run totals. Prepared 2026-11-15.

Zambia exported **$24B** of goods and imported **$13B** in 2025, a trade surplus of **$11B**. Its largest export market was Switzerland (57.8% of exports) and its largest supplier was South Africa (25.6% of imports).

#74
largest exporter of 202 economies, and #107 importer
#1 #202

58%
of exports go to 🇨🇭 Switzerland, the largest market

82%
of exports go to just three markets, out of 101

+11B
trade surplus: exports pay for 188% of imports

+113.8%
change in exports on 2024: $11B then, $24B in 2025

26%
of imports come from 🇿🇦 South Africa, the largest supplier

Zambia in 2025 and 2026: the latest figures

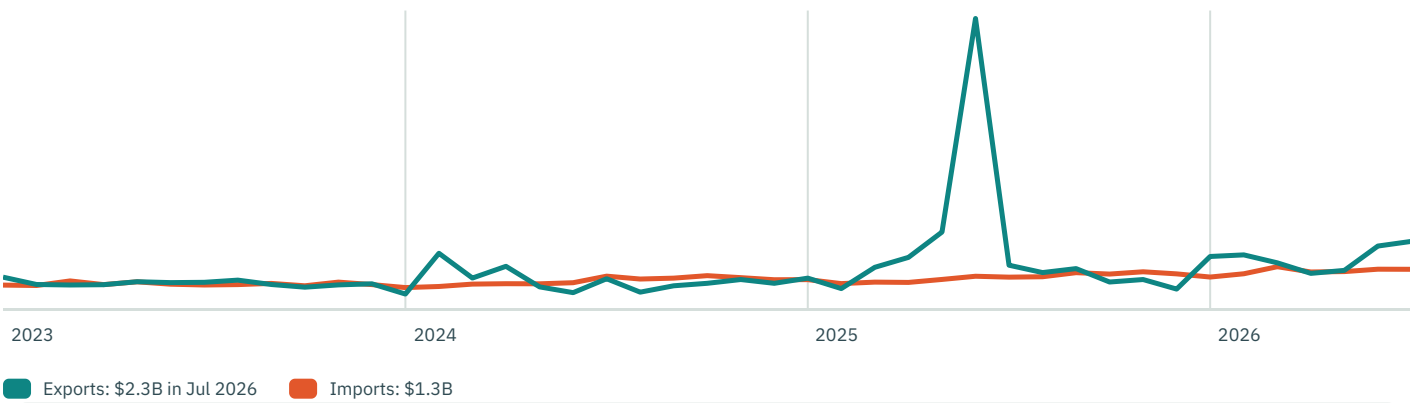
Monthly customs figures in US dollars from the IMF's trade-by-partner database. The newest month is Jul 2026.

$24B
Exports, 2025 **+113.8%** on 2024

$13B
Imports, 2025 **+13.7%** on 2024

$12B
Exports, Jan–Jul 2026 **−35.8%** on the same months of 2025

$8.9B
Imports, Jan–Jul 2026 **+30.5%** on the same months of 2025



Period	Exports	Imports	Balance
2026 (Jan–Jul)	$12B	$8.9B	+3.2B
2025	$24B	$13B	+11B
2024	$11B	$11B	+21M
2023	$10B	$10B	+310M
2022	$12B	$9.0B	+2.6B

Largest export markets in 2025 and 2026 so far

Export market	2025	Change on 2024	Share	Jan–Jul 2026	Change on Jan–Jul 2025
Switzerland †	$14B	+190.3%	57.8%	$1.2B	−90.4%
China †	$3.9B	+64.9%	16.0%	$4.5B	+85.7%
DR Congo †	$2.0B	+64.9%	8.2%	$2.3B	+85.7%
United Arab Emirates †	$682M	+70.5%	2.8%	$432M	+8.1%
Zimbabwe †	$601M	+59.7%	2.5%	$711M	+91.5%
Canada †	$434M	+68.5%	1.8%	$351M	+35.2%
South Africa †	$406M	−14.0%	1.7%	$411M	+128.0%
Singapore †	$376M	+68.3%	1.6%	$312M	+38.3%
Tanzania †	$319M	+64.9%	1.3%	$367M	+85.7%
Namibia †	$233M	+64.9%	1.0%	$268M	+85.7%

Largest suppliers in 2025 and 2026 so far

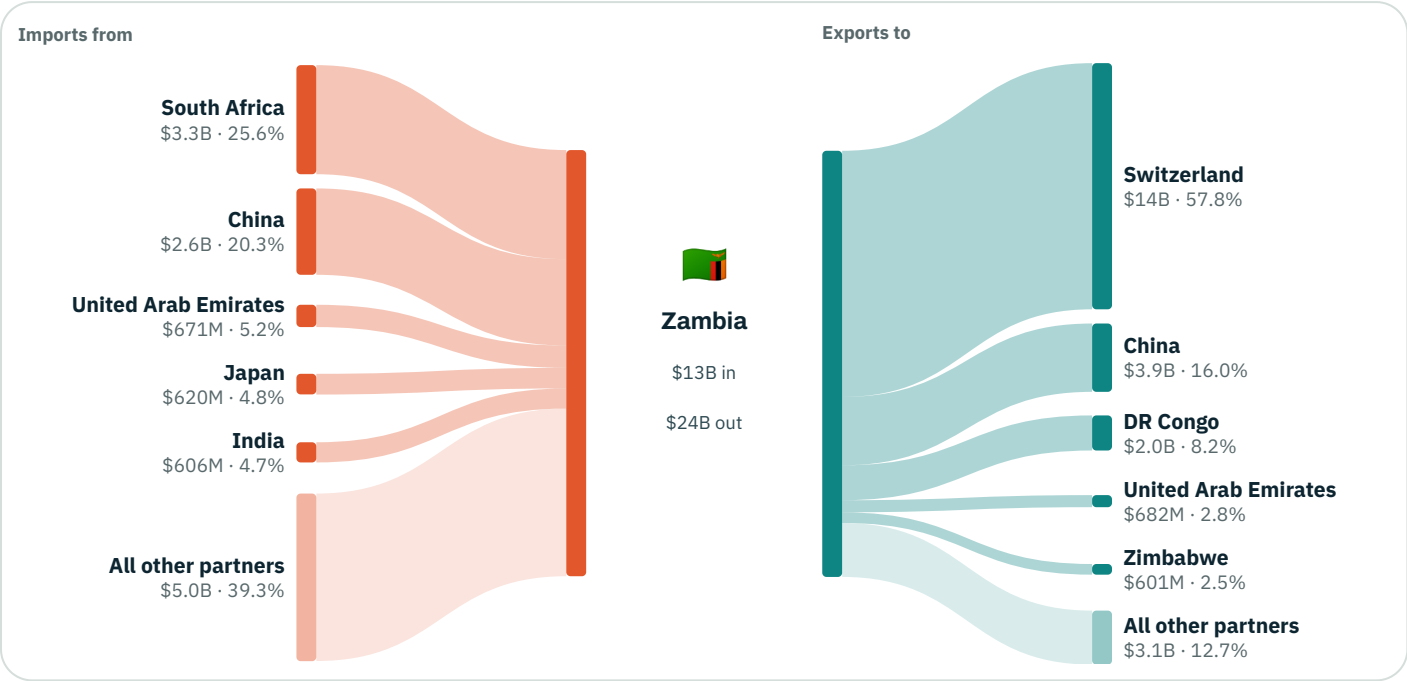
Supplier	2025	Change on 2024	Share	Jan–Jul 2026	Change on Jan–Jul 2025
South Africa †	$3.3B	+13.3%	25.6%	$2.3B	+25.8%
China †	$2.6B	+35.1%	20.3%	$2.0B	+51.7%
United Arab Emirates †	$671M	+10.0%	5.2%	$473M	+30.0%
Japan †	$620M	+29.2%	4.8%	$615M	+87.8%
India †	$606M	+6.3%	4.7%	$438M	+34.6%
Singapore †	$554M	+11.4%	4.3%	$387M	+28.4%
Tanzania †	$533M	+8.6%	4.2%	$380M	+31.6%
DR Congo †	$353M	+10.0%	2.8%	$249M	+30.0%
Bahrain †	$348M	+10.0%	2.7%	$246M	+30.0%
United States †	$303M	−3.0%	2.4%	$137M	−2.2%

† Zambia had not yet reported this flow, so the IMF derived it from the partner's own records. Treat these as provisional.

Source: International Monetary Fund, International Trade in Goods by partner country, retrieved 2026-11-15. The IMF collects each economy's national customs figures and converts them to US dollars at the average exchange rate of the month the goods moved. Imports include freight and insurance; exports do not. The product and partner sections further down use BACI's reconciled figures for 2024, which can differ noticeably for the same year, so compare like with like.

Where Zambia's goods come from, and where they go

The five largest suppliers and the five largest markets in 2025. Ribbon width is in proportion to value within each side.



What Zambia exports, 2024

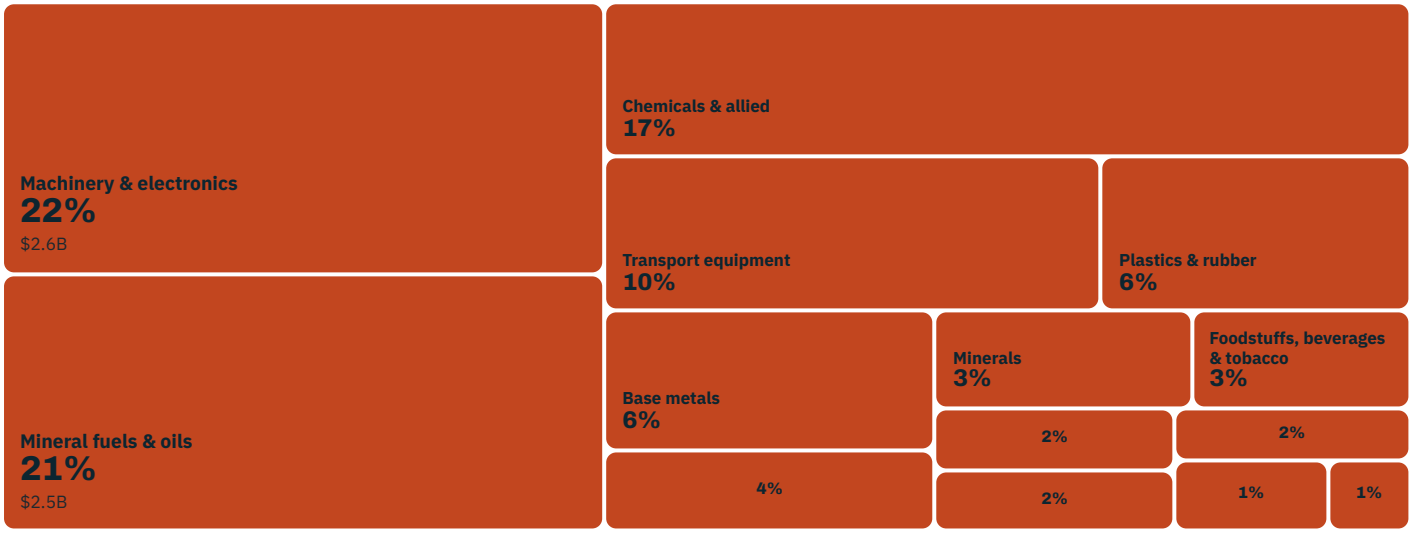


Reconciled figures (BACI): exports of $15B on that basis. 2024 is the newest year with product detail for every economy.

Largest export products

Product	2024	Share
Copper; unrefined, copper anodes for electrolytic refining `7402.00`	$7.4B	51.2%
Copper; refined, unwrought, cathodes and sections of… `7403.11`	$2.3B	15.8%
Nickel ores and concentrates `2604.00`	$723M	5.0%
Tobacco; partly or wholly stemmed or stripped `2401.20`	$296M	2.0%
Electrical energy `2716.00`	$250M	1.7%
Stones; rubies, sapphires and emeralds, worked (other… `7103.91`	$228M	1.6%
Cement; portland, other than white, whether or not… `2523.29`	$143M	1.0%
Waters; including mineral and aerated, containing added… `2202.10`	$124M	0.9%

What Zambia imports, 2024



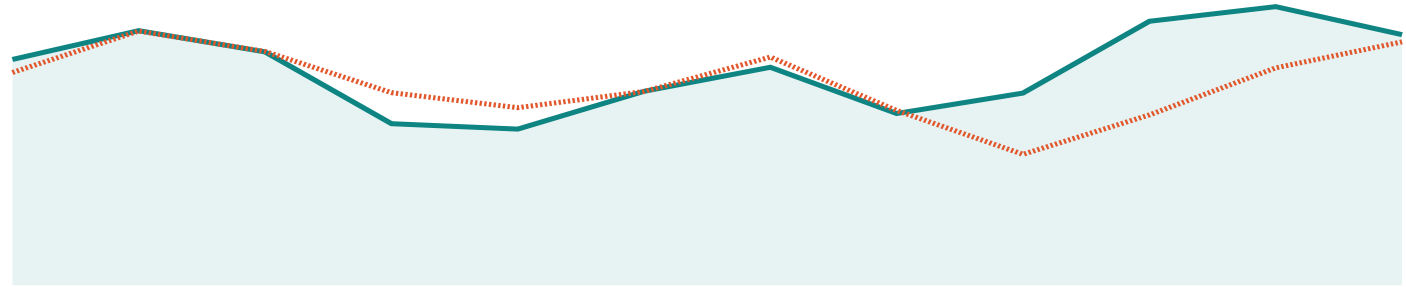
Reconciled figures (BACI): imports of $12B on that basis.

Largest import products

Product	2024	Share
Petroleum oils and oils from bituminous minerals, not… `2710.00`	$2.1B	17.6%
Electrical energy `2716.00`	$251M	2.1%
Vehicles; dumpers, designed for off-highway use, for… `8704.10`	$231M	1.9%
Tractors; road tractors for semi-trailers, with only… `8701.21`	$203M	1.7%
Fertilizers, mineral or chemical; nitrogenous, urea… `3102.10`	$183M	1.5%
Medicaments; consisting of mixed or unmixed products… `3004.90`	$179M	1.5%
Copper ores and concentrates `2603.00`	$148M	1.2%
Fish; frozen, jack and horse mackerel (Trachurus spp.)… `0303.55`	$140M	1.2%

Zambia's trade over the long run

Merchandise exports and imports, World Bank series, current US dollars.



Exports Imports 2012–2023

Sources and method

- **2024 products:** BACI (CEPII), which reconciles what exporters and importers each reported to UN Comtrade, six-digit HS, current US dollars.
- **Totals and partners, latest year and current year:** International Monetary Fund, International Trade in Goods by partner country: each economy's own monthly customs figures, converted to US dollars at the average exchange rate of each month. Values marked † were derived by the IMF from partners' records because the economy had not yet reported.
- **Long-run totals:** World Bank, merchandise exports and imports, current US dollars.
- The two sources use different methods and can give different totals for the same year. Compare like with like.
- Product classification: Harmonized System, © World Customs Organization.

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