INTRODUCTION
Multiple waves of Bantu-speaking groups moved into and through what is now Zambia over the past thousand years. In the 1880s, the British began securing mineral and other economic concessions from various local leaders and the territory eventually became known as Northern Rhodesia. The name was changed to Zambia upon independence in 1964.

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
President Hakainde HICHILEMA
Head of Government
President Hakainde HICHILEMA
Government Type
presidential republic
Capital
Lusaka
Legislature
unicameral National Assembly (167 seats)

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
lower middle-income Sub-Saharan economy; major copper exporter; high public debt is held mostly by China; systemic corruption; one of youngest and fastest growing labor forces; regional hydroelectricity exporter; extreme rural poverty
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $60.12 billion (2020 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $3,300 (2020 est.)
Industries - copper mining/processing, emerald mining, construction, foodstuffs, beverages, chemicals, textiles, fertilizer, horticulture
Agricultural products - sugarcane, cassava, maize, milk, vegetables, soybeans, beef, tobacco, wheat, groundnuts
Exports $8.55 billion (2020 est.)
copper, gold, gemstones, sulfuric acid, raw sugar, tobacco (2019)
partners: Switzerland 29%, China 16%, Namibia 12%, Democratic Republic of the Congo 9%, Singapore 5% (2019)
Imports $5.92 billion (2020 est.)
refined and crude petroleum, delivery trucks, gold, fertilizers (2019)
partners: South Africa 29%, China 14%, UAE 12%, India 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
19.1 million (July 2021 est.)
Population Growth
2.93% (2021 est.)
Ethnicity
Bemba 21%, Tonga 13.6%, Chewa 7.4%, Lozi 5.7%, Nsenga 5.3%, Tumbuka 4.4%, Ngoni 4%, other 38.2%, unspecified 0.4% (2010 est.)
Language
Bemba 33.4%, Nyanja 14.7%, Tonga 11.4%, Lozi 5.5%, Chewa 4.5%, other 30.2%, unspecified 0.2% (2010 est.)
Religion
Protestant 75.3%, Roman Catholic 20.2%, other 2.7% (includes Muslim Buddhist, Hindu, and Baha’i), none 1.8% (2010 est.)
as of October 2021