

Zambia - 2024 LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

ZAMSTATS

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Identification

SURVEY ID NUMBER
ZMB-ZSA-LFS-2024-V1.0

TITLE
2024 LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

SUBTITLE
Thirteenth Edition

COUNTRY

Name	Country code
ZAMBIA	ZMB

STUDY TYPE
Labor Force Survey [hh/lfs]

SERIES INFORMATION

The 2024 Labour Force Survey is the 13th round of annual surveys compiled from four quarterly surveys per year. The survey was previously conducted every two years and the first was in 1986. From 2017 to date, the survey has been conducted every year. Data collection for the 2024 LFS was undertaken during the first two weeks of the last month of each quarter (march, June, September and December).

The survey questionnaire is a standard for all ILO International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) with variations in some modules per country. The 2024 labour force is based on the 20th ICLS resolutions.

ABSTRACT

The major objective of the 2024 LFS was to measure the size of the labour force by its characteristics such as age, sex, industry, sector of employment and education at national, rural/urban and province level. The 2024 LFS is based on the annual data set, arising from combining the 2024 quarterly datasets of LFS surveys. The 2024 LFS provides yearly labour statistics that provide early warning indication for the variations in the economy labour force, occupations, industry and incomes. The statistics are both for the formal and informal sectors.

KIND OF DATA

Sample survey data [ssd]

UNIT OF ANALYSIS

A household survey that has both household and individual questions.

Version

VERSION DESCRIPTION

-V1.0 Edited, anonymised dataset for public distribution

VERSION DATE

2025-08-06

VERSION NOTES

This version is based on the 20th ICLS resolutions.

Scope

NOTES

The 2024 labour force covers aspects such as Labour force participation rate, employment-to-population ratio, employment, unemployment rate, long-term unemployment rate, time-related underemployment rate, working conditions, sectors of employment for all working age persons in the country.

TOPICS

Topic	Vocabulary
Infrastructure	World Bank
Labor Markets	ICLS, ISCO
Key indicators of the labour market	ICLS, ISCO
Labour force	ICLS, ISCO
Employment	ICLS, ISCO
Unemployment	ICLS, ISCO
Migration	ICLS, ISCO

KEYWORDS

Keyword	Vocabulary
Child labour	ILO, ISCO, ISIS, ISCED, Labour Market Indicators
Youth employment	ILO, ISCO, ISIS, ISCED, Labour Market Indicators
Labour statistics	ILO, ISCO, ISIS, ISCED, Labour Market Indicators
Socio-economic	ILO, ISCO, ISIS, ISCED, Labour Market Indicators
Education	ILO, ISCO, ISIS, ISCED, Labour Market Indicators
Work	ILO, ISCO, ISIS, ISCED, Labour Market Indicators
Hours of Work	ILO, ISCO, ISIS, ISCED, Labour Market Indicators
Household demographics	ILO, ISCO, ISIS, ISCED, Labour Market Indicators
Wages and earnings	ILO, ISCO, ISIS, ISCED, Labour Market Indicators
Unemployment	ILO, ISCO, ISIS, ISCED, Labour Market Indicators
Gender and work	ILO, ISCO, ISIS, ISCED, Labour Market Indicators
Employment	ILO, ISCO, ISIS, ISCED, Labour Market Indicators

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

National
Provincial
Rural-Urban

UNIVERSE

All usual household members and all age groups

Producers and sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATORS

Name	Affiliation
ZAMSTATS	Ministry of Finance and National Planning

PRODUCERS

Name	Affiliation	Role
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MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY	MINISTRY OF LABOUR and SOCIAL SECURITY	QUESTIONNAIRE DESIGN
INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION	UNITED NATIONS	QUESTIONNAIRE DESIGN, technical assistance
Ministry of Finance and National Planning	GRZ	QUESTIONNAIRE DESIGN, technical assistance
Zambia Statistics Agency	GRZ	QUESTIONNAIRE DESIGN, technical assistance, data collection and analysis

FUNDING AGENCY/SPONSOR

Name	Abbreviation	Role
MINISTRY OF LABOUR and Social Security	MLSS	Funding of the survey
MINISTRY OF FINANCE	MFNP	Funding of the survey
Zambia Statistics Agency	ZAMSTATS	Funding of the survey

OTHER IDENTIFICATIONS/ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Name	Affiliation	Role
MINISTRY OF LABOUR	GRZ	PATNER WITH ZAMSTATS TO PRODUCE THE SURVEY
MINISTRY OF FINANCE	GRZ	PATNER WITH ZAMSTATS TO PRODUCE THE SURVEY
ILO	United Nations	PATNER WITH ZAMSTATS TO PRODUCE THE SURVEY

Sampling

SAMPLING PROCEDURE

The sample design applied on the 2024 LFS is the Split-Panel Design. The design involves the selection of a master sample of enumeration areas (EAs) or non-institutionalized private households in rural and urban areas across the whole country. Four (4) non-overlapping probability samples of EAs, forming a panel are selected from the master sample. One panel is surveyed in each quarter. The sample is divided into 4 cycles, each of which is surveyed within three months of a given quarter. The quarterly sample gives estimates that are only reliable at national and rural/urban, while the combined sample gives estimates at provincial levels and other domains.

The sampling frame for the 2024 Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) was derived from the 2022 Census of Population and Housing. The frame provides details of the province, district, constituency and ward (i.e. names and codes), as well as number of households and population for each EA. For the purpose of undertaking the survey, the number of households and population are used for selecting EAs, the Primary Sampling Unit (PSU) for this survey. The 2022 sampling frame had a total of 36,770 EAs from which 520 Enumeration Areas and 10400 Households were selected for the 2024 Labour Force Survey. In order to have equal precision in the estimates in all the domains and at the same time account for the variation in the sizes of the domains, the survey adopted the Square Root sample allocation method. The allocated samples were multiples of four to facilitate for the rolling of equal samples during each of the four cycles.

RESPONSE RATE

99 percent

WEIGHTING

Due to the disproportional allocation of the sample to the different strata (i.e. provinces), sampling weights are used to ensure actual representativeness of the sample at national and sub-national levels. The product of the inverses of the probabilities of selecting the EAs in the first-stage and of selecting the households in the second stage are the weights for individuals in the dataset.

Data Collection

DATES OF DATA COLLECTION

Start	End	Cycle
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2024-03-01	2024-03-30	Quarter One
2024-06-01	2024-06-29	Quarter Two
2024-09-02	2024-09-30	Quarter Three
2024-12-02	2024-12-30	Quarter Four

TIME PERIODS

Start date	End date	Cycle
2024-03-01	2024-03-30	Quarter 1
2024-06-01	2024-06-30	Quarter 2
2024-09-01	2024-09-30	Quarter 3
2024-12-02	2024-12-31	Quarter 4

DATA COLLECTION MODE

Face-to-face [f2f]

SUPERVISION

The field teams comprise an average of eight enumerators per province doing whole EA listings and 20 selected household interviews. The teams usually have a supervisor per team of three.

DATA COLLECTION NOTES

The field teams comprise an average of eight enumerators per province doing whole EA listings and 20 selected household interviews. The teams usually conduct the interviews in an hour long interview. The interviews are conducted in respective languages of the regions.

DATA COLLECTORS

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation
Zambia Statistics Agency	ZamStats	Ministry of Finance and National Planning

Questionnaires

QUESTIONNAIRES

The 2024 LFS questionnaire was designed into modules that included; demographic characteristics, activity limitation, education and literacy, economic activity identification and characteristics, working time, income for paid employees and employers, unemployment and job search, own-use production and service work, labour migration and remittances, social protection, household tasks, food security, housing and household characteristics, financial inclusion.

Special age groups are applied during analysis to cater for the various ages in each module. Income questions are restricted to individuals themselves and not proxies. The module on financial inclusion is randomly allocated to qualifying members.

Data Processing

DATA EDITING

Data editing was on-going throughout the process from field to cleaning and analysis. ISIC and ISCO descriptions were edited manually to check for consistency in coding.

Data Appraisal

ESTIMATES OF SAMPLING ERROR

As a sample survey, the LFS is bound to have sampling errors. There are currently no estimations of the sampling errors. Measures have been enforced to correct non sampling errors like data collector and respondent fatigue, data capture errors and recall errors due to time lapse for some questions .

Access policy

CONTACTS

Name	Affiliation	Email	URL
The Head of Dissemination	Zambia Statistics Agency	info@zamstats.gov.zm	Link

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CITATION REQUIREMENTS

Zambia Statistics Agency (2024). 2024 Labour Force Survey Report. Lusaka: Zambia

ACCESS AUTHORITY

Name	Affiliation	Email	URL
Zambia Statistics Agency	Ministry of Finance and National Planning	info@zamstats.gov.zm	Link

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Metadata production

DDI DOCUMENT ID

DDI-ZMB-ZSA-LFS-2024-V1.0

PRODUCERS

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation	Role
ZAMBIA STATISTICS AGENCY	ZAMSTATS	MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND NATIONAL PLANNING	SURVEY IMPLEMENTORS

DATE OF METADATA PRODUCTION
2026-01-13

DDI DOCUMENT VERSION
Version 1.0 (January 2026)

Data Dictionary

Data file	Cases	Variables
<p>ZM_Annual_LFS_2024_Data_Anonymised_04122025 The file contains data on labour market statistics for the 2024 edition of the Labour Force Survey. The data has weights and individual/household interviews. It was generated using an CSpro format and converted to SPSS. It is an aggregate of quartely data sets of the year.</p>	49023	476