United Republic of Tanzania

KEY FACTS

Joined Commonwealth: 1961
Population: 49,253,000 (2013)
GDP p.c. growth: 2.3% p.a. 1990–2013
UN HDI 2014: World ranking 159
Official languages: Kiswahili, English
Time: GMT plus 3 hrs
Currency: Tanzanian shilling (TSh)

Geography

Area: 945,090 sq km
Coastline: 1,420 km
Capital: Dodoma

The United Republic of Tanzania borders the Indian Ocean to the east, and has land borders with eight countries: (anti-clockwise from the north) Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (across Lake Tanganyika), Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique. The country includes Zanzibar (consisting of the main island Unguja, plus Pemba and other smaller islands).

Topography: The country comprises several distinct zones: a fertile coastal belt; the Masai Steppe and mountain ranges to the north (with Mount Kilimanjaro rising to 5,895 metres); and a high plateau in the central and southern regions. There are over 61,000 sq km of inland water. Unguja Island (36 km from the mainland) is fertile, hilly and densely populated on the west side, low and thinly peopled in the east.

Climate: Varies with geographical zones: tropical on the coast, where it is hot and humid (rainy season March–May); semi-tropical in the mountains (with the short rains in November–December and the long rains in February–May); and drier in the plateau region with considerable seasonal variations in temperature.

Environment: The most significant environmental issues are drought, soil degradation, deforestation, desertification and destruction of coral reefs.

Vegetation: Lush tropical at the coast; the rest of the country, apart from urban areas, is savannah and bush. Forest and woodland cover 37 per cent of the land area, having declined at 1.1 per cent p.a. 1990–2010.

Arable land comprises 16 per cent and permanent cropland two per cent of the total land area.

Wildlife: The national parks and game reserves cover 16 per cent of the country and include Serengeti National Park (famous for its vast migratory herds of plains animals, notably wildebeest, zebras, elands and kudus). Small bands of chimpanzees are found in the Gombe National Park along Lake Tanganyika. The steep mountain walls of Ngorogoro Park’s volcanic crater have provided protection and a natural enclosure for animals in an environment of great natural beauty. Rhino and elephant populations are still being depleted by poaching despite government protective measures. Some 36 mammal species and 44 bird species are thought to be endangered (2014).

Main towns: Dodoma (capital, pop. 213,636 in 2012), Dar es Salaam (commercial and administrative centre, 4.36m), Mwanza (706,453), Zanzibar Town (501,459), Arusha (416,442), Mbeya (385,729), Morogoro (305,840), Tanga (221,127), Kilombero (215,458), Songea (203,309), Moshi (184,292), Tabora (160,608), Iringa (151,315), Musoma (134,327), Sumbawanga (124,204), Shinyanga (103,795), Mtwaru (100,626) and Kasulu (67,704).

Transport: There are 90,810 km of roads, 15 per cent paved. There are also two railway systems, extending to a total of 4,460 km, and running on two different gauges. One links Dar es Salaam with central, western and northern Tanzania and Kenya (Tanzania Railways Corporation, gauge one metre, extending to 2,600 km); the other links Dar es Salaam to Zambia (Tanzania Zambia Railways Authority, or Tazara). The main ports are at Dar es Salaam, Mtwara, Tanga and Zanzibar. Regular boat services carry passengers and freight between Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar. Ferries provide freight and passenger transport on Lake Victoria.

There are three international airports (Dar es Salaam, Kilimanjaro and Zanzibar) and more than 50 local airports and airstrips. Because of the size of the country and scattered population, air services have become the most significant form of internal transport for official and business travel.

Society

KEY FACTS 2013

Population per sq km: 52
Life expectancy: 62 years
Net primary enrolment: 98% (2008)

Population: 49,253,000 (2013); 30 per cent of people live in urban areas and seven per cent in urban agglomerations of more than one million people; growth 2.9 per cent p.a. 1990–2013; birth rate 39 per 1,000 people (48 in 1970); life expectancy 62 years (47 in 1970 and 51 in 1990).

Most of the people are of Bantu origin, with some 120 ethnic groups on the mainland, none of which exceeds ten per cent of the population. The biggest group is the Sukuma; others include Nyamwezi, Masai, Haya, Gogo, Chagga, Nyaliyusa and Hehe. The population also includes Asian and expatriate minorities. The people of Zanzibar are of Bantu, Persian and Arab origin.

Language: The official language is Kiswahili (which is universally spoken in addition to various other African languages), and is the medium of instruction in primary schools. English is the second official language, the country’s commercial language, and also the teaching language in secondary schools and higher education.

Religion: (on mainland) Muslims 35 per cent, Christians 30 per cent, and a small number of Hindus, with most of the rest holding
traditional beliefs; (in Zanzibar) Muslims virtually 100 per cent.

Health: Public spending on health was two per cent of GDP in 2012. Mulhimibili Medical Centre, Dar es Salaam, is the country’s principal referral centre and teaching hospital. Other referral hospitals are at Moshi, Mwanza and Mbeja. Some 53 per cent of the population uses an improved drinking water source and 12 per cent have access to adequate sanitation facilities (2012). Infant mortality was 36 per 1,000 live births in 2013 (142 in 1960). In 2013, five per cent of people aged 15–49 were HIV positive.

Education: Public spending on education was six per cent of GDP in 2010. There are seven years of compulsory education starting at the age of seven. Primary school comprises seven years and secondary six, with cycles of four and two years. Some 81 per cent of pupils complete primary school (2009). The school year starts in January.

The principal public universities are the University of Dar es Salaam (established in 1970); Sokoine University of Agriculture, Morogoro (1984, before which it was the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry of University of Dar es Salaam); and Open University of Tanzania (established for distance education in 1995). There are a number of private universities including Hubert Kairuki Memorial University (with faculties of medicine and nursing, in Dar es Salaam, established 1997); and International Medical and Technological University (Dar es Salaam, 1995). The female–male ratio for gross enrolment in tertiary education is 0.50:1 (2012). Literacy among people aged 15–24 is 74.6 per cent (2010).

Media: The government-owned Daily News is published in English. Uhuru is owned by the ruling party (CCM) and is in Kiswahili. There are several independent newspapers including dailies The Guardian and Daily Mail, and weeklies The Arusha Times, Business Times and The Express, and several in Kiswahili.

The Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation provides public radio and TV services in Kiswahili and English. There are several private TV channels, and many private radio stations, especially in the urban areas.

The first private television channel was launched in mainland Tanzania in 1994, following the introduction of multiparty democracy, and public-service TV followed in 2001.

There are no private broadcasters or newspapers in Zanzibar, though many people on the islands receive mainland broadcasts and read the mainland press. TV Zanzibar and Voice of Tanzania-Zanzibar are both state-operated.

Some 15 per cent of households have TV sets (2011). There are nine personal computers per 1,000 people (2005).

Communications: Country code 255; internet domain “.tz.” There are many public phones throughout the country. Mobile phone coverage is limited to urban areas. Internet cafes are found in main towns; those in more remote places rely on satellite access. Postal services are good.

For every 1,000 people there are three landlines, 557 mobile phone subscriptions and 44 internet users (2013).

Public holidays: New Year’s Day, Zanzibar Revolution Day (12 January, 1964), Sheikh Abeid Amani Karume Day (7 April, Zanzibar only), Union Day (26 April), Labour Day (1 May), Saba Saba (Industry Day, 7 July), Nane Nane (Farmers’ Day, 8 August), Nyere Day (14 October), Republic Day (9 December), Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

Religious festivals whose dates vary from year to year include Prophet’s Birthday, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Eid al-Fitr (End of Ramadan, two days) and Eid al-Adha (Feast of the Sacrifice).

Economy

KEY FACTS 2013

GNI: US$32.8bn
GNI p.c.: US$630
GDP growth: 6.7% p.a. 2009–13
Inflation: 10.9% p.a. 2009–13

Tanzania came to independence in 1961 with a severely underdeveloped economy and extremely limited infrastructure. In an effort to bring about rapid yet socially equitable development, it became an early proponent of African socialism, launched in 1967 with the nationalisation of banking, finance, industry and marketing boards; and the resettlement of peasants in communal ujamaa villages, created out of large estates. However, after an initial boom, the formal economic base shrank, production fell and the parallel economy became a way of life. The Uganda–Tanzania War, falls in commodity prices and failures of the policy itself brought the country to the verge of bankruptcy by the mid-1980s.

Since 1986 new policy directions and IMF-backed structural adjustment programmes have, at considerable cost to social programmes, helped integrate the parallel economy and stimulate growth, which for the most part has been ahead of population growth since the policy change. From the mid-1990s the government embarked on a programme of economic liberalisation and diversification.

The Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange was opened in March 1998. The government has encouraged foreign investment in industry, especially mining where investments have been made in gold, nickel and cobalt mining. Hundreds of public enterprises were privatised during the 1990s and the programme continued in the 2000s, with privatisation of Air Tanzania and Tanzania Railways Corporation, though following a dispute with the railway management company over investment levels the government subsequently cancelled its contract with the company and the contractor’s majority shareholding in Tanzania Railways reverted to public ownership. The principal exports are gold, diamonds and other gemstones, coffee, fish and seafood, tobacco, cotton, cashew nuts and tea.

In July 2001, an immense new gold mine was commissioned near Mwanza, with the...
potential to make the country one of the world's largest producers of gold. In 2004, natural gas began to flow from the island ofSongo Songo, in southern Tanzania, via pipeline to a power station and cement plant at Dar es Salaam. New discoveries of offshore gas since 2010 were reported in 2014 to comprise 700–850 billion cubic metres of recoverable gas. Plans for a liquefied natural gas plant were under discussion in 2014. Good indications of substantive oil deposits have also been found.

After averaging 2.9 per cent p.a. in the 1990s, GDP growth strengthened in the 2000s. It was sustained at six per cent p.a. or more during 2001–15, despite the adverse international economic climate in 2008–09.

History

According to evidence at Olduvai Gorge and in the Manonga Valley, Tanzania may be humanity's place of origin. Around 500 CE Bantu peoples, the ancestors of the majority of the modern population, began entering the area. Arab coastal settlement and the introduction of Islam took place between 800 and 900 CE. Around 1200 CE the Omans settled in Zanzibar; in collaboration with some of the coastal peoples of the mainland, they set up a slave trade, with parties of slavers raiding communities in the interior and driving people to local markets at such inland centres as Tabora. From there, they would be sold on to major centres at the ports. The sultanate of Kilwe enjoyed a period of prosperity in the 14th and 15th centuries but the coastal towns suffered a decline thereafter, with the arrival of Europeans, setting in Zanzibar; in collaboration with some of the coastal peoples of the mainland, they set up a slave trade, with parties of slavers raiding communities in the interior and driving people to local markets at such inland centres as Tabora. From there, they would be sold on to major centres at the ports. The sultanate of Kilwe enjoyed a period of prosperity in the 14th and 15th centuries but the coastal towns suffered a decline thereafter, with the arrival of Portuguese adventurers (though there was little Portuguese settlement). In 1884 Dr Karl Peters journeyed into the interior to acquire territory, through treaties with chiefs, on behalf of the German emperor. In the late 1880s Germany took over the area from the coast to (and including) Ruanda and Urundi, calling it the Protectorate of German East Africa. There was rather sparse German settlement: the people objected to being 'protected'. In 1905–06 there was an all-out rebellion, which was put down by a strategically engineered famine, leading to about 200,000 deaths.

At the time, Britain was concerned with the islands of Zanzibar and Pemba, which were claimed by some as the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro (5,895 metres above sea level) and the floor of Lake Tanganyika (358 metres below sea level).

Perhaps the best known Tanzanian musician is the queen of the taarab, Fatma binti Baraka, known as Bi Kidude, who died in 2013 – reportedly at the age of 113. She drew rapturous audiences and dedicated fan-followings wherever she went, even as far afield as Helsinki in Finland. In the art world, Tanzania is famous for colourful cartoon-like Tinga Tinga paintings, named after the style's original creator Edward Saidi Tingatinga.

Tanzanian national Dr William Shija was appointed Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in 2007 and served in that position until his death in October 2014. Dr Asha-Rose Migiro was United Nations Deputy Secretary-General from 2007 to 2012.
the CUF, whose members began to boycott the Zanzibar Parliament. This impasse was finally resolved when an agreement was reached through the good offices of the Commonwealth Secretary-General.

At the October 2000 elections in Zanzibar, Abeid Amani Karume, the CCM’s presidential candidate, and the CCM were officially declared the winners but a high level of tension persisted. Then, through the good offices of the Commonwealth Secretary-General and with continuing pressure from the national government and the international community, talks got under way, and in October 2001 the parties reached agreement on a peace accord. The main planks of the accord were the holding of by-elections in those seats of the Zanzibar Parliament which had been declared vacant when CUF members refused to take them up; reform of Zanzibar’s election law and setting up of a permanent election register; and giving statutory force to the impartiality of Zanzibar’s state-owned press. Progress in implementing the accord was slow, but the by-elections in Pemba were held peacefully in May 2003, the results were readily accepted by CCM and CUF, and efforts to foster political reconciliation continued.

Constitution
Status: Republic with executive President
Legislature: Parliament of Tanzania
Independence: 9 December 1961 (mainland), 10 December 1963 (Zanzibar)
The unicameral legislature, the National Assembly, includes some members directly elected by universal adult suffrage (in 264 constituencies in October 2015), some women members nominated by the parties in proportion to the number of seats they hold in the Assembly (113 following the October 2015 election), up to ten presidential appointees (five of whom must be women), five delegates from the Zanzibar Parliament (two of whom must be women) and, ex officio, the Attorney-General. General elections are held every five years.
The executive President is elected in separate presidential elections held simultaneously with general elections. He or she must represent a registered political party and have a running mate for the position of Vice-President of the Union. The President may serve a maximum of two five-year terms.
The Zanzibar administration has its own President and a House of Representatives of 50 directly elected members, 15 female nominees (by the parties in proportion to the number of seats they hold in the House of Representatives), ten presidential nominees, and five ex officio members; one seat is reserved for the Attorney-General. The House of Representatives is responsible for legislation on domestic matters and, in practice, external trade.

From October 2000, use of the full official name of United Republic of Tanzania was adopted.

Politics
Last elections: 25 October 2015 (presidential and legislative)
Next elections: October 2020 (presidential and legislative)
Head of state: President John Pombe Joseph Magufuli
Head of government: The President
Ruling party: Chama Cha Mapinduzi
Women MPs: 36%
In October 2000, in the United Republic of Tanzania’s second multiparty elections, Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) leader Benjamin Mkapa won more than 70 per cent of the votes in the national presidential election, and the ruling CCM took 244 seats in the National Assembly, with the balance of 31 seats won by the Zanzibar-based Civic United Front (CUF, 15) and smaller parties.
Presidential and legislative elections were held in Zanzibar in October 2005 ahead of the national elections. The CCM’s candidate, Abeid Amani Karume, won the presidential poll with 53 per cent of the votes, while the CUF’s Seif Sharif Hamad took 46 per cent. The ruling CCM also won the parliamentary elections with 30 of the 50 elective seats. The CUF did not accept the result of these fiercely contested, and in places violent elections but the Commonwealth observer group present said that the conditions overall were such as to enable the people to express their will.
In December 2005 the CCM was also successful in the national presidential and legislative elections. Having served two full terms Mkapa was not eligible to stand again for the presidency and, in a 73 per cent turnout, CCM candidate Jakaya Kikwete was elected President. CCM took 206 seats in the National Assembly, with Zanzibar-based CUF (19 seats) accounting for most of the rest.

In the October 2010 national presidential election, with a turnout of 42 per cent, Kikwete was returned with 61.2 per cent of the votes cast, while Willbroad Slaa of Chama Cha Demokrasia na Maendeleo (CHADEMA) secured 26.3 per cent and Ibrahim Lipumba (CUF) 8.1 per cent. In the concurrent parliamentary elections the CCM won 186 of the 239 directly-elected seats, the CUF 24 and CHADEMA 23. In Zanzibar, CCM’s Ali Moham ed Shein narrowly won the presidency with 50.1 per cent of the votes cast; his main challenger Seif Sharif Hamad of the CUF received 49.1 per cent. The national presidential election of 25 October 2015 was won by the CCM’s candidate, John Magufuli, with 58.5 per cent of the votes cast, while Edward Lowassa of CHADEMA – representing the UKAWA coalition of four opposition parties – secured 40.0 per cent. In the concurrent parliamentary elections CCM won 188 of the 264 directly elected seats. In his interim statement on 27 October 2015, former President of Nigeria and leader of the Commonwealth observer group Dr Goodluck Jonathan reported that voting and counting were conducted in a generally peaceful and organised manner. However, the Zanzibar Electoral Commission subsequently annulled the results of the presidential and parliamentary elections in Zanzibar before the count was complete, alleging that elections in the islands had not been free and fair.

Further information
Government Portal: www.tanzania.go.tz
National Electoral Commission: www.nec.go.tz
Parliament of Tanzania: www.parliament.go.tz
National Bureau of Statistics: www.nbs.go.tz
Bank of Tanzania: www.bot.tz.org
Tanzania Tourist Board: www.tanzaniatouristboard.com
East African Community: www.eac.int
Commonwealth Secretariat: www.commonwealthofnations.org/country/United_Republic_of_Tanzania

Media
Daily News: www.dailynews.co.tz
The Guardian: www高档media.com
Business Times: www.businesstimes.co.tz
The Arusha Times: www.arushatimes.co.tz
The Express: www.theexpress.com

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**International relations**

United Republic of Tanzania is a member of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, African Union, East African Community, Indian Ocean Rim Association, Non-Aligned Movement, Southern African Development Community, United Nations and World Trade Organization. United Republic of Tanzania was a member (with Kenya and Uganda) of the East African Community, which from 1967 had a common market and many shared services, but collapsed in 1977. The three countries again embarked on developing regional cooperation in 1993, bringing about progressive harmonisation of standards and policies across a wide range of activities, and launching a new East African Community in January 2001 and East African Customs Union in January 2005. The community was enlarged in July 2007 when Burundi and Rwanda became members. United Republic of Tanzania hosts the headquarters of the East African Community in Arusha.

**Traveller information**

**Immigration and customs:** Passports must be valid for at least six months from the date of arrival. Visas are required by all Commonwealth nationals. If you are travelling on from United Republic of Tanzania, some countries will require you to have a yellow fever vaccination certificate (see Travel health below). Prohibited imports include some fresh food, plants and seeds (except with the relevant health certificate).

**Travel within the country:** Traffic drives on the left. Visitors wishing to drive will need an international driving permit.

Scheduled flights fly to main towns and to Zanzibar. Some intercity buses are modern, with air-conditioning, toilets and refreshments. Taxis cannot be hailed in the street but are none the less widely available in urban areas. They do not have meters, so fares should be agreed before starting out. It is also possible to hire a chauffeur-driven car.

**Travel health:** Prevalent diseases where appropriate precautionary measures are recommended include cholera, dengue fever, diphtheria, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, malaria, rabies, schistosomiasis (bilharzia) and typhoid. Vaccination against yellow fever is not generally recommended by the World Health Organization.

There were 1,043,000 tourist arrivals in 2012.

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