



The information contained in this sheet has been compiled by Jaume Portell, journalist specialising in economics and international relations, in an activity 85% co-financed by ERDF funds in the framework of the [AfricanTech](#) project (1/MAC/1/1.3/0088) within the INTERREG VI D MAC 2021-2027 initiative.

## TANZANIA

### **Macroeconomic overview:**

Tanzania's GDP grew by 4.7% in 2022 and maintained this growth rate above 5.3% in 2023, according to the African Economic Outlook 2024. The report highlights agriculture, construction, and manufacturing as the key sectors driving this expansion. It also notes the country's "restrictive" monetary policy, which, alongside moderating food and energy prices, contributed to reducing inflation to 3.8% in 2023. The country's GDP for 2023 stood at 79.16 billion US dollars. According to the IMF, GDP growth is expected to exceed 6% in 2025.

### **Debt and currency:**

In 2012, Tanzania's annual debt servicing was below 100 million US dollars; by 2025, this figure is projected to surpass 2.7 billion US dollars. Two-thirds of Tanzania's debt is held by multilateral creditors, with the World Bank playing a particularly significant role (47%). Bilateral partners account for 16% of the debt, with China being a major lender (6%). The remaining 17% is owed to the private sector. The Tanzanian shilling, the country's currency, has depreciated by 13% since 2023, reaching approximately 2,600 shillings per US dollar.

### **Imports and exports:**

According to the MIT Complexity Index, Tanzania's imports in 2022 amounted to 17.7 billion US dollars, exceeding exports, which stood at 11.3 billion US dollars. Mining plays a particularly important role in Tanzania's export basket: almost half of its total exports consist of gold (44%), unprocessed copper, and refined copper. The country also exports agricultural products such as nuts, pulses, coffee, maize, and rice, as well as unprocessed tobacco. Tanzania's trade is heavily oriented towards the East, with India (15.3%), the United Arab Emirates (14.3%), and China (6.4%) accounting for more than a third of its exports. Within Africa, key trading partners include Uganda (11.9%), South Africa (10.2%), Kenya (2.94%),

and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (2.76%). Switzerland, where Tanzania exports gold, is its main European trade partner.

On the import side, 18% of total purchases are allocated to petrol, making Tanzania particularly vulnerable to fluctuations in global oil prices. Other major imports include machinery, medicines, and food products such as wheat and palm oil. Most imports originate from Asia, with China (31.7%), India (13.1%), and the United Arab Emirates (8.59%) being the main suppliers.

### **Energy and electricity:**

Tanzania's energy mix is primarily reliant on biofuels (77% of total consumption) and oil (14%), which supply the residential, transport, and industrial sectors. According to the International Energy Agency, the country's energy supply exceeded 1 million terajoules in 2021, making Tanzania the eighth-largest energy consumer in Africa.

Electricity generation in Tanzania reached 10.91 TWh in 2023, three times the amount produced in 2000. The primary source of electricity generation is natural gas (74%), followed by hydropower. Only 0.03 TWh of electricity comes from solar energy.

### **Defence:**

Annual defence expenditure stood at 903 million US dollars in 2023, according to SIPRI, a Swedish institute specialising in defence trade. This amount accounted for 6.03% of total government spending. Since 2000, China has been Tanzania's primary defence supplier.

### **Demographics:**

Tanzania has undergone significant urbanisation since 1990. At that time, 81% of the population lived in rural areas; today, this figure has decreased to 63%. Between 1990 and 2023, Tanzania's population grew from 26.2 million to 67.4 million, making it the fifth most populous country on the continent. Life expectancy has risen from 51 years in 1990 to 67 years in 2022. Half of the country's population is under the age of 19.

### **Technological innovation:**

As in many other African nations, internet access has expanded significantly since 2010. At the beginning of that decade, only 3% of Tanzania's population had access to the internet. By 2022, one-third of the population was online, primarily via mobile phones. According to the ICT Development Index, 72% of Tanzanians owned a mobile phone in 2023.