MINISTÈRE DE L'ÉCONOMIE, DES FINANCES ET DE LA SOUVERAINETÉ INDUSTRIELLE ET NUMÉRIQUE
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ECONOMIC WRAP-UP
Southern Africa

A publication from the Pretoria Regional Economic Deparment
from November 14 to November 27, 2025

Main cities of South Africa by population(including boroughs, districts, urban agglomerations, etc.)

	City	Population
1	Johannesburg	5,635,127
2	Cape town	4,710,000
3	Durban	3,120,282
4	Soweto	1,695,047
5	Pretoria	1,619,438
6	Port Elizabeth	1,050,078
7	Pietermaritzburg	750,845
8	Benoni	605,344
9	Bloemfontein	556,000
10	Thembisa	511,655

Source : *South Africa Population* (2025) - *Worldometer*

South Africa hails G20 success as trade tensions with the United States intensify

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa described the G20 summit in Johannesburg as a success for multilateralism, highlighting the adoption by the attending heads of state of a joint declaration on key global challenges — the climate crisis, debt relief, and support for developing countries. Despite certain disagreements among the 19 members present, South Africa managed to secure broad consensus, with the notable exception of Argentina, which did not oppose the declaration but declined to participate in its adoption.

The summit took place in a delicate geopolitical context, marked by tensions linked to the war in Ukraine and the recent failure of climate negotiations at COP30. Several leaders, including Brazilian President Lula and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, praised the resilience of multilateralism and the strengthening of international cooperation.

At the same time, relations between South Africa and the United States have sharply deteriorated. U.S. President Donald Trump boycotted the summit, making unfounded accusations against Pretoria. Washington subsequently announced that South Africa would be excluded from the next G20, scheduled to be held in the United States.

For the record, relations between South Africa and the United States continue to be marked by persistent tariff uncertainty, as the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC) intensifies its negotiations with the United States with the aim of reducing the reciprocal 30% tariffs imposed since August on numerous South African exports. Despite certain exemptions - notably for citrus fruit and critical minerals - high duties remain: 25% on automotive components and 50% on steel, aluminum, and semi-processed copper, affecting more than 35% of exports to the United States. Other sectors, such as chemicals, agriculture, manufacturing, and machine tools, are also affected.

Meanwhile, Pretoria is advocating for the renewal of AGOA, which enjoys bipartisan support in Congress and would preserve duty-free access despite the more restrictive tariff environment. In response to rising global protectionism, the DTIC is also accelerating its “butterfly strategy,” aimed at diversifying markets and the structure of exports by leveraging the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and targeting 27 new markets. The goal is to increase exports from ZAR 2 trillion to ZAR 3 trillion by 2030, following a trade surplus of ZAR 340 billion recorded in 2024. Overall, this strategy reflects a dual approach: mitigating short-term trade risks while strengthening, in the long term, the resilience and competitiveness of South Africa’s exports through structural diversification.

Summary :

South Africa

- S&P Global Ratings upgrades Eskom's credit rating
- South Africa issues a new infrastructure and development financing bond
- As online betting surges, South African authorities announce a plan to tax the sector
- The central bank continues its monetary easing policy despite a slight increase in inflation (StatsSA)
- South African agricultural exports record strong growth in the third quarter
- Retail sales rise in September, driven by strong performance among general retailers (StatsSA)
- Anglo American receives a new takeover offer from BHP (Moneyweb)
- The EU and South Africa sign a Clean Trade and Investment Partnership (CTIP) and an MoU on energy-transition minerals on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Johannesburg (Mining Weekly & European Commission)
- Transnet secures two loans — EUR 300 million from AFD and EUR 350 million from the EIB — for the rehabilitation of its port and rail infrastructure (Engineering News)
- South Africa's energy regulator approves a 6% reduction in the maximum gas price for January–March 2026 (Agence Ecofin)

Angola

- The National Bank of Angola (BNA) begins cautious monetary easing as inflation declines
- Fitch Ratings affirms Angola's sovereign rating at "B-" with a stable outlook
- Household consumer basket prices surge despite falling inflation
- The government challenges the independence of the Central Bank in the 2026 budget
- The Angolan government tightens access to subsidized fuels
- Lobito hosts the new regional transit facilitation agency headed by Amadeu Nunes
- EU–AU Business Forum 2025: Africa and Europe finally betting on concrete projects
- Alstom signs a memorandum of understanding for Luanda's Blue Line
- Final results of the 2024 Population and Housing Census

Botswana

- Annual inflation reaches 3.6% in October (StatsBots)

Malawi

- Malawi extends the state of disaster as the food crisis worsens
- Lotus Resources officially launches operations at the Kayelekera uranium mine (Agence Ecofin)

Mozambique

- The central bank cuts its key interest rate to 9.50% (-25 bps)
- TotalEnergies targeted by a complaint for alleged complicity in war crimes related to container massacres in Mozambique

- Mozambique LNG: the government gives TotalEnergies 30 days to present an immediate work-resumption plan and launches an audit into cost overruns linked to force majeure

Namibia

- End of term for the governor of the central bank (Bank of Namibia)
- Africa Global Logistics (AGL) invests nearly EUR 40 million in Namibia's logistics sector ahead of the country's first oil production (The Namibian)
- Windhoek City Council adopts a 20-year plan to improve water supply security (Windhoek Observer)

Zambia

- Chinese Premier pays a historic visit to Zambia
- S&P Global upgrades Zambia's sovereign rating following its exit from default

Zimbabwe

- Zimbabwe records a bumper wheat harvest for the 2024–2025 season
- Nigerian billionaire Aliko Dangote announces USD 1 billion in investments in Zimbabwe (allAfrica)

South Africa

S&P Global Ratings upgrades Eskom's credit rating

On 26 November 2025, S&P Global Ratings upgraded Eskom's long-term local and foreign-currency debt rating from B- to B. This decision follows the state-owned electricity company's publication of positive results for the first half of 2025 (the first time in eight years; +ZAR 23.9 bn), and the unbundling of the company into three entities (with the electricity transmission division operating independently since July 2024).

As South Africa's sovereign debt rating was itself upgraded on 14 November by S&P Global Ratings (from BB- to BB), this revision confirms the improvement of the country's economic outlook. The upgrade also reflects progress in implementing the structural reforms pursued by the current Ramaphosa administration.

South Africa issues a new infrastructure and development bond

On 8 December, the National Treasury will auction a new infrastructure and development bond. The issuance, targeting ZAR 15 bn, consists of two instruments with different maturities (10 and 15 years).

Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana announced that the proceeds will primarily finance improvements to the rail network, notably through the modernisation and expansion of the passenger rail system. ZAR 4.1 bn will also be allocated to repairing and constructing schools, pipelines, hospitals and infrastructure damaged by the June 2025 floods.

Facing a surge in online betting, South African authorities announce a sector tax proposal

South Africa is considering imposing a 20% tax on online betting, amid sustained growth of the sector and its associated social impacts. With amounts wagered online increasing by 33% between 2024 and 2025, the main goal is to "discourage problematic and pathological gambling and its harmful effects." The tax could nonetheless generate more than ZAR 10 bn in revenue.

The announcement sparked a backlash from the Union of Online Betting Sites (Saroga), which strongly opposes the proposed 20%, arguing the figure lacks rigorous justification. It also warns of the risk of bettors shifting to illegal or foreign platforms, as seen in Kenya.

However, the Treasury indicated that complementary measures are under consideration, such as requiring local online betting operators to register and provide the national tax authority with the same information they currently submit to provincial gambling boards.

The central bank continues monetary easing despite a slight rise in inflation *(StatsSA)*

According to Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), annual consumer inflation rose from 3.4% in September to 3.6% in October, reaching its highest level since September 2024. This increase is mainly driven by higher costs for "housing and utilities" (+4.5%, contributing +1.1 pp), "food and non-alcoholic beverages" (+3.9%, +0.7 pp), "alcoholic beverages and tobacco" (+4.5%, +0.2 pp) and "transport" (+1.5%, +0.2 pp).

The South African Reserve Bank slightly revised down its short-term inflation projections, reflecting moderating oil prices and a stable rand. CPI inflation is expected to average 3.3% in 2025, stabilising around 3.1% in the medium term.

Despite the slight uptick, the SARB continued its monetary-easing cycle begun in September 2024, unanimously lowering its repo rate to 6.75% (-25 bp) on 20 November. Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana recently announced the adoption of a new 3% nominal inflation target (down from the previous 3–6% range), a measure long supported by the SARB to reduce inflation expectations and create room for lower medium-term interest rates.

South African agricultural exports see strong growth in Q3

Agricultural exports continued to grow in the third quarter, rising 13% year-on-year to USD 4.7 bn, driven by strong global demand, improved port efficiency, and favourable commodity prices.

Africa remains South Africa's largest agricultural trade partner, accounting for 34% of exports, mainly cereals and livestock. The EU (23%) represents a distinct market focused on citrus and wine. Despite bilateral trade uncertainties, exporters benefitted from tariff relief in Q2 to ship significant volumes to the United States, which remains a minor partner (3%).

Although agriculture represents only 2.9% of GDP, it is crucial for the trade balance, accounting for 12.5% of total exports, behind industrial and mining sectors.

Retail sales rise in September, driven by strong performance from "general retailers" *(StatsSA)*

According to Stats SA, retail sales increased 3.1% year-on-year in September 2025. This was driven by "general retailers," whose sales rose 1.9% (+0.9 pp contribution). "Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods" also performed strongly (+4.4%, +0.7 pp). Across the full third quarter, retail sales grew 3.6% year-on-year. The most dynamic contributors were "household furniture, appliances and equipment" (+9.1%) and "hardware, paint and glass" (+8.4%), together adding 1.1 pp. However, food, alcohol and tobacco sales declined slightly (-1.4%).

E-commerce continues to gain market share, according to Aksa Bank data, with a sharp increase in average online transaction value (+21.7% YoY), compared with stable in-store amounts (ZAR 375).

Anglo American receives a new takeover offer from BHP *(Moneyweb)*

BHP Group has submitted a new cash-and-shares takeover bid for Anglo American, disrupting the planned merger between Anglo and Canada's Teck Resources, which shareholders are set to vote on 9 December. The Anglo–Teck deal, announced in September and widely supported, would create a copper giant worth over USD 60 bn. Anglo American, valued at about USD 42 bn, informed Teck of BHP's renewed approach, coming one year after a first attempt considered too complex and undervalued.

The bid reflects rapid consolidation in the mining sector, especially in copper—critical for electrification and the energy transition. Anglo is an attractive target thanks to its Latin American copper assets, while it has recently sold major platinum operations in South Africa. Recent market divergence—Anglo shares rising and BHP's falling—could complicate a deal amid Canadian pressure to protect Teck's jobs and governance.

A BHP–Anglo merger would face strict regulatory scrutiny, notably in South Africa and China. Key upcoming steps include the 9 December vote and potential responses from Anglo or BHP.

EU and South Africa sign a Clean Trade and Investment Partnership (CTIP) and an MoU on energy-transition minerals *(Mining Weekly & Commission européenne)*

On the eve of the G20 in South Africa, the EU and South Africa launched their first Clean Trade and Investment Partnership (CTIP), aimed at boosting trade and investment in clean-value-chain sectors (renewables, low-carbon technologies, power grids, clean fuels, critical raw materials). The framework will facilitate financing from private operators and European public institutions and support local industrialisation in South Africa's just energy transition.

Both parties also signed a strategic partnership on energy-transition minerals. Signed by Cyril Ramaphosa, Ursula von der Leyen and António Costa, the agreement aims to secure EU access to key metals for low-carbon technologies while supporting local beneficiation—one of Ramaphosa's core priorities. Note: the MoU excludes coal—classified as "critical" by South Africa—but includes uranium, which is not on the EU critical minerals list.

Amid geopolitical tensions and uncertainty over U.S. participation in the G20, the announcements highlight a strengthened partnership. For the European Commission, the priority is to reduce dependence on China by securing supply chains while supporting local transformation in producing countries. South Africa holds significant reserves of PGMs, as well as manganese, chromium and vanadium.

Transnet secures EUR 300M AFD loan and EUR 350M EIB loan to rehabilitate port and rail infrastructure

During President Macron's G20 visit, AFD and Transnet signed a letter of intent for a EUR 300M concessional loan to support Transnet's decarbonisation strategy. The financing aims to increase renewable electricity use (up to 300 GWh/year), modernise ports, and rehabilitate 550 km of railway lines to shift more freight to rail.

The European Investment Bank approved a EUR 350M loan, plus a EUR 21M grant, to renovate port and rail infrastructure to improve logistics efficiency, reduce emissions and freight costs, and enhance competitiveness in line with the JET-P.

Both initiatives place green hydrogen development at the centre. AFD, supported by EUR 6M from the EU, will fund studies and pilot projects to structure Transnet's hydrogen strategy in ports, rail and pipelines.

South Africa's energy regulator approves 6% reduction in maximum gas price for Jan–Mar 2026 *(Ecofin)*

NERSA approved a 6% cut to the maximum gas price charged by Sasol Gas for January–March 2026. The ceiling drops from ZAR 90.57 (EUR 4.55) to ZAR 85.10 (EUR 4.28) per gigajoule (GJ), due to declining supply costs influenced by oil prices, exchange rates and production costs.

The adjustment follows the quarterly mechanism applied to Sasol Gas, which must revise tariffs according to costs and available volumes, particularly those imported from Mozambique.

The measure comes as several industrial sectors—petrochemicals, cement, metals, glass—remain heavily dependent on gas for high-temperature processes. Sasol's Secunda complex alone consumes around 120 million GJ annually. Declining reserves at Mozambique's Pande-Temane field raise medium-term supply concerns. Possible solutions include sourcing from the Matola LNG terminal (Mozambique) or from South Africa's Richards Bay.

Angola

BNA begins cautious monetary easing as inflation declines

The latest Monetary Policy Committee meeting of the Banco Nacional de Angola marked a shift towards measured easing.

The policy rate was reduced from 19% to 18.5%, while standing facility rates were also cut—the lending facility from 20% to 19.5% and the deposit facility from 17% to 16.5%. The BNA cites favourable macroeconomic conditions: declining inflation and monetary indicators showing reduced short-term inflationary pressure. The aim is to support economic activity while maintaining flexibility should exchange-rate pressures or oil-price volatility resurge.

The next MPC meeting is scheduled for 13–14 January 2026..

Fitch Ratings affirms Angola's sovereign rating at B- with stable outlook

Despite expected declines in oil prices and a weakening economy, Fitch highlights above-average foreign-exchange reserves, current-account surpluses and a controlled budget deficit as supportive factors Risks remain due to heavy commodity dependence, still-high inflation and significant external-debt amortisation. Debt sustainability remains vulnerable to external shocks and currency depreciation.

Cost of living soars despite falling inflation

Despite annual inflation dropping to 17.4% in October 2025 and a stable exchange rate for over a year, household basket prices continue to rise, exceeding 20% for items such as rice and poultry. Low domestic production, reliance on imports and cost increases following the minimum wage hike to AOA 100,000 are driving prices higher. Larger, cheaper package sizes are becoming scarce, forcing households to buy smaller quantities at higher per-unit prices. Families are adjusting consumption and pooling resources. The situation highlights the need for targeted support and structural reforms to strengthen local supply and protect vulnerable households.

Government challenges central bank independence in 2026 budget

The 2026 Budget confirms the government's intention to repay, over five years, a loan obtained from the BNA, directly contradicting Law No. 24/21, which requires repayment within one year and strictly in cash. By relying solely on Article 35(1), which authorises financing, the government omits the provisions regulating repayment, potentially paving the way for repayment in government securities, making the move doubly illegal.

Treasury debt owed to the BNA already stands at AOA 1.5 trillion (USD 1.6 bn). The move raises concerns about legal compliance and central-bank independence, already questioned during a similar case in 2016 and in the 2025 budget.

Government tightens access to subsidised fuel

The Ministry of Finance plans to reduce fuel-subsidy spending by 40% in the 2026 budget without raising pump prices, by limiting access for public entities. Ministries, SOEs, security forces and senior officials will face stricter allocations to curb abuse and ease fiscal pressure, reducing total subsidies from AOA 2 trillion to AOA 1.2 trillion. The measure aligns with IMF recommendations.

Lobito hosts new regional transit-facilitation agency led by Amadeu Nunes

Lobito (Benguela) becomes the headquarters of the Lobito Corridor Transport and Transit Facilitation Agency (AFTTCL), created through a tripartite agreement between Angola, DRC and Zambia. The agency will coordinate policies, regulations and customs procedures to ease goods transit along this strategic corridor. The agency will be led by Amadeu Nunes, an economist and lawyer trained in France, former Secretary of State for Commerce, and experienced negotiator who represented Angola at the WTO with postings in Portugal, Italy and the U.S. The agency functions primarily as a political and institutional instrument to harmonise rules and reduce administrative friction.

This marks a turning point for the Lobito Corridor, strengthening its role as a major intra-regional trade platform.

EU–AU Business Forum 2025: Africa and Europe finally bet on concrete projects

The EU–AU Business Forum (AEBF 2025), held in Luanda on 24–25 November alongside the AU–EU summit, confirmed the intention to make the private sector a cornerstone of economic cooperation. The Forum brought together investors, entrepreneurs and policymakers from both continents to turn ambitions into concrete projects in green energy, infrastructure, health, transport, logistics, digital technology and agriculture.

Participants adopted the 2025 Joint Business Declaration, calling for "win–win" partnerships, simplified access to financing instruments (grants, guarantees, venture capital), value-chain integration, and stronger involvement of SMEs, youth and women. The goal is to ensure that capital flows do more than fund infrastructure: they should support local industrialisation, job creation, skills transfer and value addition.

Impact will depend on the speed with which these commitments are translated into projects with clear frameworks, adequate financing and real follow-up.

Alstom signs MoU for Luanda's Blue Line

Alstom has signed an MoU with Angola's Ministry of Transport to develop the Blue Line of Luanda's future metro. The agreement, concluded on the margins of the 7th AU–EU summit in Luanda (24–25 October 2025), covers planning, assessment and potentially construction and commissioning.

A strategic project for urban mobility and economic competitiveness, the Blue Line will follow a 50 km coastal corridor from Cacuaco (north) to Benfica (south). Integrated into Luanda's master mobility plan, it aims to improve connectivity, reduce congestion and stimulate new socio-economic dynamics.

Final results of the 2024 population and housing census

The National Statistics Institute published the final results of the 2024 census on Thursday. As of 19 September 2024, Angola had 36,604,681 inhabitants, including 17,931,985 men (49%) and 18,672,696 women (51%). Compared to 2014, the population increased by 10,815,656, an average annual growth rate of 3.5%.

Luanda remains the most populous province (24.1%), followed by Huíla (9.0%), Huambo (7.4%) and Benguela (7.1%). The least populous are Moxico (1.6%), Cuando Cubango (1.6%), Moxico Leste (1.1%), and Cuando (0.4%).

Botswana

Annual inflation reaches 3.6% in October *(StatsBots)*

According to the national statistics agency, annual consumer inflation rose from 3.7% in September to 3.9% in October, driven mainly by "transport" (+6.2%, +1.6 pp), "food and non-alcoholic beverages" (+5.5%, +0.8 pp) and "miscellaneous goods and services" (+8.4%, +0.8 pp).

Conversely, "housing, water, electricity and gas" declined (-3.1%, -0.5 pp). Inflationary pressures are expected to rise further due to recent exchange-rate regime adjustments for the pula, increasing import costs.

Malawi

Malawi extends state of disaster as food crisis worsens

President Peter Mutharika has extended the state of disaster to all 28 districts and four cities due to severe food insecurity caused by prolonged drought. Initially declared in 11 districts in October, the crisis is expected to worsen by March 2026, with one in five Malawians (4 million people) facing IPC phase 3+ food insecurity, and 8,000 people potentially falling into emergency (IPC4).

Lotus Resources officially launches production at Kayelekera uranium mine *(Ecofin)*

On 24 November, Australia's Lotus Resources officially restarted production at the Kayelekera uranium mine, three months after its recommissioning. The goal is to reach 200,000 pounds of uranium per month by Q1 2026.

Restarted in August after 11 years of closure following rising global uranium prices, and supported by a USD 50M investment, the mine initially processed 300,000 tonnes of stockpiled ore. Fresh extraction will increase output, in line with the target of 2.4 million pounds (1,200 tonnes) annually over ten years. Global uranium production is about 60,000 tonnes.

First deliveries are secured through agreements with Curzon Uranium and a North American energy company (unnamed). Malawi holds a 15% stake and will receive a 5% royalty on revenues.

Mozambique

Central bank cuts policy rate to 9.50% (-25 bp)

At its 14 November meeting, the Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of Mozambique decided to cut the MIMO rate from 9.75% to 9.5%.

The modest cut reflects heightened risks and uncertainties affecting inflation forecasts, linked to delays in domestic public-debt repayment.

Domestic public debt stands at MZN 465.8 bn, up 10.8% from December 2024. Since January 2025, the banking system's prime rate has fallen 370 bp to 16%. The next MPC meeting will take place in late January 2026.

TotalEnergies faces war-crimes complicity complaint over container massacre in Mozambique

TotalEnergies faces a complaint filed on Monday 17 November in Paris for complicity in war crimes and torture linked to a massacre that occurred at its Mozambique gas site in 2021, reported last year by POLITICO. The ECCHR, a human-rights organisation, accuses TotalEnergies of complicity through direct financing and material support to Mozambican soldiers guarding the site—where Total personnel had already been evacuated due to force majeure—during an insurgency linked to the Islamic State.

Mozambique LNG: Government gives TotalEnergies 30 days to present plan for immediate project restart and launches audit of force-majeure cost overruns

Resolution No. 42/2025 (18 November) orders an independent audit of costs incurred during the Mozambique LNG project's force-majeure period. The government will validate the audit results, ensuring transparency and the right of reply for concessionaires. The original 30-year development and production period (approved in 2018) is maintained. Final cost validation depends on audit conclusions and resolution of technical and contractual issues.

Notably, the resolution states that the project's restart is not contingent on the audit's completion. The concessionaire must submit, within 30 days, "the timeline of actions and approvals required for the immediate implementation of the Project."

Namibia

End of term for Governor of Bank of Namibia

The Governor of the Bank of Namibia, Johannes !Gawaxab, will leave office at the end of December after more than five years in the role. He led the institution through the pandemic and a period of global economic volatility and financial-sector reforms. Under his leadership, the bank maintained low and stable inflation, implemented major monetary and regulatory reforms, and oversaw the successful repayment of a USD 750M eurobond in October, strengthening investor confidence. His successor has not yet been announced.

Africa Global Logistics invests ~EUR 40M in Namibia's logistics sector ahead of first oil production *(The Namibian)*

Africa Global Logistics (AGL) has invested NAD 794M (~EUR 40M) to expand Namibia's logistics infrastructure ahead of anticipated offshore oil production in the Orange Basin. The group aims to become a long-term strategic partner to international operators.

AGL's local staff increased from 8 to over 100 employees in 18 months, and the company has signed an agreement with a Windhoek university to develop local skills and strengthen Namibian participation in the oil and gas value chain. AGL was formerly Bolloré Logistics' African subsidiary, acquired in 2022 by MSC.

Windhoek City Council adopts 20-year plan to improve water-supply security *(Windhoek Observer)*

The City of Windhoek has adopted an integrated 20-year water and wastewater master plan to guide supply, use and management of water resources amid growing stress. Drops in dam levels at Von Bach, Omatako and Swakoppoort, combined with a 35% reduction in NamWater deliveries in 2024, have increased reliance on direct potable reuse and aquifer pumping.

Category D restrictions remain: garden watering limited to once a week, pool-filling banned, and semi-purified water required for lawns. Tariff penalties apply for excessive domestic consumption.

To secure long-term supply, the city plans to expand direct-reuse capacity at the New Goreangab Water Reclamation Plant (operated by a Veolia subsidiary) and invest in controlled aquifer recharge. The master plan is supported by the AfDB's African Water Facility. The aim is to strengthen resilience to climate shocks and urban growth.

Zambia

Chinese Premier visits Zambia in historic trip

China's Premier Li Qiang is visiting Zambia—the first visit by a Chinese head of government in 28 years—as the country emerges from a prolonged financial crisis. China, Zambia's largest creditor (USD 5.7 bn of restructured USD 13.4 bn debt), seeks to consolidate its role in the recovery of this copper-rich strategic country.

China has invested around USD 6 bn in Zambia over two decades, mainly in metallurgy, and plans new agreements; the Chinese embassy refers to "dozens" of deals to be signed. China also seeks to boost exports of industrial equipment, while Zambia now prioritises investment over loans.

The visit comes as Europe and the U.S. intensify their presence: the EU recently introduced new financing initiatives in transport, energy and raw materials via the Lobito Corridor, competing with the Tazara railway modernised with Chinese funding.

The World Bank forecasts 6.5% growth for Zambia in 2026, above the 20-year average of 5%, as the country seeks to enhance its attractiveness amid renewed geopolitical competition.

S&P Global upgrades Zambia's sovereign rating following exit from default

S&P Global has removed Zambia from the "default" category and assigned a CCC+ long-term foreign-currency sovereign rating, with a stable outlook.

The agency highlights progress in debt restructuring while underlining remaining uncertainties around full completion and risks linked to elections next year.

According to S&P, the election outcome will partly depend on the government's ability to translate stabilisation efforts into tangible improvements for citizens.

Zimbabwe

Record wheat production in 2024-2025 harvest

In a rare case in Africa, Zimbabwe has been wheat-self-sufficient since the 2022/2023 season and continues to grow production. The 2024/2025 harvest is expected to reach 639,942 tonnes, a 13% increase from last year (563,961 tonnes), due partly to an additional 2,000 hectares, bringing total cultivated area to 122,000 ha.

The Ministry of Agriculture attributes the improvement to government investment in mechanisation and irrigation. With annual consumption estimated at 360,000 tonnes, the harvest should generate a surplus of about 280,000 tonnes for export. In September, the ministry announced ongoing talks with Zambia, Mozambique and Tanzania for export deals.

Nigerian billionaire Aliko Dangote announces USD 1 bn investment in Zimbabwe *(allAfrica)*

Nigerian billionaire Aliko Dangote has finalised a USD 1 bn agreement with Zimbabwe covering cement production, electricity generation, and a 2,000 km pipeline between Walvis Bay (Namibia) and Bulawayo. This project could reduce the country's energy bill and diversify fuel supply.

In Walvis Bay, Dangote Petroleum Refinery is also building a fuel-storage facility with 1.6 million barrels of capacity, worth about EUR 120M, enabling distribution of fuel produced by its refineries, including in Nigeria.

Currently, Zimbabwe relies mainly on a single pipeline connecting Harare to the port of Beira (Mozambique), operated by the National Oil Company of Zimbabwe (NOIC). A project is underway to expand its capacity from 3 bn L/year (18.9M barrels) to 5 bn L/year (31M barrels).

The agreement was finalised during a meeting with President Emmerson Mnangagwa on 12 November

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Head of publication: Pretoria Regional Economic Department, Luanda Economic Department, Maputo Economic Department
jade.plancke@dgtresor.gouv.fr, antoine.guerindugrandlaunay@dgtresor.gouv.fr

Editor : Pretoria Regional Economic Department

Subscribe : jade.plancke@dgtresor.gouv.fr, antoine.guerindugrandlaunay@dgtresor.gouv.fr