



#### This issue...

- Market Update
- Crop Status
- Large Scale
- Small Scale
- General News
- Inflation Rate / Exchange Rate

### MARKET UPDATE



### Zimbabwe Historical Volume and Average Price



The above graph shows Zimbabwe's historical volume and average price comparison. A total of 354,882 mt was sold for the 2024/25 season.

- With the focus now on the farms, buyers will soon start their farm visits to communicate with growers and to get an idea of the coming crop's quality throw.
- We estimate a crop size of 370-380,000 tons for the 2025/26 tobacco season.

### CROP STATUS

Crop Status	Seedbeds	Transplanting	Topping	Curing	Grading	Buying	Processing
January							
February							
March							
April							
May							
June							
July							
August							
September							
October							
November							
December							

### LARGE SCALE

#### CROP STAGE

As of 31 December 2025, CY26 large-scale crop is progressing well, with 100% of contracted hectares transplanted. All growers have topped their crops, and harvesting is underway, with 93% currently reaping and the remainder expected to commence by 5th January 2026.

Improved weather conditions in November and December have supported strong crop recovery following October's heat stress. While leaching rains affected some later planted crops, corrective fertilizer management and improved sunlight since late December have restored crop color and vigor. Overall, the crop is healthy, uniform, and well balanced, though continued close management will be required through to February.

Early curing results from lower leaf positions indicate encouraging quality performance, but it remains too early to provide yield or full quality projections. The first crop estimate is scheduled for 31st of January 2026.

## WEATHER FORECAST:

Zimbabwe has received significant rainfall in November through to December. The January to March 2026 long term weather indicates normal to 40% below-average rains across major tobacco-growing regions. On average, large-scale growers have received 397mm YTD, with one grower in Norton receiving 606mm to date and the lowest, in Odzi, receiving 274mm.

## DECEMBER OVERVIEW:

Despite ongoing power supply disruptions, impacts to date have been limited. With improved water availability and no major agronomic or logistical issues reported, the overall outlook for the CY26 season remains positive, subject to continued risk management around weather, disease pressure, and power reliability.

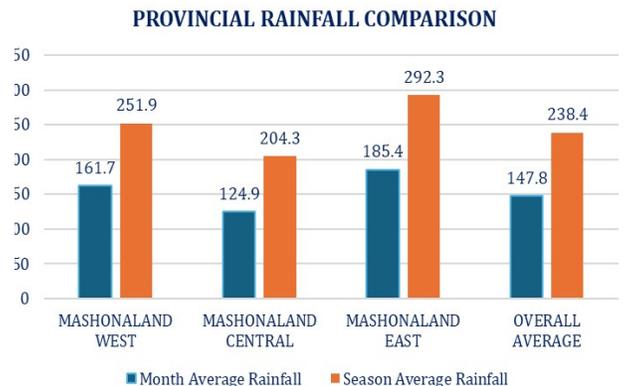
## SMALL SCALE

### WEATHER UPDATE:

December brought good rains to all areas especially in Mashonaland East. An average of 148mm was recorded during this month accounting for 62% of the rainfall for 2025/26. 42% of this season's rainfall was received in the last 2 weeks of December. 72 hail strikes affecting 56.5 ha of tobacco have been reported for the season with the damage being mainly on crops not yet topped.

Rainfall	DECEMBER	MASHONALAND WEST	MASHONALAND CENTRAL	MASHONALAND EAST	OVERALL AVERAGE
Month	Highest Recorded	272 mm	279 mm	299 mm	
	Area Highest Recorded	Karoi North	Chiweshe	Macheke East	
	Lowest Recorded	81 mm	15 mm	62 mm	
	Area Lowest Recorded	Buffalo Downs	Concession	Headlands northeast	
Month Average Rainfall	161.7 mm	124.9 mm	185.4 mm	147.8 mm	
Season	Highest Rainfall	353 mm	344 mm	580 mm	
	Area Highest Rainfall	Karoi North	Centenary south	Chivhuwest	
	Lowest Rainfall	181 mm	95 mm	124 mm	
	Area Lowest Rainfall	Buffalo Downs	Concession	Odzi southwest	
	Season Average Rainfall	251.9 mm	204.3 mm	292.3 mm	238.4 mm

mm = millimetres



## CURRENT FARMING ACTIVITIES:

During December the remaining 32.1% of the small-scale growers completed planting. Some early flowering was observed in the KRK76 seed variety tobacco planted. All growers were busy with their field management including weeding, re-ridging, pest control and application of their nitrogen fertilizer top-dressing. The growers who planted their crops in October and early November started topping their tobacco towards the end of the month with topping height of 18 leaves being recommended and standard procedure.

## CROP STAGE:

All tobacco was transplanted by 31 December 2025.

CROP STATUS		MASHONALAND WEST	MASHONALAND CENTRAL	MASHONALAND EAST	OVERALL AVERAGE
PLANTED TO DATE	% AGE GROWERS	100.0%	100%	100%	100%
	% AGE HECTARES	100.0%	100%	100%	100%

41.2% of the crop was planted between 19 and 26 November 2025. Planting summary for 2025/26:

MONTH	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
% AGE PLANTED	0.2	1.9	65.8	32.1	100

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- Packaging inputs (for cured tobacco storage and marketing) distribution was completed on 2 December 2025.
- Distribution of 50 tree seedlings to each grower was in progress during December starting with Mashonaland East and West. Tree seedling distribution to all growers in Mashonaland Central will commence on 6 January 2026.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS: .....Continue**

- The distribution of all inputs to small-scale growers for the 2025/26 season is now complete. Only labour cash for reaping and school fees assistance cash is still outstanding and earmarked for distribution early February 2026.
- Sustainable wood distribution to all growers in Mashonaland east is at 85% completion while distribution of wood to selected growers in the other provinces is at 80% completion.
- Farmer monitoring using the "Visit 2" and the barn surveys was completed on 5 December.
- The following surveys were carried out during December:
  - Grower CY26 contract received survey deployed on 1 December. All growers now have a copy of their CY26 grower contract.
  - Bank account opening survey (for newly contracted growers) deployed on 8 December.
  - Visit 3 (including monitoring of curing fuel source, CPA usage and plastic waste disposal) survey deployed on 10 December.
- All field staff went on annual leave on the 20th of December for 2 weeks.

**GENERAL NEWS**

Continued stability and record output in various sectors helped the country achieve huge economic milestones this year. After a challenging 2024, following the El Niño-induced drought and concomitant subdued agricultural output, the economy entered 2025 on a better footing, with inflation easing, production improving across key sectors and rising confidence among businesses and households. At the heart of the strong performance was the deceleration of inflation. Price pressures moderated significantly, reflecting tighter fiscal discipline, improved coordination between fiscal and monetary policies, and greater exchange rate stability. This was crucial in restoring predictability and confidence in the economy.

Agriculture has emerged as the single largest contributor to growth, rebounding strongly after the drought-affected 2024. Benefiting from improved rainfall patterns, expanded irrigation and better agronomic practices, the sector is estimated to grow by around 24% in 2025, contributing approximately 2,2 percentage points to overall GDP (Gross Domestic Product). One of the most significant success stories has been in the tobacco industry. Participation has widened, with more than 108 000 farmers involved, an increase of 4,6 percent from a year ago.

Fiscal discipline has reinforced these gains. Continued expenditure alignment and cash budgeting have limited inflationary financing, anchoring inflation expectations and reducing policy uncertainty.

Although fiscal space remains constrained, disciplined budget execution has strengthened confidence among economic agents.

ZiG annual inflation stood at 85,7% in April this year, rising to a peak of 95,8% by July, before decelerating to 15% this month. Monthly ZWG inflation stood at 0.23%. Month on Month USD inflation was 0.01% and year on year inflation was 12.39%. Lower inflation has allowed businesses to plan more effectively, set prices with greater confidence and commit capital to productive activities.

**INFLATION RATE**

Month	Monthly	Annual
December' 25	0.01 %	12.39 %

**EXCHANGE RATE: U.S. Dollar against other currencies**

Month	U.S. Dollar	Chinese	Zambian	British	Euro	Zimbabwe
December' 25	USD 1.00	RMB 6.98	ZWK 20.94	GBP 0.74	EUR 0.86	ZWG 25.74

**End of Report**

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