

# United Republic of Tanzania



## KEY FACTS

Joined Commonwealth:	1961
Population:	43,739,000 (2009)
GDP p.c. growth:	2.0% p.a. 1990–2009
UN HDI 2010:	world ranking 148
Official languages:	Kiswahili, English
Time:	GMT plus 3hr
Currency:	Tanzanian shilling (Tsh)

## Geography

Area:	945,090 sq km
Coastline:	1,420km
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).

**Main towns:** Dodoma (capital, pop. 174,500 in 2009), Dar es Salaam (commercial and administrative centre, 3.09m), Mwanza (553,300), Zanzibar Town (473,700), Arusha (422,500), Mbeya (306,800), Morogoro (270,100), Tanga (240,000), Kigoma (176,400), Tabora (158,000), Moshi (155,200), Kasulo (139,200), Musoma (134,900), Songea (132,800), Iringa (110,200), Shinyanga (95,700), Sumbawanga (93,700) and Mtwara (79,700).

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

**Climate:** Varies with geographical zones: tropical on the coast, where it is hot and humid (rainy season March–May); semi-temperate 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.

## did you know?

Filbert Bayi took the Commonwealth Games Men's 1,500 Metres record at the Christchurch Games (New Zealand) in 1974.

The country includes the highest and lowest points in Africa – the summit of Mt Kilimanjaro (5,895m above sea level) and the floor of Lake Tanganyika (358m below sea level).

Tanzanian national Dr William Shija was appointed Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, and Dr Asha-Rose Migiro, UN Deputy Secretary-General, in 2007.

**Vegetation:** Lush tropical at the coast; the rest of the country, apart from urban areas, is savannah and bush. Forest and woodland cover 39% of the land area, having declined at 1.1% p.a. 2000–07. Arable land comprises 10% and permanent cropland 1% of the total land area.

**Wildlife:** The national parks and game reserves cover 16% of the country and include Serengeti National Park (famous for its vast migratory herds of plains animals, notably wildebeest, zebra, eland and kudu). 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.

**Transport:** There are 78,890km of roads, 8.6% paved. There are also two railway systems, extending to a total of 4,460km, and running on two different gauges. One links Dar es Salaam with central, western and northern Tanzania and Kenya (Tanzania Railways Corporation, gauge 1m, extending to 2,600km); 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 2009

Population per sq km: 46  
Life expectancy: 56 years  
Net primary enrolment: 73%

**Population:** 43,739,000 (2009); 26% lives in urban areas and 7% in urban agglomerations of more than 1 million people; growth 3.1% p.a. 1990–2009; birth rate 41 per 1,000 people (48 in 1970); life expectancy 56 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 10% 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%, Christians 30%, and a small number of Hindus, with most of the rest holding traditional beliefs; (in Zanzibar) Muslims virtually 100%.

**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 *The Guardian* and *Daily Mail*, plus the weeklies *The Arusha Times*, *Business Times* and *The Express*.

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 6% of households have TV sets (2007). There are 9 personal computers (2005) and 16 internet users (2009) per 1,000 people.

**Education:** Public spending on education was 6.8% of GDP in 2008. There are seven years of compulsory education starting at age seven. Primary school comprises seven years and secondary six, with cycles of four and two years. Some 83% of pupils complete primary school (2006). The school year starts in January.

The principal public universities are University of Dar es Salaam, Sokoine University of Agriculture (at Morogoro) and Open University of Tanzania, which was 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 48:100 (2007). Literacy among people aged 15–24 is 78% (2008).

During the early 2000s, the government's education strategy was aimed at extending access to primary education to all children and retaining them through seven years of primary school. The government's Primary Education Development Programme resulted in a very substantial growth in the net primary enrolment ratio: from 51% in 2000 to almost 100% by 2010.

From 2005, the focus of government strategy widened to encompass lifelong access to learning for girls and boys at all levels of school, and for women and men to literacy programmes, technical and vocational education and universities.

**Health:** Muhimbili Medical Centre, Dar es Salaam, is the country's principal referral centre and teaching hospital. Other referral hospitals are at Moshi, Mwanza and Mbeya. 54% of the population uses an improved drinking water source and 24% of people have access to adequate sanitation facilities (2009). Infant mortality was 68 per 1,000 live births in 2009 (142 in 1960). In 2009, 5.6% of people aged 15–49 were HIV positive.

**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.

There are 4 main telephone lines and 399 mobile phone subscriptions per 1,000 people (2009).

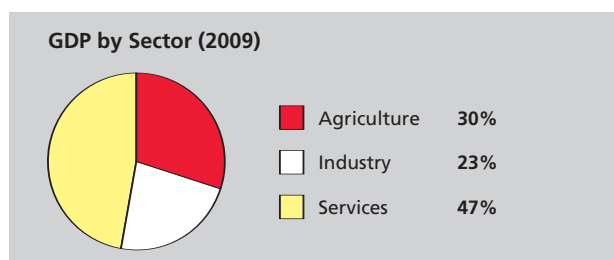
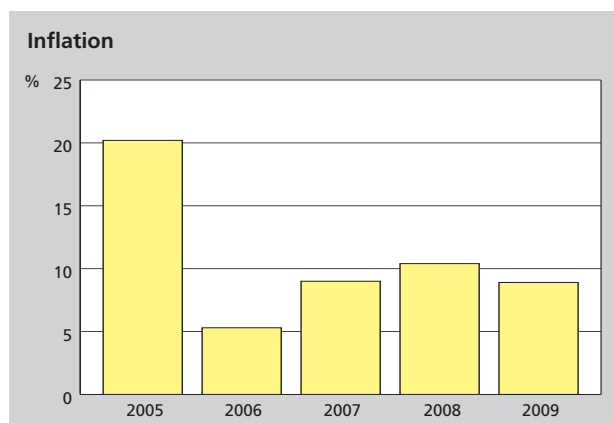
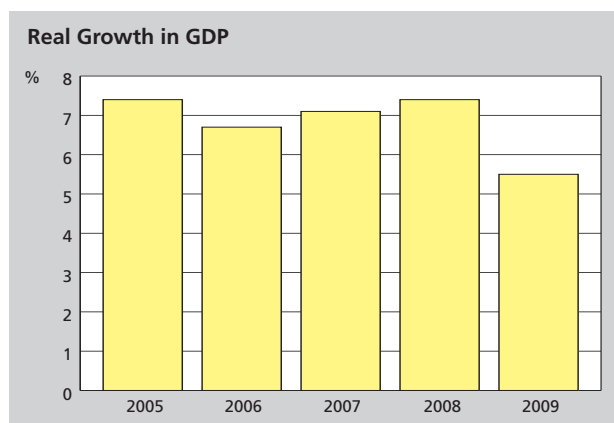
**Public holidays:** New Year's Day, Zanzibar Revolution Day (12 January, 1964), Sheikh Abeid Amani Karume Day (7 April, Zanzibar only), Union Day (26 April), Labour Day (1 May), Saba Saba (Industry Day, 7 July), Nane Nane (Farmers' Day, 8 August), Nyerere Day (14 October), Republic Day (9 December), 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 2009

GNI:	US\$21.3bn
GNI p.c.:	US\$500
GDP growth:	6.8% p.a. 2005–09
Inflation:	10.7% p.a. 2005–09



**Overview:** 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 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 Ugandan war, falls in commodity prices and failures of the policy itself brought the country to the verge of bankruptcy by the mid-1980s. Though agriculture contributes 44% of GDP (2002), only 4.5% of land is arable and 1.2% permanent cropland.

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, and 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 was continuing in the 2000s, with privatisation of Air Tanzania and Tanzania Railways Corporation.

In July 2001, an immense new gold mine was commissioned near Mwanza, with the potential to make the country the world's third largest producer of gold. In 2004, natural gas began to flow from the island of Songo Songo, in southern Tanzania, via pipeline to a power station and cement plant at Dar es Salaam. Good indications of substantive oil deposits have been found.

Improvements in production and exports contributed to continuing, steady growth through the 1990s. In the 2000s sound economic management led to strong growth. Growth of at least 6% p.a. was sustained during 2001–08, and Tanzania maintained a good growth rate in 2008 (7.4%), 2009 (5.5%) and 2010 (about 6.5%), despite the adverse international economic climate.

**Trade:** Exports of goods and services from the mainland of the United Republic account for 22% of GDP (2008). The principal exports are gold (44% of exports in 2007), diamonds and other gemstones, manufactured goods, coffee, fish and seafood, tobacco, cotton, cashew nuts and tea.

## Constitution

Status:	Republic with executive president
Legislature:	National Assembly
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 239 constituencies in 2010), some women members nominated by the parties in proportion to the number of seats they hold in the Assembly (102 following the October 2010 election), up to ten

presidential appointees, five delegates from the Zanzibar parliament 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), ten presidential nominees, and five *ex officio* members; one seat is reserved for the attorney-general. The House 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

<b>Last elections:</b>	October 2010 (presidential and legislative)
<b>Next elections:</b>	2015 (presidential and legislative)
<b>Head of state:</b>	President Jakaya Kikwete
<b>Head of government:</b>	the president
<b>Ruling party:</b>	Chama Cha Mapinduzi

The October 1995 elections were not completed on schedule, as the National Electoral Commission found irregularities at certain polling stations. The vote in seven Dar es Salaam constituencies was annulled and re-run on 17 November. Ten opposition parties announced that they would boycott the repeat elections, and all the opposition presidential candidates withdrew. The Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) emerged with a substantial majority (approximately 75% of the vote) in the parliamentary elections. The presidential election held at the same time brought to power CCM leader Benjamin Mkapa. (Ali Hassan Mwinyi, who had served two terms as president, was not eligible to stand again and had retired before the election.)

## History

According to evidence at Olduvai Gorge and in the Manonga Valley, Tanzania may be humanity's place of origin. Around AD 500 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 AD 800 and 900. Around AD 1200 the Omanis 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 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 declared a British Protectorate in 1890. In 1919, the League of Nations gave Britain a mandate to administer part of German East Africa, now known as Tanganyika. (Belgium, with a similar mandate, took over the administration of Rwanda and Burundi.) In 1946 Tanganyika became a UN trust territory.

A legislative council was set up in 1926. It was enlarged in 1945 and restructured in 1955 to give equal representation to Africans, Asians and Europeans, sitting as 30 'unofficials' with the 31 'officials'. In 1954, a schoolteacher, Julius Nyerere, founded the Tanganyikan African National Union (TANU), which promoted African nationalism and won a large public following. The colonial

authorities responded with constitutional changes increasing the voice of the African population while reserving seats for minority communities. Elections were held in 1958–59 and again in 1960. The result was overwhelming victory for TANU, which by this period was campaigning for independence as well as majority rule. The new government and the UK agreed at a constitutional conference to full independence for Tanganyika in December 1961. Zanzibar achieved independence in 1963 as a separate country.

Tanganyika became a republic in December 1962, one year after achieving independence, and the direct presidential election brought the TANU leader, Julius Nyerere, to the presidency. In 1965 the constitution was changed to establish a one-party system. Meanwhile, in Zanzibar, the Sultan was overthrown in a revolution in January 1964, the constitution was abrogated and the country became a one-party state under the Afro-Shirazi Party. In 1967 Nyerere made the Arusha Declaration, unveiling his political philosophy of egalitarianism, socialism and self-reliance.

In April 1964 Tanganyika and Zanzibar united as the United Republic of Tanzania. In 1977, the two ruling parties merged to form the Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM). Ali Hassan Mwinyi succeeded Nyerere in 1985.

Presidential elections were held every five years from 1965 with, under the one-party system, the electorate voting 'yes' or 'no' to a single presidential candidate. In general elections (held at the same time as the presidential elections) the choice was between two candidates put forward by the CCM. Pressure for reform grew within United Republic of Tanzania, and among international donors. The government responded with constitutional changes that permitted opposition parties from 1992 and so brought in a multiparty system, under which parliamentary and presidential elections were held in October 1995 and contested by 13 political parties.

Former President Julius Nyerere died in October 1999 after a long illness. As one of Africa's foremost international statesmen he was widely mourned and many world leaders attended his funeral in Dar es Salaam.

In Zanzibar, the 1995 election returns were strongly disputed. The Civic United Front (CUF), which enjoys strong support on Pemba, claimed that its leader, Seif Sharif Hamad, was returned as president of Zanzibar; it therefore refused to recognise the officially returned president, Salmin Amour of the CCM. The CUF, with almost 50% of seats in the Zanzibar House of Representatives, began to boycott parliament.

The dispute in Zanzibar continued until finally the CUF's agreement to return to parliament and acceptance that Amour would remain as president until the election to be held in October 2000 was reached through the good offices of the Commonwealth Secretary-General. The CCM's candidate for the 2000 Zanzibar presidential election was Abeid Amani Karume, who was more widely acceptable than Amour.

In October 2000, Mkapa won more than 70% of the votes in the national presidential election, and the ruling CCM took 167 mainland and 35 Zanzibar seats in the National Assembly, with the balance split between the opposition parties. In Zanzibar, elections for the Zanzibar presidency and House of Representatives were once again completely rejected by opposition parties and were not accepted to be free and fair by international observers. Though the poll was re-run in 16 districts of Zanzibar, this was boycotted by the opposition, who demanded a complete re-run.

Karume and the CCM were officially declared the winners but a high level of tension persisted in Zanzibar. About 30 CUF supporters were shot dead at a rally on the island of Pemba in late January 2001 and at least 2,000 people fled from Pemba to Kenya. 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.

Following the sudden death of an opposition vice-presidential candidate in October 2005, the general election was postponed until December, but the elections in Zanzibar were held at the end of October 2005. CCM candidate Karume won the presidential poll with 53% of the votes, while the CUF's Seif Sharif Hamad took 46%. The ruling CCM also won the parliamentary elections with 30 of the 50 elected seats. The CUF did not accept the result of these fiercely contested, and in places violent elections but the Commonwealth observer group present, in its interim statement, said that the conditions overall were such as to enable the people to express their will.

In December 2005 the CCM was successful in both presidential and legislative elections. Having served two full terms Mkapa was

not eligible to stand again for the presidency and, in a 72% turnout, CCM candidate Jakaya Kikwete was elected president. CCM took 206 seats in the National Assembly, with CUF (19 seats) accounting for most of the rest.

A report by a parliamentary select committee in early 2008 accused Prime Minister Edward Lowassa and two members of the cabinet of corruption, involving a US-owned energy company. Lowassa subsequently resigned, denying the allegations, and Kikwete dismissed the rest of his cabinet. His new cabinet, which included Mizengo Pinda as new prime minister, had 13 fewer ministers.

In the October 2010 national presidential election, with a turnout of 42%, Kikwete was returned with 61.2% of the votes cast, while Willbrod Slaa of Chama Cha Demokrasia na Maendeleo (CHADEMA) secured 26.3% and Ibrahim Lipumba (CUF) 8.1%. In the concurrent parliamentary elections the CCM won 186 seats, the CUF 23 and CHADEMA 22. In Zanzibar, CCM's Ali Mohamed Shein narrowly won the presidency with 50.1% of the votes cast; his main challenger Seif Sharif Hamad of the CUF received 49.1%.

## 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 for Regional Cooperation, 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 co-operation 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

**Local laws and conventions:** All drugs are illegal in the United Republic of Tanzania, and anyone found in possession will be fined. There are severe penalties (including long prison sentences) for those caught drug trafficking.

Visitors should carry some form of identification on them at all times. It is customary always to ask permission before taking photographs of people – especially the Masai.

Visitors should dress modestly and cover their legs and shoulders when away from tourist resorts. When meeting and parting, hands are always shaken. It is the convention to use the right hand, not the left, to shake hands, or to pass or receive items.

For business, dress is smart and a good appearance is highly regarded. There are conference facilities in the larger hotels in Dar es Salaam and Arusha. Office hours are Mon–Fri 0800–1200 and 1400–1630; Sat 0800–1230. During the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, normal business hours may be disrupted.

**Immigration and customs:** All visitors to United Republic of Tanzania require a visa, and passports must be valid for at least six months beyond the intended length of stay.

A yellow fever vaccination certificate will be required by all those arriving from infected areas.

**Travel within the country:** Traffic drives on the left and car hire is available in major cities. Those with an English-language driving licence do not need an international driving permit to drive in the country.

There is a good public bus service connecting most areas, and buses are modern, with air-conditioning, toilets and refreshments.

Taxis are widely available but do not have meters, so fares must be agreed before starting out. It is also possible to hire a chauffeur-driven car.

**Travel health:** Medical facilities are limited, especially outside Dar es Salaam, and all treatment must be paid for. Visitors should make sure they have comprehensive health insurance. Vaccinations are recommended for Hepatitis B and (occasionally) meningococcal meningitis. All up-to-date vaccination requirements should be checked well in advance of travel.

Malaria is a problem in the country, and visitors will need to take insect repellent and suitable clothing to protect against mosquito bites.

Regular outbreaks of cholera occur in rural areas, so visitors should make sure they boil water before use or only drink bottled water.

**Money:** The official currency is the Tanzanian shilling (TSh). Money can be exchanged at banks and authorised dealers, and visitors must keep their receipts when changing money as they may be asked to present them at departure. Cash can be withdrawn from ATMs using Visa or Mastercard, and any sizeable town now has at least one bank with an ATM. Major credit cards are accepted in most hotels. Travellers cheques may be cashed with authorised dealers or bureaux de change. Banking hours are Mon–Fri 0830–1230 (though some places are open until 1600) and Sat 0830–1300.

There were 750,000 tourist arrivals in 2008.

## Further information

Official Online Gateway of the United Republic of Tanzania:  
[www.tanzania.go.tz](http://www.tanzania.go.tz)

Commonwealth Secretariat: [www.thecommonwealth.org](http://www.thecommonwealth.org)

Click here to find out more about the  
**2011 Commonwealth Yearbook**



Click here to find out more about  
**United Republic of Tanzania**

