

Z A I R E

BASIC INDICATORS (ECONOMIC/DEMOGRAPHIC/CONSUMPTION)

Economic classification:	Low Income economy	
Oil exporter or importer (net):	Importer	
Annual per capita income:	US\$ 160	1985
Annual per capita GNP:	US\$ 166	1985
Average annual growth:	2.5%	1985
Annual inflation rate	32.9%	1986
Volume of imports	1.485,5 million US\$	1985
Of which food	4.1%	1985
Of which fuels	.73%	1983
Principal foreign exchange earning export:	copper, cobalt, coffee, zinc, gold, diamonds, wood, crude oil	
Debt service as % of GNP:		
Debt service as % of exports:	20.7%	1985
Population	30 million	1984
Annual population growth	3.3%	1984
Annual Consumption:		
Flour	200,000 tonnes or 6.7 kg/capita	1985
Meat	190,000 tonnes or 6.3 kg/capita	1985

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Crop Situation and Outlook

Wheat - Very little wheat is grown in Zaire. Over the past several years the introduction of wheat into the Northern Kivu region has slowly met with encouraging results. This government project although funded by the republic, has the assistance and co-supervision of the private millers within Zaire.

Corn: Having experienced a period of expansion over the last 4 years, corn production will probably undergo some serious difficulties in the short term initially. This is due to the lack of competitiveness in the corn milling market. The price of locally milled flour varies between Z 673 and Z 780 per bag while the price of Zambian flour in the local market was Z,550 (\$CDN1 = Z42)

Rice: For several years Chinese cooperation has provided significant technical aid. Rice production in 1984 was approximately 30,000 tonnes.

2. Foreign Exchange Situation

As recommended by the IMF, Zaire has a single exchange rate that fluctuates weekly according to supply and demand. Imports have been decontrolled. The inflation rate, which was over 100% in 1983, was brought down to 17% in 1984 but rose to 32.6% by the end of November 1985, due to the slide of the currency that occurred during the second half of 1985 because of insufficient currency on the exchange market. This situation arose mainly because of the decline in export revenue caused by poor markets for the main export products.

Zaire has received international aid since gaining independence. Food aid from all sources was as follows: