



MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN

MONTHLY TRANSPORT STATISTICAL RELEASE



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SEA TRANSPORT IN ZANZIBAR



1.1 Vessels Movements

Total trips of vessels (Enter and Exit) in May 2026 reached 1,869 which increased by 29.3 percent compared with the corresponding month of the previous year and increased by about two percent (2.2%) compared with the previous month. The rise was mainly driven by Dhow, which recorded an increase of 34.8 percent and almost seven percent (6.6%) compared with corresponding month of the previous year and previous month respectively.

The total of 47 calls/trips were made by foreign vessels, 621 calls by local vessel and 1,201 calls by dhow. Foreign vessel trips increased by more than one hundred percent (135.0%) compared with the corresponding month of the previous year and decreased by 26.6 percent compared with the previous month. Their registered tonnage (GRT) increased tremendously compared with the corresponding month of the previous year and decreased by 76.3 percent compared with previous month.

Table 1.1: Traffic Movement (Trips- Enter/Exit) at Zanzibar Seaports, May 2026, April 2026 and May 2025.

Description	Unit		Number			Percentage Change	
			May, 2025	April, 2026	May, 2026	May,2026- April,2026	May,2026- May,2025
Foreign Vessel	Calls	Number	20	64	47	-26.6	135.0
	GRT	Tons	13,500	667,254	158,467	-76.3	1,073.8
Local Vessel	Calls	Number	535	637	621	-2.5	16.1
Dhow	Calls	Number	891	1,127	1,201	6.6	34.8
Total Trips	Total CALLS	Number	1,446	1,828	1,869	2.2	29.3
	Total GRT	Tons	13,500	667,254	158,467	-76.3	1,073.8

N.B

CALLS: Number of Vessels

GRT (Growth Registered Tonne): Vessel Weight

1.2 Passengers

A total of 263,702 passengers were handled at the Zanzibar seaport in May 2026, which increased by about four percent (4.0%) compared with the corresponding month of the previous year and decreased by 12.3 percent compared with the previous month. Among the passengers handled, a total of 146,871 passengers were inbound and 116,831 were outbound.

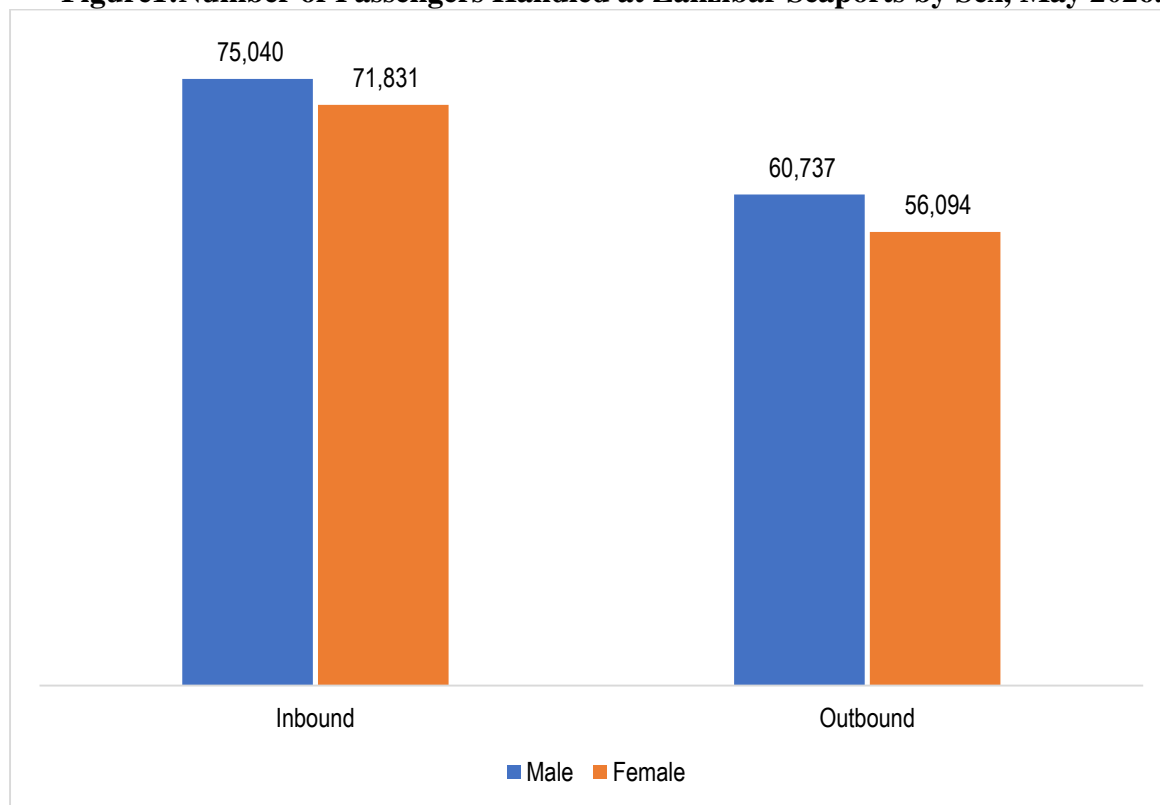
Inbound passengers increased by almost seven percent (6.7%) compared with the corresponding month of the previous year and decreased by nine percent compared with previous month, which means that more people were arriving in Zanzibar than the same time last year.

The number of outbound passengers increased by less than one percent (0.9%) compared with the corresponding month of the previous year and decreased by 16.1 percent compared with the previous month.

Table 1.2: Number of Passengers Handled at Zanzibar Seaports, May 2026, April 2026 and May 2025.

Passenger	Number			Percentage Change	
	May, 2025	April, 2026	May, 2026	May,2026- April,2026	May,2026- May,2025
Inbound	137,606	161,315	146,871	-9.0	6.7
Outbound	115,845	139,312	116,831	-16.1	0.9
Total	253,451	300,627	263,702	-12.3	4.0

Figure1: Number of Passengers Handled at Zanzibar Seaports by Sex, May 2026.



1.3 Cargo

A total of 215,021.7 tons of general and Dhow Cargo were handled at Zanzibar seaport in May 2026. This is a decrease of almost six percent (5.5%) compared with the corresponding month of the previous year and a decrease by about seven percent (6.8%) compared with the previous month. A total of 7,365.0 TEUs were handled in May 2026, which decreased by about eight percent (7.6%) and increased by 16.0 percent compared with the corresponding month of the previous year and the previous month respectively.

Out of the total tons of general and dhows cargo, 199,810.8 tons were imported to Zanzibar and 15,211.0 tons were exported from Zanzibar in May 2026. Imported general and dhows cargo increased by about four percent (3.5%) and decreased by eight percent (8.2%) compared with the corresponding month of the previous year and previous month respectively while exported general and dhows cargo decreased by 55.8 percent and increased by 17.1 percent compared with the corresponding month of the previous year and preceding month respectively.

The total number of imported TEUs were 2,420.0 which decreased by about 30.9 percent and by 22.4 percent compared with the corresponding month of the previous year and previous month respectively while 4,945.0 TEUs were exported in the same period, which increased by almost 11 percent (10.6%) and increased by 53.0 percent compared with the corresponding month of the previous year and preceding month respectively.

Table 1.3: Import and Export of Cargo at Zanzibar Seaports, May 2026, April 2026 and May 2025.

Description	Unit	Number			Percentage Change	
		May, 2025	April, 2026	May, 2026	May,2026- April,2026	May,2026- May,2025
Import						
General Cargo	Tons	64,678.2	107,044.3	146,977.5	37.3	127.2
Dhow	Tons	128,380.8	110,638.8	52,833.2	-52.2	-58.8
Total	Tons	193,059.0	217,683.1	199,810.8	-8.2	3.5
Fuel	Tons	9,068.0	10,503.7	15,323.9	45.9	69.0
Container	TEUS	3,503.0	3,120.0	2,420.0	-22.4	-30.9
Export						
General Cargo	Tons	31,539.4	10,979.1	12,875.9	17.3	-59.2
Dhow	Tons	2,868.0	2,014.0	2,335.1	15.9	-18.6
Total	Tons	34,407.4	12,993.1	15,211.0	17.1	-55.8
Container	TEUS	4,471.0	3,231.0	4,945.0	53.0	10.6
Total cargo						
General and Dhow Cargo	Tons	227,466.5	230,676.2	215,021.7	-6.8	-5.5
Fuel	Tons	9,068.0	10,503.7	15,323.9	45.9	69.0
Containers	TEUS	7,974.0	6,351.0	7,365.0	16.0	-7.6

AIR TRANSPORT ZANZIBAR



2.1 Aircraft Movements

Total of 4,666 aircraft movements was recorded in May 2026, rose by 14.0 percent compared with 4,092 movements recorded in the corresponding month of the previous year and increased by one percent (1.4%) compared with 4,601 movements recorded in April, 2026. Arriving aircrafts made 2,335 movements which increased by 13.8 percent compared with 2,052 movements recorded in the corresponding month of the previous year and increased by almost two percent (1.5%) compared with 2,301 movement recorded in the preceding month. Departing aircrafts made 2,331 movements, which increased by 14.3 percent compared with corresponding month of the previous year and increased by about one percent (1.3%) compared with preceding month.

International aircrafts made a total of 734 movements, which decreased by almost nine percent (8.9%) compared with corresponding month of the previous year and also decreased by eight percent (8.0%) compared with preceding month. Among those international movement, 379 movements were made by arriving international aircrafts and 355 movements were made by departing international aircrafts.

Domestic aircrafts made a total of 3,932 movements which increased by 19.7 percent compared with corresponding month of the previous year and increased by three percent (3.4%) compared with preceding month. Among those domestic movements, 1,956 movements were made by arriving aircrafts and 1,976 movements were made by departing aircrafts

Table 2.1: Aircraft Movements in Zanzibar Airports, May 2026, April 2026 and May 2025.

Description	Number			Percentage Change	
	May, 2025	April, 2026	May, 2026	May,2026- April,2026	May,2026- May,2025
International					
Arrivals	416	409	379	-7.3	-8.9
Departures	390	389	355	-8.7	-9.0
Total	806	798	734	-8.0	-8.9
Domestic					
Arrivals	1,636	1,892	1,956	3.4	19.6
Departures	1,650	1,911	1,976	3.4	19.8
Total	3,286	3,803	3,932	3.4	19.7
Total Movements					
Arrivals	2,052	2,301	2,335	1.5	13.8
Departures	2,040	2,300	2,331	1.3	14.3
Total	4,092	4,601	4,666	1.4	14.0

2.2 Aircraft Passengers

Total of 99,797 passengers were handled at the Zanzibar Airport in May 2026, which is a decrease of about five percent (4.6%) and a decrease of three percent (3.1%) compared with the corresponding month of the previous year and preceding month respectively. Among the passengers handled at airports, a total of 48,201 passengers were disembarked and 51,596 were embarked.

Disembarked passengers decreased by about eight percent (7.6%) compared with corresponding month of the previous year and increased by two percent (2.1%) compared with preceding month which means that few people were arriving in Zanzibar than the same time in last year. The number of embarked passengers decreased by almost two percent (1.7%) compared with corresponding month of the previous year and decreased by about eight percent (7.6%) compared with preceding month. This suggest that April 2026 was much busier than May 2025 and May 2026.

Total of 48,965 passengers from international flight were handled at airport, decreased by about 13.4 percent compared with corresponding month of the previous year and decreased by almost three percent (2.7%) compared with preceding month. Among those passengers from international flight, 21,772 were embarked and 27,193 were disembarked passengers.

Total of 50,832 passengers from domestic flight were handled at airports, which increased by almost six percent (5.7%) compared with corresponding month of the previous year and decreased by about four percent (3.6%) compared with the preceding month. Among those passengers from domestic flight, 26,429 were disembarked and 24,403 were embarked.

Table 2.2: Number of Passengers Handled at Zanzibar Airports, May 2026, April 2026 and May 2025.

Description	Number			Percentage Change	
	May, 2025	April, 2026	May, 2026	May,2026- April,2026	May,2026- May,2025
International flight					
Disembarked	27,736	21,706	21,772	0.3	-21.5
Embarked	28,829	28,592	27,193	-4.9	-5.7
Total	56,565	50,298	48,965	-2.7	-13.4
Transit	5,339	7,076	5,810	-17.9	8.8
Domestic flight					
Disembarked	24,439	25,497	26,429	3.7	8.1
Embarked	23,653	27,222	24,403	-10.4	3.2
Total	48,092	52,719	50,832	-3.6	5.7
Transit	16,999	17,849	19,151	7.3	12.7
Total Passengers					
Disembarked	52,175	47,203	48,201	2.1	-7.6

Description	Number			Percentage Change	
	May, 2025	April, 2026	May, 2026	May,2026- April,2026	May,2026- May,2025
Embarked	52,482	55,814	51,596	-7.6	-1.7
Total	104,657	103,017	99,797	-3.1	-4.6
Transit	22,338	24,925	24,961	0.1	11.7

2.3 Amount of Cargo in the Aircraft

The volume of Cargo handled at Zanzibar airports reached 490.6 tons in May 2026, an increase of about three percent (2.5%) compared with 478.8 tons recorded in corresponding month of the previous year and an increase of less than one percent (0.9%) compared with 486.2 tons recorded in preceding month. Among the cargo handled, a total of 33.2 tons was loaded for exportation and 457.4 tons was unloaded as importation from Tanzania Mainland and rest of the world.

International aircrafts transported a total of 490.3 tons, an increase of about three percent (2.6%) compared with 477.6 tons recorded in the corresponding month of the previous year and an increase of one percent compared with 485.4 tons recorded in the preceding month. A total of 32.9 tons was loaded for exports and 457.4 tons were unloaded as an import.

Domestic aircrafts transported a total of less than one tons (0.3) which were loaded. There was no cargo that unloaded for May 2026.

Table 2.3: Cargo (Tons) Handled in Zanzibar Airport, May 2026, April 2026 and May 2025.

Description	Number			Percentage Change	
	May, 2025	April, 2026	May, 2026	May,2026- April,2026	May,2026- May,2025
International					
Loaded	35.0	22.8	32.9	44.3	-6.0
Unloaded	442.7	462.6	457.4	-1.1	3.3
Total	477.6	485.4	490.3	1.0	2.6
Domestic					
Loaded	0.1	0.8	0.3	-53.6	141.7
Unloaded	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	-100.0
Total	1.2	0.8	0.3	-53.6	-71.8
Total Cargo					
Loaded	35.1	23.5	33.2	41.2	-5.4
Unloaded	443.7	462.6	457.4	-1.1	3.1
Total	478.8	486.2	490.6	0.9	2.5

Glossary

Office of the Chief Government Statistician (OCGS), under the mandate bestowed to it, collects and compiles data from various institutions, including Ministries and departments. Data sources for transport statistics encompass Zanzibar Port Corporation (ZPC), Zanzibar Maritime Authority, Zanzibar Airports Authority (ZAA) and Zanzibar Road Transport and Safety Authority.

The transport statistical report presents statistics and information on the number of movements and trips (enter/exit), as well as traffic handling of passengers and cargo, both on airports and seaports.

OCGS believes that Monthly estimates of transport statistics will find great use to the Government as well as the Private sector as inputs in assessing volume and directions of transportation, planning and transport policy reviews. The statistics will also serve as a motivation towards developing the transport management system in Zanzibar.

Concepts and Definitions

GRT - Growth Registered Tonne: Vessel Weight

TEUS - Twenty equivalent units

For More Clarifications Please Contact:
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