



MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN

MONTHLY TRANSPORT STATISTICAL RELEASE



Release No. 1 - January, 2026

SEA TRANSPORT IN ZANZIBAR



1.1 Vessels Movements

Total trips of vessels (Enter and Exit) in January 2026 reached 1,574 which decreased by 16.2 percent and less than five percent (3.1) compared with the corresponding month of the previous

year 2025 and with the previous month of December, 2025 respectively. The decline was mainly driven by dhows, which recorded decrease of 8.6 percent compared with January 2025 and decrease by almost 18 percent compared with December 2025.

The total of 49 calls/trip were made by foreign vessels, 654 calls by local vessel and 871 calls by dhow. Foreign vessel trips increased by 81.5 percent and more than one hundred percent compared with the corresponding month of the previous year 2025 and with the previous month of December 2025 respectively. Their registered tonnage (GRT) increased by 74.5 percent compared with the corresponding month of the previous year and increased by 57.1 percent compared with December 2025.

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

Description		Unit	Number			Percentage Change	
			Jan, 2025	Dec, 2025	Jan, 2026	Jan,2026- Dec,2025	Jan,2026- Jan,2025
Foreign Vessel	Calls	Number	27	20	49	145.00	81.48
	GRT	Tons	10,200	11,331	17,801	57.10	74.52
Local Vessel	Calls	Number	899	543	654	20.44	-27.25
Dhow	Calls	Number	953	1,062	871	-17.98	-8.60
Total Trips	Total CALLS	Number	1,879	1,625	1,574	-3.14	-
	Total GRT	Tons	10,200	11,331	17,801	57.10	16.23
							74.52

N.B

CALLS: Number of Vessel

GRT (Growth Registered Tonne): Vessel Weight

1.2 Passengers

A total of 371,957 passengers were handled at the Zanzibar seaport in January 2026, which is an increase of 31.7 percent compared with the corresponding month of the previous year and slightly decreased by less than two percent (-1.6 %) compared with the previous month of December 2025. Among the passengers handled, a total of 185,499 passengers were inbound passengers and 186,458 were outbound.

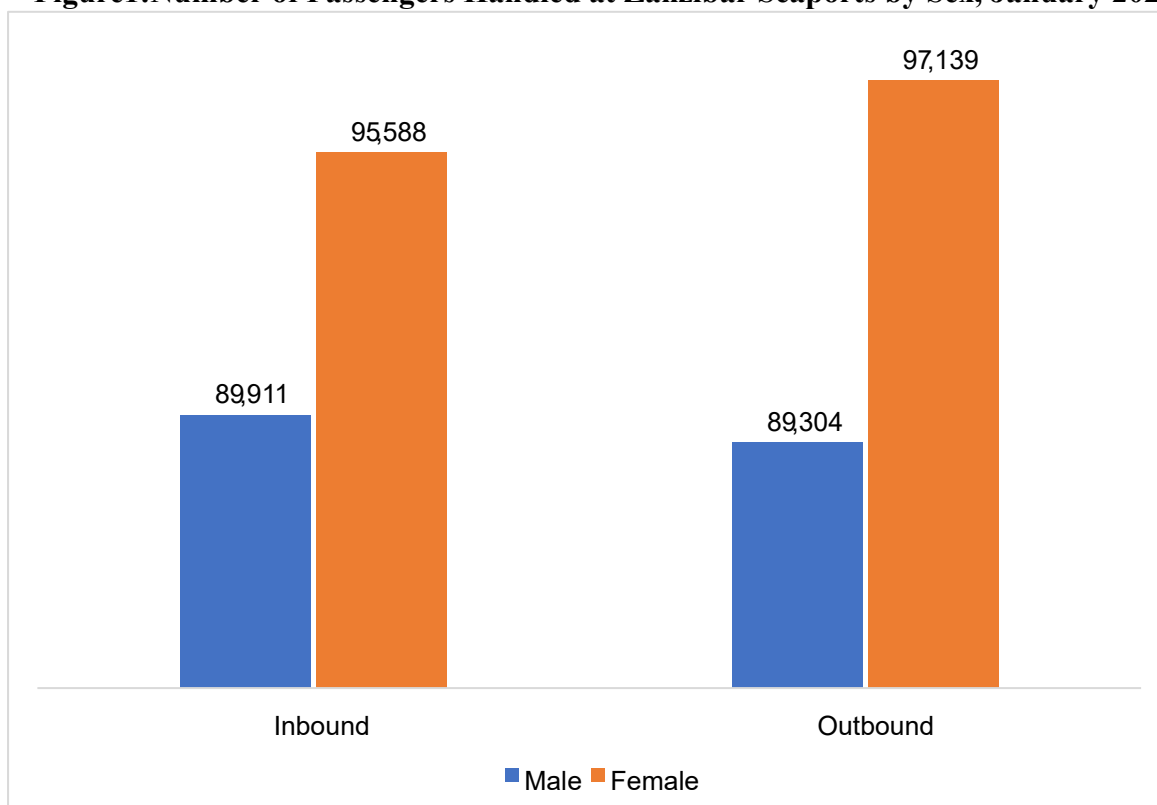
Inbound passengers increased by 40.5 percent compared with the corresponding month of the previous year but slightly decreased by six percent compared with previous months which means more people were arriving in Zanzibar than the same time last year and few people arrived compared with previous month.

The number of outbound passengers increased by 23.9 percent compared with the corresponding month of the previous year and increased by 3.3 percent compared with the previous month.

Table 1.2: Number Of Passengers Handled at Zanzibar Seaports, January 2026, December 2025 And January 2025.

Passenger	Number			Percentage Change	
	Jan, 2025	Dec, 2025	Jan, 2026	Jan,2026- Dec,2025	Jan,2026- Jan,2025
Inbound	132,036	197,572	185,499	-6.1	40.5
Outbound	150,454	180,522	186,443	3.3	23.9
Total	282,490	378,094	371,942	-1.6	31.7

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



1.3 Cargo

A total of 211,226.8 tons of general and Dhow Cargo were handled at the seaport in January 2026. This is an increase of 18.8 percent compared with the corresponding month in 2025 and decrease of 26.8 percent compared with the previous month. A total of 8,117.0 TEUs were handled in January 2026, which is an increase of 20.8 percent and by 6.2 percent compared with the corresponding month of the previous year and the preceding month respectively.

Out of the total tons of general and dhows cargo, 204,459.8 tons were imported to Zanzibar and 6,767.0 tons were exported from Zanzibar in January 2026. Imported general and dhows cargo increased by 36.1 percent and decreased by 17.6 percent compared with the corresponding month of the previous year and preceding month respectively while exported general and dhows cargo decreased by 75.4 percent and 83.1 percent compared with the corresponding month of the previous year and preceding month.

The total number of imported TEUs were 3,849.0 which is an increase of 26.3 percent compared with the corresponding month in 2025 and three percent compared with previous month in December 2025, while 4,268.0 TEUs were exported in the same period, which is an increase of 16.3 percent compared with the corresponding month of the previous year and 9.2 percent compared with preceding month.

Table 1.3: Import and Export of Cargo at Zanzibar Seaports, January 2026, December 2025 and January 2025.

Description	Unit	Number			Percentage Change	
		Jan, 2025	Dec, 2025	Jan, 2026	Jan,2026- Dec,2025	Jan,2026- Jan,2025
Import					-43.38	
General Cargo	Tons	47,239.0	151,825.4	85,966.40		81.98
Dhow	Tons	103,036.5	96,780.6	118,493.40	22.44	15.00
Total	Tons	150,275.5	248,606.0	204,459.80	-17.76	36.06
Fuel	Tons	22,282.6	20,160.1	19,454.90	-3.50	-12.69
Container	Teus	3,048.0	3,737.0	3,849.00	3.00	26.28
Export						
General Cargo	Tons	24,864.5	37,329.7	5,574.00	-85.1	-77.6
Dhow	Tons	2,686.2	2,613.0	1,193.00	-54.3	-55.6
Total	Tons	27,550.7	39,942.7	6,767.00	-83.1	-75.4
Container	TEUS	3,671.0	3,909.0	4,268.00	9.2	16.3
Total cargo						
General and Dhow Cargo	Tons	177,826.1	288,548.8	211,226.80	-26.80	18.78
Fuel	Tons	22,282.6	20,160.1	19,454.90	-3.50	-12.69
Containers	TEUS	6,719.0	7,646.0	8,117.00	6.16	20.81

AIR TRANSPORT ZANZIBAR



2.1 Aircraft Movements

Total of 7,152 aircraft movements was recorded in January 2026, rose by 8.6 percent compared with 6,586 movements recorded in the corresponding month of the previous year and grow up by 12.7 percent compared with 6,344 movements recorded in the preceding month. Arriving aircrafts made 3,574 movements which is an increase of almost nine percent (8.7%) compared 3,289 movements recorded in the corresponding month of the previous year and increased by

12.5 percent compared with 3,177 movement recorded in the preceding month. Departing aircrafts made 3,578 movements, which is an increase of 8.5 percent compared with corresponding month of the previous year and increased by 13 percent compared with preceding month. This suggesting the seasonal aircraft rise compared with December 2025.

International aircrafts made a total of 1,557 movements, an increase of 14.9 percent compared with corresponding month of the previous year and also increase of almost five percent (4.8%) compared with preceding month. Among those international movement, 803 movements were made by arriving international aircrafts and 754 movements were made by departing international aircrafts.

Domestic aircrafts made a total of 5,595 movements which show an increase of almost seven percent compared with corresponding month of the previous year and a increase by 15.2 percent compared with preceding month. Among those domestic movements, 2,771 movements were made by arriving aircrafts and 2,824 movements were made departing aircrafts

Table 2.1: Aircraft Movements in Zanzibar Airports, January 2026, December 2025 And January 2025.

Description	Number			Percentage Change	
	Jan, 2025	Dec, 2025	Jan, 2026	Jan,2026- Dec,2025	Jan,2026- Jan,2025
International			803		
Arrivals	682	770		4.3	17.7
Departures	673	715	754	5.5	12.0
Total	<u>1,355</u>	<u>1,485</u>	<u>1,557</u>	4.9	14.9
Domestic					
Arrivals	2,607	2,407	2,771	15.1	6.3
Departures	2,624	2,452	2,824	15.2	7.6
Total	<u>5,231</u>	<u>4,859</u>	<u>5,595</u>	15.2	7.0
Total Movements					
Arrivals	3,289	3,177	3,574	12.5	8.7
Departures	3,297	3,167	3,578	13.0	8.5
Total	<u>6,586</u>	<u>6,344</u>	<u>7,152</u>	12.7	8.6

2.2 Aircraft Passengers

Total of 265,955 passengers were handled at the Zanzibar Airport in January 2026, which is an increase of 8.9 percent compared with the corresponding month of the previous year and an increase of 14.7 percent compared with the preceding month. Among the passengers handled at airports, a total of 127,785 passengers were disembarked and 138,170 were embarked.

Disembarked passengers increased by about eight percent compared with corresponding month of the previous year and slightly increased by almost five percent compared with preceding month which means more people were arriving in Zanzibar than the same time in last year and

previous month. The number of embarked passengers increased by nine percent compared with corresponding month of the previous year and 25.9 percent compared with preceding month. This suggest that January 2026 was much busier than corresponding month in 2025 and the preceding month.

Total of 163,159 passengers from international flight were handled at airport, an increase of almost seven percent compared with corresponding month of the previous year and 13.9 percent compared with preceding month. Among those passengers from international flight, 89,217 were embarked and 73,942 were disembarked passengers.

Total of 102,796 passengers from domestic flight were handled at airports, which is an increase by 12.2 percent compared with corresponding month of the previous year and 15.9 percent compared with the preceding month. Among those passengers from domestic flight, 53,843 were disembarked and 48,953 were embarked.

Table 2.2: Number of Passengers Handled at Zanzibar Airports, January 2026, December 2025 And January 2025.

Description	Number			Percentage Change	
	Jan, 2025	Dec, 2025	Jan, 2026	Jan,2026- Dec,2025	Jan,2026- Jan,2025
International flight					
Disembarked	69,571	74,545	73,942	-0.8	6.3
Embarked	83,158	68,737	89,217	29.8	7.3
Total	152,729	143,282	163,159	13.9	6.8
Transit	5,680	9,984	9,628	-3.6	69.5
Domestic flight					
Disembarked	48,317	47,680	53,843	12.9	11.4
Embarked	43,274	40,995	48,953	19.4	13.1
Total	91,591	88,675	102,796	15.9	12.2
Transit	14,530	17,694	17,155	-3.1	18.1
Total Passengers					
Disembarked	117,888	122,225	127,785	4.6	8.4
Description	Number			Percentage Change	
	Jan, 2025	Dec, 2025	Jan, 2026	Jan,2026- Jan,2025	Jan,2026- Dec,2025
Embarked	126,432	109,732	138,170	25.9	9.3
Total	244,320	231,957	265,955	14.7	8.9
Transit	20,210	27,678	26,783	-3.2	32.5

2.3 Amount of Cargo in the Aircraft

The volume of Cargo handled at Zanzibar airports reached 430.8 tons, an increase of 14.4 percent compared with 376.5 tons recorded in corresponding month of the previous year and a decrease of 13.0 percent compared with 495.3 tons recorded in preceding month. Among the

cargo handled, a total of 11.5 tons was loaded for exportation and 419.24 tons was unloaded as importation from Tanzania Mainland and rest of the world.

International aircrafts transported a total of 429.6 tons, an increase of 14.4 percent compared with 375.6 tons recorded in the corresponding month of the previous year and a decrease of 12.1 percent compared with 488.7 tons recorded in the preceding month. A total of 10.3 tons was loaded for exports and 419.2 tons were unloaded as an import.

Domestic aircrafts transported a total of 1.2 tons which were loaded in Zanzibar and transported to Tanzania Mainland. There was no cargo that unloaded as importation from Tanzania Mainland to Zanzibar for January 2026.

Table 2.3: Cargo (Tons) Handled in Zanzibar Airport, January 2026, December 2025 And January 2025.

Description	Number			Percentage Change	
	Jan, 2025	Dec, 2025	Jan, 2026	Jan,2026-Dec,2025	Jan,2026-Jan,2025
International					
Loaded	18.6	9.2	10.3	12.0	-44.6
Unloaded	356.9	479.4	419.2	-12.6	17.5
Total	375.6	488.7	429.6	-12.1	14.4
Domestic					
Loaded	0.4	5.2	1.2	-76.9	200.0
Unloaded	0.5	1.4	0.0	0	0
Total	0.9	6.6	1.2	-81.8	33.3
Total Cargo					
Loaded	19.0	14.5	11.5	-20.3	-39.5
Unloaded	357.5	480.8	419.2	-12.8	17.3
Total	376.5	495.3	430.8	-13.0	14.4

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:
OFFICE OF CHIEF GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN
Attention: Head Economic Statistics Section
E-mail: economicstat@ocgs.go.tz**
