



**ZIMBABWE**

**Paper on United Nations workshop on  
International Economic and Social  
Classifications**

**Industrial Classifications in Zimbabwe**

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## Introduction

The Central Statistical Office of Zimbabwe is a government department which is under the Ministry of Finance. The Central statistical Office is mandated to collect, compile, analyse, publish and disseminate official statistics. The department is undergoing a transformation process to become a semi-autonomous body to be called ZIMSTAT which is Zimbabwe Statistics.

In Zimbabwe, production of Statistics is given high priority by the department as well as the government. Emphasise is much on production of qualitative timely data. We value statistics as a public good which is supposed to be availed to all though it is very expensive to produce and disseminate. Production of statistics is meaningful only until the end user has access to it when it is still fresh for use to solve current challenges. Whenever our office release data, every member of society talks about it because we always disseminate and interpret the meaning of the data for users to easily apply it on their every day life.

## Classification Development in Zimbabwe

We strive to be very professional and hence, on classification, we have a Classifications Committee which falls under the Co-ordination and Standardisation Committee. We have other committees like the Pricing Committee which is for pricing of our publications but I will not say much about it as my subject of interest is on classification today. We try as much as possible to adopt new classifications on their inception as ever as we have enough information to implement the new revisions and series.

I would like to express my gratitude to UNSD and African Centre for Statistics for my presents here at this workshop for me to share our “Zimbabwe” classifications and gain knowledge that I will use to implement ISIC Rev. 4 correctly with better knowledge of implementation when I get back to my country.

What are the terms of reference of the Classifications committee?

**Note:** These terms of reference are not static as they are improved every time and again when the need arise.

## Terms of Reference

1. To identify and enlist all Classifications used at CSO.
2. To customize some of the Classifications to suite the Zimbabwe environment. For example ISIC includes some economic activities not found in Zimbabwe as well as excludes some specific economic activities in Zimbabwe and carry out necessary research to that effect.
3. To use the latest versions of Classifications for all systems.
4. To update documents and publications with the latest classifications.
5. To carry out a census of establishments by visiting and listing companies in order to establish a register based on physical addresses.
6. To educate users and suppliers of data on the classifications, as well as conduct an in-house training for staff on the various Classifications in use at CSO.
7. To create tables illustrating the correlation between different classifications. For example a user requiring data from the Trade Section may only be aware of the Harmonised System when data has been presented in Standard International Trade Classification, SITC.
8. To ensure that all Statistical Officers participate in the classifications sub-committee as a way of capacity building.
9. To explore the adoption of new classifications like ISO certification and Pressure State Response Framework.

Industrial Statistics Section falls under the Economic Statistics Branch of the Central Statistical Office.

ISIC Classifications was adopted as Zimbabwe Industrial Classification (ZIC) with next to nil changes .

**Under Industrial Statistics**, Zimbabwe collects statistics on;

### Census of Industrial Production

Zimbabwe boasts of a very vibrant industry of 1800 industries from our last count of all registered enterprises that fall into this category. This census measures the performance of the manufacturing, mining, construction, electricity and water production/distribution. Indicators of interest are Gross Output, Value Added, Intermediate consumption, Numbers Employed, Gross Fixed Capital Formation etc. Data is collected from all companies.

### Volume of Manufacturing Production Index

A monthly indicator that measures the performance of 11 industrial groups in the manufacturing sector in the form of an index base year being 1990. Data is collected from companies in this sector.

### Mineral Production and Index

Indicates the levels of monthly mineral production in terms of volume, value, volume index and unit value index. Data is collected from administrative monthly returns from the Ministry of Mines and Mining Development.

### Business Tendency Survey (BTS)

BTS is a profile-analysis type of survey that is compiled from data collected from persons in top management posts of companies who give subjective views about the business climate. Respondents give non-parametric responses and the survey is done tri-annually.

### Electricity Energy Produced/distributed

Monthly data on the volume of electricity produced and distributed by the country's, power utility and other producers is recorded to produce tables and an index.

### Retail Trade Index

The Retail Trade Index measures the monthly trends of turnover of establishments in the retailing of goods and services in the economy. Data is collected from the Zimbabwe revenue Authority (ZIMRA).

### Construction Bulletin

Is a quarterly publication in which statistics on public construction and civil engineering works done by both public and private sectors are published. The value of work done and maintenance are the main variables in this publication.

### Architects Bulletin

Is a quarterly report that measures progress on architectural work starting from where a project is taken on, sketch plans, up to the point of approval. Data used to compile it is collected from architectural establishments on a monthly basis

### Building Plans Approved

Building Plans Approved are statistics that show on a monthly basis, the number and value in monthly terms of building plans approved by local authorities. Data is collected from local authorities.

### Transport Statistics

#### -Air Traffic Statistics

Airport traffic statistics relate to the number of domestic and international flights through Zimbabwe airports, number of passengers and freight tonnage and local airlines. Air Zimbabwe and Civil Aviation Authority of Zimbabwe (CAAZ) provide the data.

#### -Motor vehicle Report

It is a quarterly publication that gives figures on the national vehicle population classified by tax classes and type of vehicle. For each Quarter, the number of motor vehicles registered for the first time in Zimbabwe classified by make, model and type of ownership are recorded. Data is collected from administrative records of the Central Vehicle Registry(CVR)

#### -Road Accidents statistics

Road accident statistics cover the total number of road accidents and number of injured and dead on a monthly basis. Data is obtained from the Zimbabwe Republic Police(ZRP)

Census of Services ( Under development )

## Implementation of ISIC

### *Adaptation of International Industrial Classification*

ISIC has been adapted in its entity with a few changes . Changes are pronounced on the 4 or 3 digit level when we get to Reporting level only. This is done For example on mining: When a mineral need to be merged with others to maintain the confidentiality part of statistics which is enshrined in our statistics Act.

Changes do happen when we adopt and try to sit classifications to our local prescriptions eg. In Zimbabwe, gas is supplied through gas cylinders not through mains cylinders.

ISIC has been used at 4 digit level at economic and social classification.They is extensive use of ISIC and its hardly impossible to notice the local adaptation of ISIC from the original UN ISIC.

As a development support partner, UNIDO used ISIC in developing Industrial output reports we adopted without loss of comparative data at local, national and international level. The advantage we have had adopting ISIC in its original state is that when its comes to completion of United Nations questionnaires like Monthly Business System (MBS) its made simple as we need no corresponding tabulation or any conversions outside our own production.

### *ISIC on Industrial Statistics*

Census of Industrial Production	ISIC Rev 3
Business Tendency Survey	ISIC Rev 3
Mining Indices ( Unit Value and Volume )	ISIC Rev 3
Construction	ISIC Rev 3

### *Other Classifications*

Employment Statistics	ISIC Rev 2.
International Trade/ External Trade statistics	HS, SITC (analytical purpose), BEC

SNA is used by many Economic Statistics sections within the organisation.

Census Occupations	ISCO
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Etc.

## Challenges faced on Classifications

1- External Trade section have a problem /fail to process their data using STIC and now they use HS as they is no one to one correspondence.

2 – Reclassification of an Enterprise when they is a sudden change of economic activity because of the dynamic changes in economic environment and industries. For example, A company changes its line of economic activity from manufacturing of metal furniture to processing of meat and then jewellery manufacture within 2 years. The name of the company has not changed but its changing its economic activity.

*Example illustrated.*

Company A: Manufactures metal garden furniture from January to July 2007

Company A: Changes to manufacturing of to processing of meat and canning from August 2007 to March 2008

Company A : Its now doing to jewellery manufacturing since April 2008.

3 – Its very expensive to call all respondents and stakeholders to a sensitisation meeting whenever they is a change in classifications and hence, some respondents take more time adapting to new classifications we would have done to our instruments.

**I am happy that by the end of this workshop, I will be able to appreciate and apply the right knowledge gained on application of ISIC Rev 4 and other Classification methods to the advantage of my country.**

**Thank you for your attention  
God Bless.**

**End**