



POVERTY DATUM LINES – DECEMBER 2023

Food Poverty Line

The Food Poverty Line (FPL) for one person in December 2023 was ZWL106,696.52.

This means that the minimum needs basket cost ZWL106,696.52 per person in December 2023. The amount represents an increase of 21.6 percent over the November 2023 figure of ZWL87,756.38.

Food Poverty Line represents the amount of money that an individual requires to afford daily minimum energy intake of 2,100 calories.

Total Consumption Poverty Line

The Total Consumption Poverty Line (TCPL) for one person was ZWL140,252.59 in December 2023.

This means that an individual required ZWL140,252.59 to purchase both food and non-food items as of December 2023 in order not to be deemed extremely poor. This represents an increase of 21.9 percent when compared to the November 2023 figure of ZWL115,090.15.

The TCPL represents the minimum total income needed for an individual not to be deemed extremely poor.

Concepts and Definitions of the Lower Bound Poverty Line

Since November 2020, ZIMSTAT produces the Poverty Datum Lines (PDL) using the lower-bound poverty line. The method refers to the sum of food poverty line and the average amount derived from non-food items of households whose total expenditure is equal to the food poverty line.

The total consumption poverty line (TCPL) which is naturally higher than the FPL was derived using 2017 PICES data and using the lower-bound poverty line method. It was derived by computing the average of non-food consumption expenditures of poor households whose consumption expenditures were just equal to the FPL. The amount was added to the FPL. If an individual does not consume more than the TCPL, he or she is deemed extremely poor. For more detail on how FPL and TCPL were computed, the user is referred to the ZIMSTAT publication namely Zimbabwe Poverty Update 2017-19.

NOTE:

- ZIMSTAT produces the official Poverty Datum Lines which are not comparable to cost of living indicators produced by other players in the market.
- The quantities of commodities consumed at base year in the minimum needs basket, which is consistent with the preferences of the poor individuals and households in Zimbabwe, are fixed. The variations in the value of the basket are explained by changes in average prices.

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