



KNOW YOUR RESERVED SECTORS

The Ministry of Industry and Commerce administers the Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment Act (Chapter 14:33), enacted in 2008 to empower indigenous communities, as mandated by Section 13(4) of the 2013 Constitution, which stipulates that the State must ensure local communities benefit from their natural resources. The Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment Act provides for the establishment of Reserved Sectors. Statutory Instrument 21 of 2010 gave effect to the operational regulations for the Reserved Sectors. However, the Finance Act No. 1 of 2018 amended the Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment Act to include the 12 sectors reserved for Zimbabwean citizens in the Act. The amendment contained in the Finance Act of 2018 extended ownership of businesses in the 12 reserved sectors to “citizens of Zimbabwe” as opposed to “indigenous citizens” as had been captured in the SI.

The Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment Act [Chapter 14:33] reserves the following sectors of the economy for Zimbabwean citizens:

1. Transportation: passenger buses, taxis and car hire services,
2. Retail and wholesale trade,
3. Barber shops, hairdressing and beauty salons,
4. Employment Agencies,
5. Estate Agencies
6. Valet services,
7. Grain milling,
8. Bakeries,
9. Tobacco grading and packaging
10. Advertising Agencies,
11. Provision of local arts and craft, marketing and distribution and
12. Artisanal mining

Legislative changes in the Reserved Sectors added five more sectors

In 2024, stakeholders lobbied for the addition of five more sectors into Reserved Sectors, citing unfair competition from foreign owned businesses and these were approved by the Minister of Finance after extensive consultations.

The Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion through the Finance Act No. 2 of 2024 amended the Indigenization and Economic Empowerment Act to include 5 more sectors in November 2024.

The five added sectors are:

13. Haulage and logistics industry,
14. Pharmaceutical retailing,
15. Shipping and forwarding,
16. Customs and clearing
17. Borehole drilling.