

STATISTICAL NOTE



This year's Economic Report on Africa is based on the latest updated and harmonized data from various sources, including questionnaires developed by the authors. The main economic and social data variables are obtained from the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) database. Data from the statistical databases of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), World Bank, and some government departments in African countries are also used for various economic indicators. Data published in the report may differ from those of previous editions due to recent assumptions and revisions.

The UN-DESA Global Economic Outlook database provides comparable data on GDP growth for all African countries, except Seychelles and Swaziland, for which data are obtained from the EIU database. Real GDP growth rates are generated using country data with 2010 as the base year. Subregional inflation rates for country groupings are weighted averages, where weights are based on GDP in 2010 prices. Baseline scenario forecasts are based partly on Project LINK and the UN-DESA World Economic Forecasting Model (WEFM).

Social data are based on the latest available data from the ECA's African Centre for Statistics (ACS), African Development Bank, UNICEF, UN-DESA, UNDP, United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and World Bank's World Development Indicators and the PovcalNet databases. Employment and productivity figures are from the ILO's ILO-Key Indicators of the Labour Market (KILM) and the World Employment and Social Outlook databases, while data on trade (exports and imports) are from the UNCTAD and World Trade Organization (WTO).

Countries are classified into geographical regions and country groupings. Unless otherwise stated, the data cover 53 African countries (excluding South Sudan due to unavailability of historical data). Geographical regions are: East, Central, North, Southern and West. Parts of the analysis are also based on country groupings of oil importers, oil exporters, mineral-rich and mineral-poor countries. Oil exporters are those with oil exports at least 20 per cent higher than their oil imports and include Algeria, Angola, Cameroon, Chad, Congo Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Congo DRC, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Libya, Niger, Nigeria and Sudan. Oil importers include Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Mineral-rich countries are those where mineral exports account for more than 20 per cent of total exports and include Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Guinea, Lesotho, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Mineral-poor countries include Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Cabo Verde, Chad, Comoros, Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Libya, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Nigeria, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Seychelles, Somalia, Swaziland, Tunisia and Uganda. Groupings are based on UNCTAD trade data for 2013 and 2014 (SITC 33 for oil and SITC 27+28+32+34+35+68+667+971 for minerals).

Agricultural commodity exporters are countries that export more than 20 percent of total exports of agricultural commodities and include Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Seychelles, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

The thematic part of the report employs primary data and information collected, harmonized and analysed by ECA staff through questionnaires. Several interviews were conducted in 11 case study countries: Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa and Sudan.