

Recent developments: Growth in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) picked up from 2.9 percent in 2023 to an estimated 3.2 percent in 2024. This was 0.3 percentage point lower than projected in June, reflecting the ongoing violent conflict in Sudan as well as country-specific challenges that weighed on the region's economic recovery last year. Growth in the region's two largest economies—Nigeria and South Africa—rose to an average of 2.2 percent in 2024, supported by improved electricity supply in South Africa and higher oil production in Nigeria. In the region's other countries, growth edged up to 4.0 percent.

Consumer price inflation diverged across the region, with the majority of countries experiencing moderate and declining price increases, though food price inflation remained relatively high. However, sharp price increases persisted in some larger economies—partly reflecting significant currency depreciations (Angola, Ethiopia, and Nigeria). Moreover, food insecurity remained elevated across the region, partly owing to adverse weather events, such as droughts in Southern Africa and floods elsewhere.

Outlook: Growth in SSA is expected to firm to 4.1 percent in 2025 and 4.3 percent in 2026, as financial conditions ease alongside further declines in inflation. Following weaker-than-expected regional growth last year, growth projections for 2025 have been revised upward by 0.2 percentage point, and for 2026 by 0.3 percentage point. The growth trajectory, however, is expected to be unevenly distributed among SSA economies. Growth rates in the region's largest two economies will continue to lag those of the rest of the region, despite projected growth pickups in both countries. Excluding the two largest economies, growth in the region is forecast to strengthen from 4 percent in 2024 to about 5.3 percent in 2025–26. Growth in industrial-commodity-exporting economies, excluding Sudan, is forecast to recover amid a pickup in service sector growth as household consumption improves.

Against the backdrop of waning inflation, a gradual easing of policy interest rates should bolster private consumption and investment in many SSA economies during the forecast horizon. At the same time, limited fiscal space, resulting from high debt levels and increased borrowing costs, will continue to weigh on government spending across the region. Fiscal balances are expected to continue to improve, though at a moderating pace. Primary fiscal deficits are, on average, forecast to close over the forecast period, with declining deficits in non-resource-rich countries and increasing surpluses in commodity-exporting countries.

Per capita income in SSA is projected to expand by an average of 1.7 percent a year in 2025–26, which is below the average growth rate in emerging market and developing economies, even when China and India are excluded. Moreover, per capita income growth in SSA is expected to remain uneven, with incomes expected to fall in some countries. Per capita incomes are forecast to shrink over the forecast horizon in Angola, the Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, and Sudan. Even by 2026, GDP per capita in about 30 percent of the region's economies will not have recovered to their pre-pandemic levels. Thus, these economies will have lost several years in advancing per capita incomes and reducing poverty.

Risks: Risks to the outlook are tilted to the downside. Global growth could be weaker than projected on account of heightened uncertainty and the potential for adverse changes in trade policies. Further downside risks include a sharper-than-expected economic slowdown in China, escalating global geopolitical tensions, and worsening political instability and an escalation of violent conflicts in the SSA region. More persistent-than-expected inflation could keep global interest rates elevated, exacerbating the challenges confronting highly indebted countries, while greater frequency and intensity of adverse weather events could exacerbate poverty in many SSA countries.

An escalation of the conflict in the Middle East could exacerbate food insecurity in SSA, especially by disrupting supply chains, leading to less affordable food and an uptick in malnutrition rates in the region. Similarly, an intensification of the conflict in Sudan could raise food prices—at least in parts of SSA—as a result of reduced supply and higher transportation costs. The SSA region also remains highly vulnerable to extreme weather events linked partly to climate change. An increase in the frequency or severity of droughts or floods would tend to exacerbate poverty in many countries across SSA.

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Sub-Saharan Africa Country Forecasts

(Annual percent change unless indicated otherwise)

	2022	2023	2024e	2025f	2026f
GDP at market prices (average 2010-19 US\$)					
Angola	3.0	1.0	3.2	2.9	2.9
Benin	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.4	6.3
Botswana	5.6	2.7	1.0	5.3	4.9
Burkina Faso	1.5	3.0	3.7	3.9	4.1
Burundi	1.8	2.7	2.2	3.5	4.2
Central African Republic	0.5	0.7	0.7	1.1	2.0
Cabo Verde	17.4	5.1	5.2	4.9	4.8
Cameroon	3.6	3.3	3.7	4.0	4.2
Chad	2.8	4.2	3.0	2.1	3.5
Comoros	2.8	3.0	3.5	4.0	4.3
Congo, Dem. Rep.	8.9	8.4	4.9	5.0	4.6
Congo, Rep.	1.5	1.9	2.1	3.5	3.3
Côte d'Ivoire	6.2	6.2	6.5	6.4	6.6
Equatorial Guinea	3.7	-5.7	4.7	-4.4	-0.8
Eritrea	2.5	2.6	2.8	3.0	3.3
Eswatini	0.5	4.8	4.6	3.5	2.9
Ethiopia ^a	6.4	7.2	6.1	6.5	7.1
Gabon	3.1	2.4	3.1	2.4	3.0
Gambia, The	4.9	5.3	5.6	5.8	5.4
Ghana	3.8	2.9	4.0	4.2	4.9
Guinea	4.0	6.7	5.3	6.0	6.4
Guinea-Bissau	4.2	5.2	5.0	5.0	5.0
Kenya	4.9	5.6	4.7	5.0	5.1
Lesotho	1.3	0.9	2.5	2.3	2.0
Liberia	4.8	4.7	5.3	5.7	5.8
Madagascar	4.0	3.8	4.5	4.6	4.7
Malawi	0.9	1.6	1.8	4.2	3.3
Mali	3.5	3.5	3.7	4.0	4.5
Mauritania	6.8	6.5	6.5	7.8	7.5
Mauritius	8.9	7.0	5.6	4.4	3.8
Mozambique	4.4	5.4	4.0	4.0	4.0
Namibia	5.3	4.2	3.1	3.7	3.9
Niger	11.5	2.0	5.7	8.5	4.6
Nigeria	3.3	2.9	3.3	3.5	3.7
Rwanda	8.2	8.2	7.6	7.8	7.5
São Tomé and Príncipe	0.2	0.4	1.1	3.3	3.6
Senegal	3.8	4.6	6.1	9.7	6.0
Seychelles	14.9	3.2	3.7	4.1	3.5
Sierra Leone	5.3	5.7	4.3	4.7	4.7
Somalia	2.7	4.2	4.4	4.5	4.5
South Africa	1.9	0.7	0.8	1.8	1.9
Sudan	-1.0	-20.1	-15.1	1.3	2.9
South Sudan ^a	-2.3	-1.3	-7.8	-11.4	6.1

Tanzania	4.6	5.1	5.4	5.8	6.2
Togo	5.8	6.4	5.3	5.4	5.8
Uganda ^a	4.7	5.3	6.0	6.2	10.8
Zambia	5.2	5.4	1.2	6.2	6.6
Zimbabwe	6.1	5.3	2.0	6.2	4.8

Source: World Bank.

Note: e = estimate; f = forecast. World Bank forecasts are frequently updated based on new information and changing (global) circumstances. Consequently, projections presented here may differ from those contained in other World Bank documents, even if basic assessments of countries' prospects do not significantly differ at any given moment in time.

a. Fiscal-year-based numbers.