Africa: Brief Regional Profile

2025

Economic Performance

Africa is a region with immense untapped economic potential with its unique set of strengths and risks that shape its economic landscape. The continent's economic growth is challenged by external shocks like those related to climate change, technological bottlenecks and intensified geopolitical tensions across several African countries. However, Africa also holds several growth supporting factors including rapid urbanisation, growing working age population and significant endowment of natural resources that are contributing to the region being a dynamic hub of trade and investment opportunities.

Africa's economic performance varies across regions and economic groupings. In Central Africa[1], real GDP growth for the region averaged 4.0% in 2024, a fall from the previous year's 4.4%. In 2023, economic growth in this region saw a slowdown mainly due to the under-performance of oil and extractive activities in Equatorial Guinea and the DRC, the region's leading economy in terms of GDP[2]. Despite boasting of the continent's best performance in terms of real GDP growth with an average annual growth rate (AAGR) of 3.8%, Central Africa ranks last in the region in terms of real GDP per capita, driven mainly by the tertiary sector.

The region of East Africa[3] is estimated to have grown by 4.3% in 2024 after seeing significantly weak economic growth in 2023 at around 1.3%, stated below the continental average[4]. The region, however, still has set high standards for

[1] According to the AfDB classification, Central Africa comprises Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Republic of Congo, DR Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon.
[2] Central Africa Economic Outlook 2024, African Development Bank (AfDB)
[3] East Africa comprises Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda.
[4] Africa's Macroeconomic Performance and Outlook January 2025, African Development Bank (AfDB)

macroeconomic stability in Africa with the general growth trajectory in recent years showing growth rates that contributed to nearly doubling the African average. This was also the only African region that did not experience an economic contraction on average in 2020.

North Africa[5] showed moderate growth estimated at 2.6% in 2024, a decrease from 3.8% seen in 2023, despite remaining as one of Africa's fastest-growing regions. According to the African Development Bank (AfDB), the slowdown in global growth, especially in North Africa's European trade partners, global financial market volatility, rising interest rates in major advanced countries to curb inflation increased the cost of borrowing, and led to capital outflows, putting pressures on foreign reserves, and exacerbating debt sustainability issues in the region.

In Southern Africa[6], economic performance in 2024 remained subdued at 1.9%, a mere rise from the previous year's growth of 1.8%. This overall slowdown in economic performance is attributed to adverse weather conditions, weak global demand and falling commodity prices, as well as electricity shortages and transport constraints in South Africa – the powerhouse of this region with a GDP share of 60%[7]. Traditional sectors remain as the region's primary growth driver with agriculture employing almost 48% of the total workforce.

Lastly, West Africa[8] showed an estimated growth of 4.5% in 2024, a rise from the growth rate of 3.6% as recorded in 2023. Such an improvement in economic performance corrected the otherwise economic slowdown the region was facing in recent years attributable to persistently high food and energy prices on the back of sustained impact of multiple shocks, and weak global demand weighing down on exports performance, coupled with political and security uncertainties in the region.

[5] North Africa comprises Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, and Tunisia.

[6] Southern Africa comprises Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, São Tomé and Príncipe, South Africa, eSwatini, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

[7] Southern Africa Economic Outlook 2024, African Development Bank (AfDB)

[8] West Africa comprises Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo.

According to estimates by the IMF, the economic output of Africa saw a reduction from US$ 3.0 trillion in 2022 to an expected US$ 2.8 trillion in 2025, as also reflected by the decrease in growth rates from 4.3% in 2022 to a likely rate of 3.9% in 2025.

In 2024, South Africa was the largest economy in the continent with nominal GDP amounting to US$ 400.2 billion. The other top economies of Africa in the same year included Egypt (US$ 383.1 billion), Algeria (US$ 264.9 billion), Nigeria (187.6 billion) and Morocco (US$ 155.4 billion). The top 5 largest economies thus accounted for a substant share of 49.7% of Africa's total economic output in 2024.

Table 1.1: Select Macroeconomic Indicators of African Countries

Country/Region	GDP at Current Prices (US$ billion)				Real GDP Growth (%)				Population (million)			
	2022	2023	2024[e]	2025[f]	2022	2023	2024[e]	2025[f]	2022	2023	2024[e]	2025[f]
Africa	**3,016.0**	**2,893.5**	**2,797.6**	**2,849.8**	**4.3**	**3.3**	**3.2**	**3.9**	**1,386.2**	**1,418.9**	**1,454.1**	**1,488.9**
Algeria	225.7	247.8	264.9	268.9	3.6	4.1	3.5	3.5	45.3	46.0	46.6	47.3
Angola	142.4	109.8	115.9	113.3	4.2	1.0	4.5	2.4	35.6	36.7	38.0	39.3
Benin	17.4	19.7	21.2	22.2	6.3	6.4	6.5	6.5	13.4	13.7	14.1	14.5
Botswana	20.3	19.4	19.4	19.4	5.5	3.2	-3.0	-0.4	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.8
Burkina Faso	19.6	21.2	24.0	27.1	1.5	3.0	4.5	4.3	22.7	23.3	23.8	24.5
Burundi	3.9	4.2	4.7	6.7	1.8	2.7	3.5	1.9	12.6	13.0	13.4	13.8
Cabo Verde	2.3	2.6	2.7	2.8	17.4	4.0	6.0	5.0	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Cameroon	44.4	49.3	52.8	56.0	3.7	3.2	3.6	3.6	27.9	28.6	29.3	30.0
Central African Republic	2.5	2.6	2.8	2.9	0.5	0.7	1.8	2.9	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.5
Chad	17.9	18.3	19.1	18.8	4.1	4.0	1.5	1.7	17.4	17.9	18.4	19.0
Comoros	1.2	1.3	1.5	1.5	2.6	3.0	3.3	3.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Côte d'Ivoire	71.1	79.6	87.1	94.5	6.4	6.5	6.0	6.3	30.2	31.1	32.0	32.9
DR Congo	63.3	64.4	71.0	79.1	9.2	8.5	6.5	4.7	96.8	99.9	103.2	106.6
Djibouti	3.6	3.9	4.3	4.6	5.2	7.4	6.5	6.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1
Egypt	475.2	393.8	383.1	347.3	6.7	3.8	2.4	3.8	103.6	105.2	107.3	109.5
Equatorial Guinea	13.7	12.3	12.5	12.7	3.2	-5.1	1.9	-4.2	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.6
Eritrea*	2.4	2.3	2.5	2.8	2.6	2.8	2.9	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.6
Eswatini	4.8	4.9	5.2	5.5	0.5	5.0	3.7	5.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
Ethiopia	119.0	159.8	143.1	117.5	6.4	7.2	8.1	6.6	104.1	105.7	108.4	110.1
Gabon	20.5	20.1	20.8	20.4	3.0	2.4	3.1	2.8	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.3
Ghana	73.9	80.5	82.8	88.3	3.8	3.1	5.7	4.0	33.1	33.8	34.4	35.1

Country/Region	GDP at Current Prices (US$ billion)				Real GDP Growth (%)				Population (million)			
	2022	2023	2024[e]	2025[f]	2022	2023	2024[e]	2025[f]	2022	2023	2024[e]	2025[f]
Guinea	19.6	22.8	25.8	30.1	4.0	6.2	6.1	7.1	14.7	15.0	15.4	15.8
Guinea-Bissau	1.7	2.0	2.2	2.3	4.6	5.2	4.7	5.1	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0
Kenya	114.7	108.7	120.9	131.7	4.9	5.6	4.5	4.8	50.6	51.5	52.4	53.4
Lesotho	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.0	2.0	2.6	1.5	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.2
Liberia	4.0	4.4	4.8	5.2	4.8	4.6	4.8	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.6	5.7
Libya	43.3	44.0	42.2	47.5	-8.3	10.2	-0.6	17.3	6.8	6.8	6.9	7.0
Madagascar	15.3	15.9	17.4	18.7	4.2	4.2	4.2	3.9	29.0	29.8	30.6	31.4
Malawi	12.5	13.4	11.8	14.0	0.9	1.9	1.8	3.5	22.1	22.7	23.4	24.1
Mali	19.3	21.2	22.7	23.2	3.5	4.7	4.4	4.9	22.6	23.3	24.0	24.8
Mauritania	9.6	10.6	10.7	11.5	6.8	6.5	4.6	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.6
Mauritius	12.9	14.1	15.0	15.5	8.7	5.0	4.7	3.0	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
Morocco	131.0	144.4	155.4	165.8	1.5	3.4	3.2	3.9	36.7	37.0	37.4	37.7
Mozambique	18.9	21.0	21.9	23.8	4.4	5.4	1.9	2.5	33.0	33.9	34.9	35.8
Namibia	12.6	12.4	13.4	14.2	5.4	4.4	3.7	3.8	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.0
Niger	15.5	16.8	19.9	21.9	11.9	2.4	10.3	6.6	26.1	27.1	28.1	29.1
Nigeria	476.5	363.8	187.6	188.3	3.3	2.9	3.4	3.0	216.7	222.2	227.7	233.3
Republic of Congo	14.0	14.2	14.9	15.3	1.8	2.0	2.6	3.3	6.0	6.1	6.3	6.5
Rwanda	13.3	14.3	14.3	14.8	8.2	8.3	8.9	7.1	13.2	13.5	13.9	14.2
São Tomé and Príncipe	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.2	0.4	0.9	3.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Senegal	27.8	30.6	32.9	34.7	4.0	4.3	6.7	8.4	17.7	18.2	18.7	19.2
Seychelles	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.2	12.7	2.3	3.0	3.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Sierra Leone	7.1	6.4	7.7	8.4	5.3	5.7	3.7	4.7	8.6	8.8	9.0	9.2
Somalia	10.2	11.0	12.1	13.0	2.7	4.2	4.0	4.0	15.6	16.1	16.5	17.0

Country/Region	GDP at Current Prices (US$ billion)				Real GDP Growth (%)				Population (million)			
	2022	2023	2024e	2025f	2022	2023	2024e	2025f	2022	2023	2024e	2025f
South Africa	406.8	380.6	400.2	410.3	1.9	0.7	0.6	1.0	61.4	62.3	63.2	64.1
South Sudan	8.0	7.2	5.4	4.0	-5.2	2.5	-27.6	-4.3	14.6	15.0	15.4	15.9
Sudan	33.5	37.0	28.3	31.5	-2.5	-20.8	-23.4	-0.4	46.7	47.9	49.1	50.4
Tanzania	74.2	79.1	80.2	86.0	4.7	5.1	5.4	6.0	61.5	63.3	65.2	67.2
The Gambia	2.1	2.3	2.6	2.8	5.5	4.8	5.8	5.9	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.8
Togo	8.1	9.1	9.8	10.0	5.8	5.6	5.3	5.3	8.9	9.1	9.3	9.5
Tunisia	44.6	48.5	53.1	56.3	2.7	0.0	1.4	1.4	12.1	12.2	12.3	12.4
Uganda	47.3	51.9	56.5	64.3	6.2	4.9	6.3	6.1	43.8	45.2	46.6	48.0
Zambia	29.2	27.6	26.3	28.9	5.2	5.4	4.0	6.2	20.0	20.6	21.1	21.7
Zimbabwe	32.6	35.1	35.2	38.2	6.1	5.3	2.0	6.0	16.2	16.6	17.0	17.4

*Note: 'e' estimates; f forecast; *Data sourced from EIU database*

Source: IMF, WEO April 2025 and Exim Bank Analysis

Africa's economic outlook is expected to improve in 2025 with growth rising moderately by 3.9% compared to an estimated growth rate of 3.2% in 2024. In the region-wise classification of projected economic performance in 2025, East Africa is likely to grow the fastest at 5.9%, followed by West Africa (4.3%), North Africa (3.6%) and Central Africa (3.2%). East Africa's overall resilience to external shocks may be attributable to the region being home to some of the most diversified economies in Africa, with a growing share of manufactured goods in intra-regional trade and relatively strong regional trade penetration.

Inflation continues to be a major challenge in Africa, weighing high on small progress the continent made in terms of growth. In 2024, inflation remained high, averaging 20.1%, well above the medium-term targets in many countries. This upward trend was primarily driven by rising inflation in 16 African nations, including major economies like Egypt and Nigeria. However, the number of countries experiencing double digit inflation dropped from 19 in 2022 to 15 in 2024, as aggressive monetary policies started to show some positive results.

Among the many downside risks to Africa's economic performance in 2025 is restricted trade which can directly show adverse impact on growth through reduced business and economic activity and indirectly through financial and investment channels by reducing investors' risk appetite and thereby leading to a potential reversal of capital flows. Other growth dampening factors can be the region's persistent inflation and potential escalation of regional political conflicts.

Trends in Africa's Foreign Trade and Investment

Trade remains a central pillar of Africa's economic transformation. The continued implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) has significantly boosted intra-African trade, encouraged regional integration and contributed to diversifying the continent's export basket and destination thereby reducing its reliance on external markets. Africa's trade dynamism is being changed rapidly in an evolving global trade policy landscape, shaped both by geopolitical conditions and climate imperatives. Africa's trade remains dependent on the external events of the global economy. Over the past decade, Africa's trade landscape has experienced notable fluctuations, largely influenced by global economic conditions, commodity price fluctuations and regional developments.

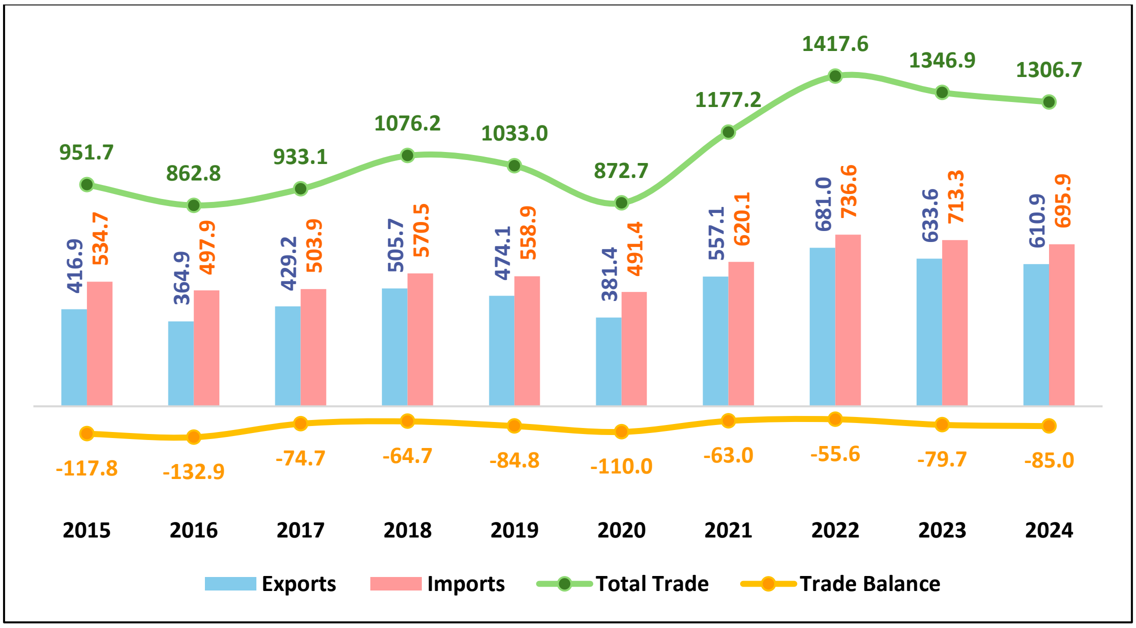
With improvements in the international context, Africa's trade recovery has been effective, though it remains moderate in 2024. After rebounding from the lows experienced during the pandemic, Africa's goods trade reached record highs in 2022. However, in 2023, due to tightening monetary policies amid a highly uncertain international environment, African trade lost steam, declining by about 5%. In 2024, Africa's trade gathered momentum despite slower growth in most trading partners—especially China and Europe.

Oil-exporting countries like Algeria, Angola and Nigeria benefited from stable crude oil prices in 2024, following volatility in 2022 and moderation in 2023. The balanced market helped sustain strong export earnings without major price swings. Similarly, mineral-exporting nations saw gains from steady demand for critical resources such as cobalt, copper, manganese, and platinum group metals. These minerals, essential to the global energy transition, have become strategic assets, boosting Africa's export revenues and reinforcing its role in global supply chains.

Africa's total trade with the world grew at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 3.2% over the past decade. In 2015, the continent's trade volume stood at US$ 951.7 billion, rising to US$ 1.3 trillion by 2024. This growth trajectory reflects Africa's resilience, as it navigated and recovered from global commodity price fluctuations and the economic disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, inter-regional conflicts and tariff uncertainties. (**Chart 1.1**). Africa's share in global trade has, however, declined from 2.8% in 2023 to 2.7% in 2024.

Africa's total merchandise exports increased by a CAGR of 3.9% from US$ 416.9 billion in 2015 to US$ 610.9 billion in 2024. Imports also increased by 2.7% to US$ 695.9 billion in 2024 as compared to US$ 534.7 billion a decade prior. Over the past decade, African exports have consistently represented between 2.2% and 2.8% of total global exports. Africa's share of global imports declined from 3.2% in 2015 to 2.9% in 2024, reflecting a growing trend toward self-reliance and strengthened intra-regional trade. As a result of this, the continent's trade deficit has narrowed to US$ 85 billion in 2024, compared to US$ 117.8 billion in 2015.

Chart 1.1: Africa's Foreign Trade, 2015-2024 (US$ billion)



Source: ITC Trade Map and Exim Bank Analysis

Africa – Major Exporters

South Africa, Nigeria, Morocco, Algeria, Egypt, and Angola are the largest exporters in Africa, together accounting for as much as 57% of Africa's total exports in 2024. Other major exporters from the region include Libya, DR Congo, Tunisia, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana.

Africa – Major Importers

As regards imports, South Africa, Egypt, Morocco, Nigeria, Algeria and Liberia are the leading importers in Africa, which together accounted for 54.6% of Africa's total imports in 2024. Other major importers in Africa during the year include Tunisia, Libya, Ghana, Kenya, and Côte d'Ivoire.

Africa – Major Export Items

Mineral fuels continue to be the largest export item from Africa, accounting for 35.4% of Africa's total exports in 2024, reflecting the significant share of petroleum crude exports from Africa. Mineral fuels witnessed increase in its share compared to 28.8% in 2020 due to rise in international crude oil prices fuelled by recovering global demand. Other major items of export from Africa during 2024 include pearls and precious stones, ores and slag, copper and its articles, vehicles other than railway and tramway, and electrical and electronic equipment.

Africa's export of crude petroleum stood at US$ 216.2 billion in 2024, increasing from US$ 191.4 billion in 2021. Crude oil prices significantly influence crude petroleum exports from Africa.

- ***Africa's Crude Petroleum Exports (HS-2709)***

Nigeria, Angola, Libya and Algeria, are among the leading African exporters of petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, with a combined share of 10.4% of the global crude petroleum exports and 79.8% of Africa's crude petroleum exports in 2024.

Africa – Major Import Items

Africa's import basket is relatively diversified compared to its exports. Minerals fuels, mainly dominated by petroleum oils, not crude (16% of Africa's imports) and machinery and mechanical appliances (10.6% of Africa's imports) are the two largest import items in 2024, followed by electrical machinery and equipment, vehicles other than railway and tramway, cereals, plastics and its articles, ships, boats and floating structures, and iron and steel.

Africa – Major Export Destinations

China was the major export destination for Africa, accounting for 14.8% of Africa's total exports in 2024. China surpassed USA to become the largest destination for Africa's exports in 2012. Other major destinations for Africa's exports in 2024 include Italy (6% of Africa's total exports), Spain (5.8%), France (5.7%) and USA (5.1%). India, which was Africa's second-largest export destination in 2021, dropped to sixth place by 2024, accounting for 4.8% of Africa's total exports.

Africa – Major Import Markets

As regards imports, while western countries such as France, USA, and Germany remained major sources for Africa's global imports, China continued to be leading supplier to Africa, accounting for as much as 23% of Africa's total imports in 2024. India was the second largest import source in 2024, accounting for 5.2% of Africa's global imports. Other major sources for Africa's imports in 2024 include USA (5.1% of Africa's total imports), France (4.4%) and Germany (3.7%).

Africa's Trade – Way Forward

Total trade on the continent is expected to hit US$ 1.5 trillion by 2025 and to rise to US$ 1.7 trillion in the medium term. As trade outpaces GDP growth, the trade-to-GDP ratio is expected to grow to 51% in 2025 and 52.7% by 2028. Trade is expected to increase steadily across all African regions[9].

Global trade is projected to decline by 0.2% in 2025 due to rising tariffs and trade policy uncertainty, including the apprehension of reciprocal tariffs by the USA. The WTO forecasts a subdued outlook for Africa, with exports growing by just 0.6% and imports rising by 6.5%[10]. Africa's trade remains vulnerable to global price shifts and external shocks. Accelerating industrialization, investing in manufacturing and services, and leveraging its rich mineral resources can help Africa reduce commodity dependence and build long-term trade resilience.

[9] African Trade and Economic Outlook, 2025 (AfDB Report)
[10] Global Trade Outlook and Statistics – April 2025

Foreign Direct Investment flows in African Region[11]

Foreign direct investment (FDI) in Africa witnessed a notable increase in 2024, rising by 75% to reach US$ 97 billion and accounting for 6% of global FDI flows, up from 4% the previous year **(Table 1.2)**. Egypt received investments worth US$ 46.6 billion, attributable to a single megaproject: the Ras El-Hekma urban development deal in Egypt.

Liberalization remained a consistent theme in Africa, comprising one-fifth of all investment-related policy changes. Policy measures aimed at facilitating investment continued to play a significant role, with 36% of such actions in Africa designed to support investor engagement.

Greenfield investments declined in Africa, with announcements dropping 5% and value down 37% to US$ 113 billion, compared with US$ 178 billion in 2023. Sector-wise, construction and metal products saw increases, while electricity and gas supply projects declined significantly. International project finance deals in Africa rose 15% in value, particularly in energy and transport infrastructure. Cross-border M&As, which in recent years have accounted for about 15% of FDI inflows to Africa, turned negative in 2024.

Investor composition in terms of nationality showed that European investors hold the largest share of FDI stock in Africa, followed by the United States and China. Chinese investment, valued at US$ 42 billion, is increasingly directed toward sectors such as pharmaceuticals and food processing, with a growing emphasis on social infrastructure and renewable energy under the Belt and Road Initiative.

Table 1.2: Africa's Foreign Investment Inflows, 2015-2024 (US$ million)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Africa	**58,444.5**	**47,744.0**	**40,597.3**	**43,371.6**	**46,663.3**	**40,943.9**	**82,201.5**	**54,567.3**	**55,414.4**	**97,032.3**
Egypt	6,925.2	8,106.8	7,408.7	8,141.3	9,010.0	5,851.8	5,122.0	11,399.9	9,840.6	46,578.0
Ethiopia	2,626.5	4,142.9	4,017.2	3,360.4	2,548.7	2,381.0	4,259.5	3,670.1	3,269.0	3,984.4
Côte d'Ivoire	494.4	577.9	975.0	620.3	848.9	712.9	1,392.3	1,599.2	2,485.1	3,802.1

[11] Source: World Investment Report 2025, UNCTAD

Mozambique	3,866.8	3,093.4	2,293.1	2,703.0	2,211.7	3,034.6	5,101.7	2,458.5	2,509.4	3,552.7
Uganda	737.7	625.7	802.7	1,055.4	1,303.0	1,191.5	1,648.2	2,952.9	2,993.5	3,304.9
DR Congo	1,673.5	1,204.7	1,340.2	1,616.8	1,488.1	1,646.9	1,870.0	1,845.8	2,576.1	3,112.9
South Africa	1,729.4	2,235.0	2,008.4	5,449.6	5,125.0	3,062.3	40,215.1	9,280.2	3,475.3	2,469.4
Namibia	888.0	355.6	279.9	208.6	-178.9	-146.5	851.2	1,071.9	2,302.8	2,063.0
Senegal	409.2	472.4	588.3	847.8	1,065.5	1,845.7	2,588.1	2,928.7	4,790.0	2,016.4
Guinea	53.3	1,597.3	576.5	353.1	43.4	174.0	200.7	650.1	893.2	1,828.0

Source: UNCTADstat and Exim Bank Analysis

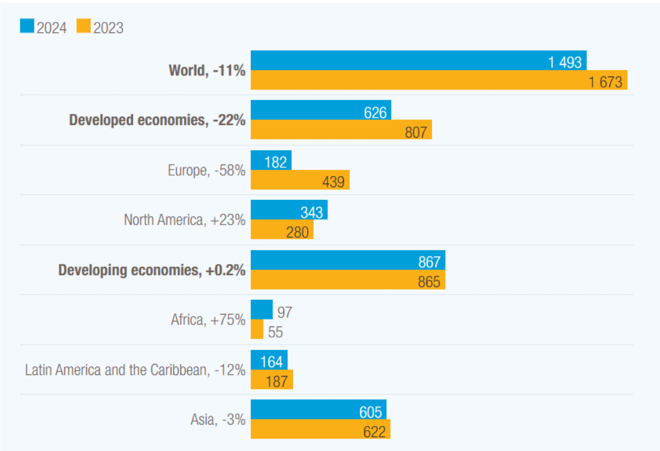
In 2024, foreign investment increased across most African subregions, with North Africa showing the strongest performance **(Chart 1.2)**. Greenfield project values in the region rose by 12% to US$ 76 billion, representing two-thirds of total capital expenditures on the continent. Beyond Egypt's standout contribution, Tunisia saw a 21% rise in FDI to US$ 936 million, while Morocco recorded a 55% increase, reaching US$ 1.6 billion.

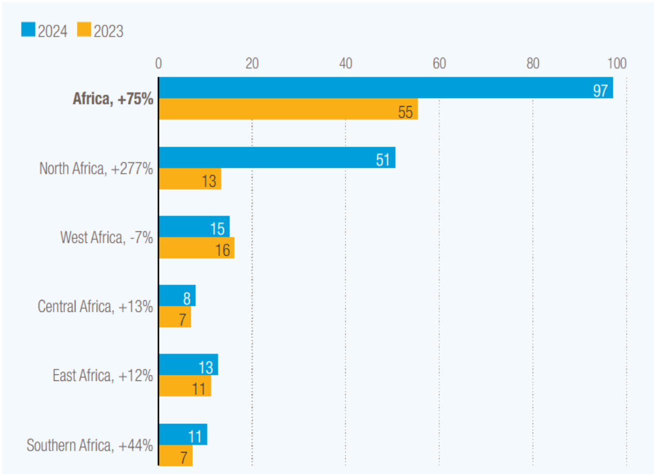
West African region received a total FDI inflows of US$ 15.2 billion vis-à-vis US$ 16.3 billion a year earlier. Among the LDCs, Togo and Senegal saw growth in announced project values in 2024. Senegal's projected greenfield capital expenditures rose to US$ 1.5 billion, driven by a US$ 1.2 billion port and logistics infrastructure project led by Dubai World. In Togo, project announcements reached US$ 316 million, supported by a US$ 246 million digital economy initiative by ST Digital from Cameroon.

Central Africa recorded a 13% increase in FDI inflows, reaching US$ 7.9 billion in 2024. This growth was supported by rising global interest in critical minerals such as lithium, cobalt, and rare earth elements. On the recipient side, Guinea topped the list, securing US$ 19 billion, primarily from two iron ore projects followed by the DR Congo attracted US$ 9 billion in copper and battery mineral projects. These developments reflect the region's growing role in the global clean energy supply chain.

Finally, Southern Africa received foreign investments worth US$ 10.5 billion in 2024 as against US$ 7.3 billion in 2023. TotalEnergies announced a US$6 billion investment in Angola's extractive sector. Among the LDCs, Zambia and Mozambique had notable gains from foreign investments. Zambia saw a significant increase from US$ 0.1 billion in 2023 to US$ 1.2 billion in 2024, driven by renewed investor interest in copper mining and green industrial value chains. In Mozambique, FDI inflows rose from US$ 2.5 billion in 2023 to US$ 3.6 billion, in 2024 reflecting progress in energy-sector megaprojects.

Chart 1.2: Region-wise FDI Inflows Globally and in Africa





Source: UNCTADstat

In 2024, Africa's FDI outflows reached US$ 2.4 billion, marking an increase of US$ 2,251.1 million from 2023. This represents a sharp 1,146.8% rise year-on-year. **Table 1.3** reflects the top 10 African countries by FDI outflows. The leading contributors in 2024 were Kenya (US$ 1.3 billion), Morocco (US$ 693.6 million), and Côte d'Ivoire (US$ 563.0 million), highlighting their growing role in regional investment dynamics.

Table 1.3: Africa's Foreign Investment Outflows, 2015-2024 (US$ million)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Africa	**9,575.5**	**8,437.2**	**11,267.4**	**7,916.2**	**5,172.7**	**2,459.3**	**5,097.8**	**3,958.7**	**196.3**	**2,447.4**
Kenya	14.9	11.2	13.6	11.2	10.8	1297.1	1839.9	1501.6	587.5	1309.7
Morocco	653.3	579.7	1020.9	782.1	893.0	458.4	644.5	640.9	1,227.8	693.6
Côte d'Ivoire	14.4	28.7	676.0	144.7	119.5	1.3	285.2	167.6	482.1	563.0
Egypt	181.7	206.6	199.0	323.5	405.0	326.5	367.0	341.8	390.4	508.0
DR Congo	507.8	272.3	292.2	209.2	133.9	148.8	192.4	436.4	200.9	197.8
Guinea	1.3	27.7	-26.9	-208.8	166.0	16.5	225.2	-0.7	0.0	153.8

Zimbabwe	22.0	32.0	42.2	26.8	32.0	33.0	32.0	58.3	30.5	131.3
Madagascar	81.9	89.7	106.0	117.9	101.6	119.1	114.3	142.0	119.3	125.2
Ghana	221.4	14.7	15.9	81.0	587.8	542.4	198.9	38.3	55.8	97.7
Liberia	30.4	167.7	54.2	84.1	102.0	80.1	91.0	91.0	87.4	89.8

Source: UNCTADstat and Exim Bank Analysis

Africa's Investment Way Forward

Africa's investment outlook remains promising, with energy, construction, and extractives leading greenfield project activity. Over the past five years, these sectors have shown strong growth, driven by rising global demand for critical minerals. Africa's abundant deposits of lithium, cobalt, and rare earth elements position it as a key player in the clean energy transition. Continued FDI will be vital in expanding energy access and supporting the continent's shift toward a more sustainable future.