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Africa's Economic Growth Slows in 2026 but Projected to Rebound

According to *Africanews,* Africa's economic growth is expected to slow slightly to 4.2% in 2026 from 4.4% in 2025, according to the African Development Bank, largely because of geopolitical tensions and supply chain disruptions linked to conflict in the Middle East that have pushed up fuel, food, and fertilizer costs. Despite the slowdown, the continent is still projected to remain among the world's fastest-growing regions, supported by stronger agricultural output, improved macroeconomic policies, and higher commodity prices. Growth is forecast to rebound to 4.4% in 2027 if global disruptions ease within a few months, although the outlook remains vulnerable to prolonged instability, inflationary pressures, and broader global economic uncertainty.

World Bank: Iran War Forcing More African Nations to Seek Emergency Funding

According to *Africanews*, The World Bank says more African countries are turning to emergency financing mechanisms as the ongoing Iran conflict disrupts global energy markets, fuel supplies, and fertilizer shipments, placing

additional strain on already vulnerable economies. An internal World Bank document indicated that 27 countries have moved to secure rapid-access crisis funding through existing programs, with some already activating new financial instruments. Rising fuel prices, weakened trade flows, and supply chain disruptions are increasing economic pressure across parts of Africa, particularly in import-dependent countries, while governments seek short-term financial support to stabilize budgets and maintain essential services. The situation has also intensified concerns about inflation, food security, and slowing economic growth across the continent.

Fuel Crisis Threatens to Bring Malawi to a Standstill

According to *Africanews*, Fuel shortages in Malawi are causing major disruptions to transportation, business activity, and daily life, with drivers in Lilongwe waiting hours or even days for diesel as prices continue to rise. The crisis has been linked to higher global oil prices and shipping disruptions connected to instability in the Middle East, placing additional pressure on the landlocked country's economy. Transport operators warn that reduced trucking capacity is slowing supply chains and could lead to shortages of goods and delays in agricultural distribution, a serious concern in a country where agriculture is central to both employment and exports. Many drivers and businesses say the prolonged shortages are already undermining incomes and economic stability across the country.

Burkina Livestock Ban Welcomed by Consumers but Hits Traders Hard

According to *Africanews*, Burkina Faso has temporarily banned livestock exports to increase the domestic supply of animals and stabilize meat prices ahead of the Tabaski holiday, a move that has been welcomed by many consumers but has significantly hurt livestock traders who depend on regional exports to countries such as Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. Traders say the restriction has sharply reduced their earnings, forcing them to sell animals at much lower prices than usual, while consumers hope the increased local supply will make meat more affordable. Authorities say the longer-term goal is to shift the country away from exporting live animals and toward developing a processed meat industry, with livestock remaining one of Burkina Faso's most important export sectors after gold and cotton.

Deal Signed to Increase China-Africa Trade

According to *African Law & Business*, Portuguese law firm Morais Leitão and Macau-based Lupi & Associates have formed a strategic partnership aimed at strengthening legal and commercial cooperation along the China-Africa trade corridor and across Portuguese-speaking markets. The collaboration is intended to support cross-border projects involving China, Africa, Portugal, Brazil, and Timor-Leste, particularly in sectors such as renewable energy, oil and gas, mining, infrastructure, and investor mobility. Both firms described Macau as an important bridge between China and Lusophone countries, helping connect Chinese investors with African opportunities while supporting African businesses working with Chinese partners. The agreement also reflects broader efforts by Macau and Portugal to deepen economic and legal ties with Africa as global competition for investment and trade partnerships on the continent continues to grow.

AM2026: Morocco Named Africa's Industrialization Leader in new African Development Bank Index

According to the *African Development Bank Group*, Morocco has been ranked as Africa's leading industrial economy in the African Development Bank's new 2025 Africa Industrialization Index, overtaking South Africa due to stronger industrial policies, export diversification, and continued growth in manufacturing capacity. The report, launched during the Bank's 2026 Annual Meetings in Brazzaville, highlighted Morocco's progress in sectors such as automotive manufacturing, renewable energy, and industrial infrastructure, while also introducing a new Africa Industrial Investment Barometer that tracks investment trends across the continent. The Bank said industrialization remains central to Africa's long-term economic transformation, job creation, and export competitiveness, especially as countries seek to strengthen resilience amid geopolitical uncertainty and shifting global supply chains.

Zambia: African Development Bank Approves $20 Million Trade Finance Guarantee to Boost SMEs

According to the *African Development Bank Group*, The African Development Bank has approved a $20 million trade finance guarantee for Access Bank Zambia aimed at expanding access to financing for small and medium-sized

businesses involved in regional and international trade. The facility is expected to support up to $240 million in trade over five years by reducing risk for international banks that confirm trade finance instruments issued by Access Bank Zambia. SMEs, which account for about 70% of Zambia's GDP and 88% of employment, often struggle to secure affordable trade financing needed to import agricultural inputs, manufactured goods, and other essential products. The initiative is also intended to strengthen export capacity, improve economic resilience, and support women-led businesses through potential assistance linked to the African Development Bank's AFAWA program.

Abiy Ahmed Dreams of Remaking Ethiopia in His Image

According to *The Economist*, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed is pursuing an ambitious vision to reshape Ethiopia through sweeping economic reforms, large-scale infrastructure projects, and a stronger centralized state ahead of expected re-election. His government has promoted modernization efforts including urban redevelopment, investment liberalization, and major construction initiatives intended to position Ethiopia as a regional power. At the same time, critics argue that increasing political centralization, restrictions on dissent, and ongoing conflicts in regions such as Amhara risk undermining stability and democratic freedoms. The piece highlights the tension between Abiy's transformative ambitions and concerns that Ethiopia's political future remains uncertain despite economic progress and his strong grip on power.

Young Libyans Turn Ideas into Businesses

According to the *African Trade Chamber*, Young entrepreneurs in Libya are increasingly launching small businesses and startups despite ongoing economic and political instability, with many focusing on sectors such as healthcare, vocational training, technology services, catering, and digital entrepreneurship. Support from initiatives backed by the African Development Bank, the United Nations Development Program and other partners is helping young people formalize businesses, gain skills, and access mentorship and financing opportunities through programs like the EEYES project and startup hubs in Tripoli and other cities. The broader push aims to strengthen Libya's entrepreneurial ecosystem, create jobs, and encourage economic diversification, particularly for young people seeking alternatives to

unemployment and dependence on the public sector. Discussions among Libyan entrepreneurs also reflect both optimism about opportunities in agriculture, technology, and trade, and frustration over bureaucracy, instability, and limited investment support.

Ecobank Backs Car Industrial Growth with €5 Million Trade Facility

According to the *African Trade Chamber*, The African Development Bank and Ecobank Centrafrique have signed a €5 million trade finance guarantee facility aimed at supporting industrialization and private sector growth in the Central African Republic. The initiative is designed to improve access to trade financing for local businesses by helping secure imports of industrial equipment, agricultural machinery, telecommunications materials, and other essential production inputs, with a focus on agro-industry and light manufacturing. The facility is also expected to strengthen Ecobank Centrafrique's ability to support small and medium-sized enterprises engaged in international trade, while contributing to broader goals of economic diversification, job creation, and increased domestic production capacity. Officials said the agreement aligns with the country's National Development Plan, which identifies private sector development as central to long-term economic transformation and industrial growth.

AFDB Backs Zimbabwe Debt Recovery Plan?

According to the *African Trade Chamber*, The African Development Bank has approved a $4 million grant to support Zimbabwe's arrears clearance and broader debt recovery process, aimed at helping the country re-engage with international creditors and restore access to external financing. The funding will support a structured dialogue process involving the government, development partners, and other stakeholders, focused on advancing economic reforms, improving governance, and strengthening debt management capacity. Zimbabwe's high debt burden and long-standing arrears have limited its ability to attract investment and finance public development projects, making debt resolution a central policy priority. The initiative is intended to build consensus around a roadmap for clearing arrears and improving fiscal stability over the coming years.

Events – June 2026

“The Africa Debate.” Invest Africa. *London*. 3 June 2026.

“Rewiring Trade: Unlocking Africa’s Landlinked Corridors.” Invest Africa. *Dubai.* 18 June 2026.

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