Recent developments: Growth in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) firmed to an estimated 4.1 percent in 2025. Growth and fiscal revenues were boosted by higher-than-expected commodity prices, particularly for precious metals, copper, and coffee, which drove robust exports. On the domestic side, headline and food disinflation, driven by improved agricultural output and currency appreciation across several economies, allowed a gradual easing of monetary policy, supporting domestic demand. Growth was also bolstered by progress on structural reforms across large economies, which increased investor confidence in the region, boosting private investment.

In early 2026, high-frequency survey indicators of economic activity in SSA showed initial signs of resilience despite higher energy prices and weaker external demand owing to the conflict in the Middle East. The conflict is already impacting the region, and SSA governments have been more constrained in their policy responses than those in other regions, as highlighted by preliminary data indicating that the disinflation process may have stalled and that the annual headline consumer inflation rate reaccelerated in April. Nonetheless, some authorities have implemented measures to shield vulnerable households, including expanded or temporary fuel subsidies (for example, Ethiopia and Ghana), delays in planned subsidy reforms (for example, Angola), and adjustments in administered prices or transfers (for example, Senegal). Financial conditions tightened somewhat as sovereign bond yields and spreads temporarily rose, currencies depreciated slightly, and equity markets stagnated. While oil exporters are benefiting from higher energy prices, most SSA economies are dependent on energy imports, contributing to deteriorating external and fiscal positions.

Other key developments included positive trade measures, notably the United States' extension of the African Growth and Opportunity Act to the end of 2026 and China's elimination of tariffs on all African imports, aimed at supporting the region’s still-limited global trade integration. Additionally, in May 2026, the third-largest Ebola outbreak recorded globally was reported in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, with imported cases also confirmed in Uganda.

Outlook: Growth in SSA is forecast to edge down to 4 percent in 2026 and then recover to 4.4 percent on average in 2027–28. The growth forecast for 2026 has been revised down by 0.3 percentage point since January, with the negative impact of the conflict in the Middle East expected to outweigh existing growth drivers—including structural reforms and recent trade agreements that support investment and exports. The outlook assumes that the geopolitical environment stabilizes in the near term and that security improves in economies in FCS in the region.

Though the impact of the conflict in the Middle East, operating through higher commodity prices and weaker external demand, is expected to be overwhelmingly negative, it will be heterogeneous across SSA economies. Higher energy prices will benefit oil exporters, particularly Angola and Nigeria. Non-oil-exporting economies, on the other hand, will face higher fuel, fertilizer, and transport costs, driving up inflation, especially food prices. Consequently, growth in non-oil-exporting economies is expected to be markedly lower than anticipated, as elevated consumer prices and input costs are set to dampen consumption and raise production costs.

Limited fiscal resources are restricting efforts to manage rising energy and food prices across many SSA economies, notwithstanding the improved fiscal positions and buffers in recent years. Expanding fuel subsidies are likely to increase deficits and borrowing, reducing support for vulnerable households and heightening macroeconomic risks. Monetary policy is expected to remain tight because of inflation concerns and limited scope to look through inflation shocks. Despite overall progress in improving fiscal credibility, high borrowing costs, reduced concessional financing, and ODA are also set to add to fiscal challenges in SSA, especially for economies that have been slower to improve policy frameworks.

Structural reforms and recent trade policy changes will only partly offset global headwinds. In South Africa, reforms include improved energy availability, whereas in Ethiopia and Nigeria, they include exchange-rate liberalization, improvements in public financial management, and other business-friendly measures. The deepening of intraregional trade through the African Continental Free Trade Area, along with tariff reductions from China and the United States, will also support export industries.

Though commodity prices are projected to increase significantly, weaker external demand and the impact of higher prices on consumption mean that growth for industrial commodity exporters will only edge up from 3.1 percent in 2025 to 3.2 percent in 2026, and an annual average of 3.5 percent in 2027–28. Indeed, the impact of the conflict in the Middle East has led to downward revisions, especially in Nigeria and South Africa, where structural constraints continue to limit growth. Non-resource-rich economies are expected to see growth slow from 6.4 percent in 2025 to 5.7 percent in 2026, and then average 6.2 percent over 2027–28, though still outpacing commodity exporters. Ethiopia's growth is expected to be driven by reforms in monetary policy and the financial sector, despite external challenges. Notably, growth forecasts have been lowered for Uganda as a result of oil project delays, for Senegal amid revelations of hidden debt and the subsequent freezing of funding from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and for Côte d'Ivoire on account of falling cocoa prices.

Real per capita GDP growth in SSA is projected to remain at 1.6 percent in 2026, before firming to an average of 2 percent per year in 2027–28. Nonetheless, this pace is still insufficient to deliver substantial reductions in extreme poverty. Job creation in SSA is also expected to lag behind its growing labor force, projected to be the world's fastest-growing by 2030. Food insecurity in economies in FCS is set to remain at the highest levels since the early 2000s, while it is projected to increase in economies not in FCS. The decline in ODA is also likely to adversely affect living standards and deepen humanitarian and health crises, such as the recent Ebola outbreak.

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Sub-Saharan Africa Economy Forecasts

(Annual percent change unless indicated otherwise)

	2023	2024	2025e	2026f	2027f	2028f
GDP at market prices (average 2010–19 US$)						
Angola	1.3	4.4	3.1	2.4	2.7	2.9
Benin	6.4	7.5	8.1	7.0	7.2	7.3
Botswana	3.2	-2.8	-0.7	2.7	3.2	3.1
Burkina Faso	3.0	4.8	5.3	4.9	5.8	5.5
Burundi	2.7	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.8	4.9
Central African Republic	0.7	1.5	4.5	2.3	3.1	3.2
Cabo Verde	4.8	7.2	6.3	4.8	5.0	5.1
Cameroon	3.2	3.5	3.2	3.4	3.7	3.9
Chad	4.0	5.0	5.6	5.2	5.3	5.3
Comoros	3.2	3.3	3.8	4.1	4.3	3.9
Congo, Dem. Rep.	8.6	6.1	5.5	5.2	5.1	5.1
Congo, Rep.	1.9	2.1	3.1	3.7	3.4	3.4
Côte d'Ivoire	6.6	6.0	6.3	5.8	6.5	7.0
Equatorial Guinea	-7.4	0.4	-5.8	-3.5	-3.4	2.2
Eritrea	2.6	2.9	3.2	3.5	3.6	3.6
Eswatini	3.5	3.0	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.3
Ethiopia [a]	7.2	8.1	9.2	8.0	6.9	8.4
Gabon	2.4	3.4	2.5	3.0	3.3	3.5
Gambia, The	5.9	5.6	5.9	5.3	5.2	5.2
Ghana	3.1	5.8	6.0	4.8	4.9	5.0
Guinea	5.5	5.4	7.4	8.8	11.6	10.7
Guinea-Bissau	5.8	4.1	5.8	4.8	4.9	5.0
Kenya	5.7	4.7	4.6	4.4	5.0	5.0
Lesotho	1.7	5.2	2.0	1.3	1.5	1.5
Liberia	4.7	4.0	5.1	5.0	5.4	5.6
Madagascar	4.2	4.3	3.0	3.8	4.5	4.4
Malawi	1.9	1.7	1.9	2.3	2.7	3.0
Mali	4.5	4.7	4.1	5.0	5.2	5.3
Mauritania	6.8	6.3	4.0	4.4	4.5	4.8
Mauritius	4.7	4.9	3.2	2.5	4.6	3.1
Mozambique	5.5	2.1	-0.5	0.9	1.6	2.5
Namibia	4.4	4.0	1.7	2.7	3.4	3.4
Niger	2.6	8.3	7.0	6.7	6.4	6.1
Nigeria	3.3	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.3
Rwanda	8.6	7.2	9.4	7.2	7.6	7.3
São Tomé and Príncipe	0.4	1.1	2.1	2.9	3.9	3.3
Senegal	4.3	6.1	6.7	2.2	2.6	3.0
Seychelles	5.2	3.4	5.8	1.1	4.5	3.1
Sierra Leone	5.7	4.4	4.5	4.0	4.7	4.6
Somalia, Fed. Rep.	4.2	4.1	3.0	2.8	3.1	3.5

South Africa	0.8	0.5	1.1	1.0	1.5	1.7
South Sudan [a]	-1.3	-7.4	-7.7	20.3	2.4	2.9
Sudan	-29.4	-14.0	3.1	5.5	4.4	2.6
Tanzania	5.1	5.5	5.9	6.1	6.4	6.5
Togo	6.2	6.5	5.9	5.0	5.8	6.2
Uganda [a]	5.3	6.1	6.3	6.8	8.5	8.1
Zambia	5.4	3.8	3.8	4.4	4.7	5.1
Zimbabwe	5.3	1.7	7.5	4.6	4.2	4.1

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 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. Please see regional annex for details on fiscal year reporting.