

In, for and across Africa

Our purpose-led strategy is designed to realise the opportunities presented by Africa's longer-term structural trends.

Our diverse portfolio of operations has demonstrated resilience in withstanding cyclical pressures of generally slower economic growth and low commodity prices, and the spill-over effects of currency dislocation, regulatory reactivity and socio-political instability. Our contribution to driving more inclusive growth and promoting policy reform that supports economic diversification and development over the long term, will assist in extending Africa's structural growth path notwithstanding the immediate economic challenges.

Driving Africa's growth
We are well-positioned to drive and facilitate the growing interregional trade and investment flows across the continent, to assist the economic growth of African countries and the expansion of multinationals into Africa.

50% of Africans will live in cities by 2030¹

Africa's rapid rate of urbanisation is expected to continue rising from 36% in 2010 to 50% in 2030. This conglomeration of people provides governments and businesses with an opportunity to lower the cost of providing products and services.



28.7% of Africans are online²

Africa's relative underdevelopment enables the implementation of the latest technologies, leapfrogging older technologies such as fixed-line communications with mobile networks, and coal-fired power with renewable energy.

1.5 billion Africans will be of working age (15 to 64) by 2050³

Africa's working population is currently 659 million people, expected to grow to 861 million by 2020 and 1.5 billion by 2050.

200 million Africans will be aged 15 to 24 by 2050⁴

Africa's population is expected to double by 2050. With an estimated median age of 20, Africa's youthful population will place increasing pressure on governments and businesses to drive employment growth as a greater number of Africans reach working age.

136% increase in inter-Africa trade from 2005 to 2015⁵

Inter-Africa trade increased from USD28.8 billion in 2005 to USD68 billion in 2015.

5.4% average GDP growth in sub-Saharan Africa from 2005 to 2015⁶

GDP growth in Africa as a whole for the same period was slightly lower at 4.0%. This compares to the global average of 3.8% and 1.5% growth in developed economies over the same period.



Standard Bank
Representative office

Facilitating China-Africa trade and investment

China remains Africa's largest trading partner and an increasingly important source of foreign investment across Africa. Our strategic partnership with ICBC provides us with a unique opportunity to provide financial services to clients operating in the China-Africa corridor.

47.8% growth in China-Africa foreign direct investment (FDI)⁷

FDI into Africa from China is shifting from extraction to manufacturing industries.

Connecting Africa to developed world economic centres

Our presence in, and connection with, global financial centres enables us to facilitate investment and development flows into Africa, and to access international capital to facilitate growth, diversification and development in Africa.

USD929 billion in world trade with Africa in 2015⁷

This represents a 178% increase from USD334 billion a decade ago. About 70% of Africa's exports are metals and minerals, indicating the need for economic diversification.

31% of capital flowing into Africa is from worker remittances⁸

Remittances replaced foreign aid as the largest external inflow to Africa in 2009, as Africa's dependence on official development assistance eased by 18.7% to USD83.7 billion in 2015 from USD103 billion in 2014.



38.4% less Africans living below the international poverty line over the last decade¹⁰

Africans living below USD1.9 a day has fallen to 39.1% compared to 63.5% a decade ago.

60% of the world's arable land is in Africa⁹

The underutilisation of arable land across the continent holds vast potential for increased commercial agriculture and production of agricultural goods. Mitigating the impact of climate change will be an essential part of realising this potential.

1/3 of the world's mineral reserves are in Africa¹¹

The continent also has 10% of world oil reserves, the largest cobalt and diamond reserves in the world, and 95% of the world's platinum reserves are located in South Africa. Commodities remain fundamental to modern economies, and Africa's resources remain largely either undiscovered or underexploited.

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