Economic Environment

**African economies with greatest potential for trade growth**

African economies come first and third in the Standard Chartered Trade20 Index, which identifies the markets with the greatest potential for future trade growth.

A cluster of African economies show substantial momentum in trade growth potential, placing them at the very top of the Trade20. Nations that were lacking this momentum not long ago are now growing and modernising their economies: Côte d’Ivoire and Kenya are leading the pack and Ghana also performs well. The particularly strong trade readiness exhibited by Côte d’Ivoire and Kenya is driven by improvements to their business environments, with enhanced digital and physical infrastructure, and moves to improve their ease of doing business.

The Trade20 index determines each market’s trade growth potential by analysing changes within the last decade across a wide range of variables, grouped into three equally-weighted pillars: economic dynamism, trade readiness and export diversity.

The study examines 66 markets around the world. It finds that while existing trade powers like China and India continue to rapidly improve their trade potential, African economies are making particularly strong progress from a relatively low starting point.

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**Economic Conditions Snapshot**

McKinsey Global Survey results, September 2019

Respondents’ views are subdued on the current state of the global economy, and on their home economies in the months ahead. Trade conflicts and trade-policy changes remain the most commonly cited threats to growth.


**Nuusbrokkies / News Snippets**

**Where are we with land reform?**

Agricultural economist, Wandile Sihlobo says that come April 2020, the proposed change to the Constitution to allow land expropriation without compensation (EWC) may not happen.

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Ghana Becomes First African Nation to Join Ambitious Partnership to End Plastic Pollution
The Government of Ghana formally joined the Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP) today, becoming the first African nation to combine forces with this ambitious new initiative dedicated to eradicating plastic waste and pollution worldwide.

Ghana is the second country to partner with GPAP, a public-private platform dedicated to fostering action to combat the plastic pollution crisis. In Ghana, it will work closely with the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI) to develop a national roadmap for sustainably managing and reducing the country’s plastic waste challenge, while continuing to boost its economic growth.

[WEF Ghana and plastics]