



Africa Regional Integration Index Report 2019



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa



Abbreviations

AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
AfDB	African Development Bank
AMU	Arab Maghreb Union
ARII	Africa Regional Integration Index
AUC	African Union Commission
CEN-SAD	Community of Sahel-Saharan States
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
EAC	East African Community
ECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
PCA	Principal components analysis
SADC	Southern African Development Community

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*“Now that we are moving forward
with the implementation of AfCFTA,
it is time for quantum leaps.
Regional integration is the glue
that will make that happen.”*



AFRICAN UNION



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Economic Commission for Africa

Joint Foreword



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The African Union Commission, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank are proud to present the second edition of the Africa Regional Integration Index. The timing could not be better with the recent endorsement of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) by more than 50 African countries. AfCFTA creates the largest free trade zone in the world, with a combined GDP of over USD 3.3 trillion and a population of more than 1.2 billion people. Breaking down tariff barriers alone will spur trade by at least 53% while the elimination of non-tariff barriers could double intra-African trade.

Africa's economic growth is projected to exceed 4% in 2019-2020, an increase from 3.5% in 2018. Spurred by AfCFTA, more than 40% of African countries are projected to post growth of at least 5% this year as commodity prices rise and domestic demand and infrastructure investments boost growth.

This then leads us to the importance of regional integration and the Africa Regional Integration Index. To reach or exceed growth targets, Africa needs greater integration. Regional integration is indispensable for factor connectivity, investment flows and value creation. Whether connecting landlocked countries to ports or ICT portals, from household to warehouses across the continent, connectivity is the chain link that characterises the economy of the 21st century. Africa must forge ahead with these trends and lead where appropriate.

For our continent, that means not just the movement of people, goods and services within our member nations, but data transmission to allow for the flow of information and tools needed for higher value-added. These dual components of industrialisation and value addition are critical in creating wealth.

For free trade to happen seamlessly, African countries need to implement the Protocol on the Free Movement of People, which will in turn enable traders and investors to operate beyond their national borders. Africa must trade more with itself. And as markets trade on information, we need to move in the direction of connecting people and companies with data platforms and information to facilitate trade, investment, and promote the continent's economic development and welfare.

There is much to be said about the considerable investments being made in Africa in anticipation of future growth. Across the continent, we are seeing investments in power generation, transmission and distribution improving access to power for businesses and households. Roads and bridges, rail networks as well as new and improved airports will help to move goods and connect passenger and business traffic. Ports are being upgraded to enhance maritime exchange. We are doing all this sustainably — promoting a cleaner environment, and strengthening water basin management.

These investments are not happening in isolation, but complement improvements in the business environment to stimulate private sector growth and development, while strengthening trade flows across borders. This is sending strong signals that investment opportunities await those with capital to benefit from returns that come with increased economic activity. Sound infrastructure investments with explicit contractual economic pay-outs can spur integration efforts, trade and investment for sustainable growth.

In this regard, we are seeing the emergence of stronger banks, renewed interest from capital providers, and growth in trade finance. This attests to the kinds of opportunities that can be leveraged for Africa today and into the future.

However, it is not just about money — ultimately, it's about development impact and enhancing the quality of life for all Africans. So, while we continue to support social and economic initiatives across the continent, we reiterate that regional integration is crucial for sustainable and inclusive development. If we remain fragmented and weighed down by trade barriers, we create obstacles that only impoverish our people and penalise Africa in a competitive global market.

So how are we doing? The Africa Regional Integration Index provides a snapshot of progress made by member states. Some countries are forging ahead and showing positive results, particularly in terms of trade and macroeconomic policy alignment. Others are holding back and as a consequence, are missing out on opportunities that come with integration.

The index takes these dimensions into account, namely trade integration, productive integration, macroeconomic integration, infrastructural integration and the free movement of people. The index shows that trade and macroeconomic integration on the continent are moving ahead at a reasonable pace, but the need to improve on infrastructure connectivity, productive capacity and movement of people across borders is evident.

The 2019 Africa Regional Integration Index indicates that overall, the level of integration on the continent is low, with an average score of 0.327. Africa is poorly integrated on the productive and infrastructural dimensions, which are key aspects forming the foundations upon which the other dimensions of regional integration depend to function. The index shows that 20 African countries are performing well while 25 are low performing.

This index presents policy proposals that tackle weaknesses while supporting progress made so far on the continent. We intend to support these policy recommendations and initiatives within our member countries and regional economic communities. Now that we are moving forward with the implementation of AfCFTA, it is time for quantum leaps. Regional integration is the glue that will make that happen.



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Union Commission



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Section 1. Principal findings



Why measure regional integration in Africa?

The 2019 Africa Regional Integration Index (ARII) assesses the regional integration status and efforts of countries that are members of the eight regional economic communities recognised by the African Union. It compares each country to the other countries in its regional economic community and to the countries of Africa as a whole.

Why are some countries and regional economic communities more regionally integrated than others? Part of the answer is geographical proximity. Evidence indicates that countries that share a border tend to exchange more goods and services with each other and transaction costs are often lower. But historical links, comparative advantages, regional policies, and topography also play a role. By measuring integration in each country and each regional economic community along five dimensions, ARII reveals areas in which that country and community's integration policies work better. It also indicates areas needing improvement. Policymakers and others can use this critical information to better allocate resources and implement decisions.

ARII also reveals top and bottom performers. This has several advantages. Spotting the top performers or identifying those that have progressed on a given dimension of regional integration can help pinpoint success factors. This is the first step toward replicating those factors or adapting them to a different environment. Similarly, spotting the bottom performers, or countries and regions whose status has fallen, can reveal why one country or region is progressing less well and suggest where efforts will most pay off. This helps member states and indeed regional economic communities determine their comparative advantages and replicate best practices from peers.

Experts agree that regional integration expands markets and trade, enhances cooperation, mitigates risk, and fosters sociocultural cooperation and regional stability. Regional integration has also been shown to maximise the benefits of globalisation while countering its negative effects, and to stimulate development in least-developed countries by improving productive capacity and encouraging investments in those pieces of infrastructure that hold the most economic potential.

Regional integration holds tremendous promise for Africa. ARII's role is to provide the benchmarking and monitoring data that policymakers need to realise that promise.

Changes from the 2016 edition

The 2019 ARII is the second edition of the Africa Regional Integration Index. Using the latest and most reliable data available, it builds on the 2016 ARII and addresses some of its limitations.

The most significant change is that the 2019 ARII ranks African countries not only within their regional economic community, but also within Africa. Helping to pave the way towards pan-Africanism, this approach helps ARII integrate continental variables such as countries' pace in ratifying the instruments establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

TECHNICAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE 2016 ARII AND THE 2019 ARII

Indicators. Although the number of dimensions and indicators remains the same (5 and 16, respectively), some of the indicators used in 2016 were removed and others were added:

- The **AfCFTA** indicator was added to the trade dimension, and the **number of bilateral investment treaties in force** indicator was added to the macroeconomic integration dimension.
- After a robust sensitivity analysis, the **net electricity import** indicator (which was recalculated as net electricity trade) was removed, as it was reducing the statistical coherence of the infrastructure dimension. Moreover, electricity is embedded in the AfDB's Infrastructure Development Index.
- Because of unreliable and non-exhaustive data, the infrastructure dimension also shed the **average cost of roaming** indicator.

Weights. While the 2016 ARII assigned equal weights to the indicators and dimensions, the 2019 ARII assigns them different weights. The 2019 ARII computes weights using principal components analysis (PCA), which determines weights using the structure of the data. PCA is widely used in building composite indexes because of its non-subjective assignment of weights.

For details, consult the methodological note that accompanies this report: www.integrate-africa.org.

Africa's countries

With an average regional integration score of 0.327, African countries as a whole are not well integrated. The high score of 0.625 (of a maximum of 1), reached by South Africa, suggests that all of Africa's countries have the potential to integrate more deeply.

Performance per dimension. African countries are least integrated in terms of production and infrastructure. The same is true for Africa's regional economic communities. Corrective measures are urgent, as these two dimensions of integration are the foundations upon which the other dimensions rely to function properly.

The trade dimension scores higher than the productive and infrastructure dimensions, but with a score of only 0.383 out of 1, it, too, leaves ample room for growth. Implementation of the AfCFTA offers promise in this regard. The operational phase of the AfCFTA was launched in July 2019 and outstanding issues such as rules of origin and tariff offer exchanges are currently being negotiated. Once these issues are resolved, intra-African trade is expected to increase, fostering integration at the continental level. The increase in trade will diffuse to other dimensions, accelerating the build-up of productive capacities and infrastructure to meet growing demand.

On average, the continent performs at a moderate level on the macroeconomic dimension and the free movement of people dimension. This said, there is great disparity in countries' performance.

Insofar as macroeconomic policy is concerned, the disparities are mainly driven by the high inflation rate of some low-performing countries. Prioritising the convergence of sound fiscal and monetary policies would bring economic stability to the continent. This would help increase cross-border investments and enhance macroeconomic integration as a result.

With regard to the free movement of people dimension, the top-performing countries offer visas on arrival to the citizens of all of the other countries in Africa; they have also signed the Free Movement of Persons Protocol (Kigali). This is not the case with the bottom performers, whose policies create difficulties for African travellers: they hinder business, discourage tourism, and prevent integration in general.

Performance per country. South Africa demarcates itself as the continent's most integrated nation, well ahead of Kenya, the second-best performer. South Africa is also the continent's top performer on the productive and infrastructure dimensions. It fares among the top four on the trade dimension and is average on the macroeconomic dimension. Its strength lies in the productive dimension, where it achieves the maximum score. Its weakness lies in the free movement of people dimension.

Kenya enjoys relatively good performance on the productive, infrastructure, and free movement of people dimensions, where it ranks seventh, eighth, and tenth, respectively.

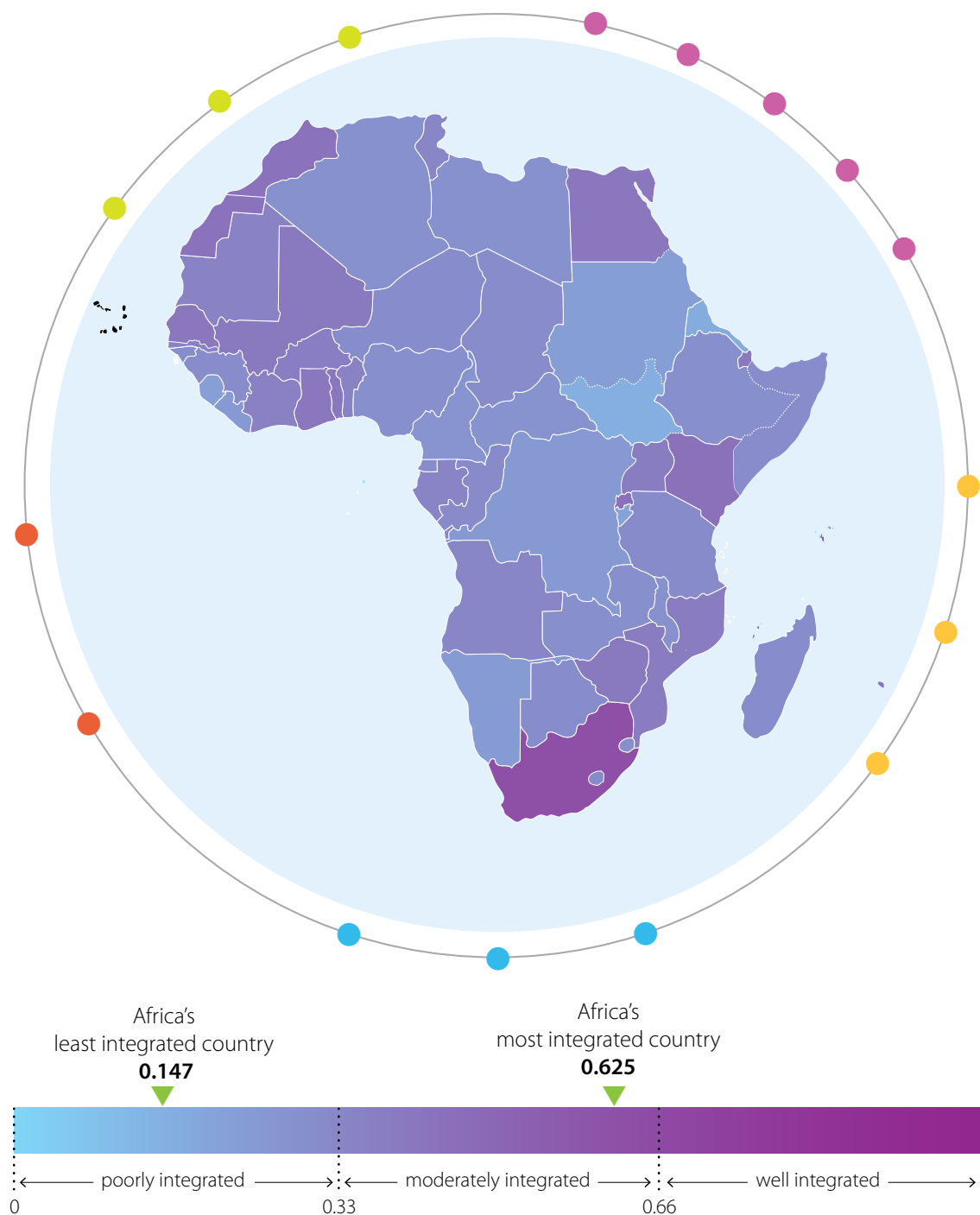
The least integrated countries in Africa are South Sudan and Eritrea. Eritrea is among the bottom six on the free movement of people, infrastructure, macroeconomic, and trade dimensions. The weaknesses of South Sudan are evident in the macroeconomic and infrastructure dimensions, where it ranks last.

Interpreting the rankings. Because of ARII's multidimensional nature, some countries' overall rankings are higher or lower than expected. This is the case of Comoros, Djibouti, and Somalia, which rank well overall thanks to their top positions on the free movement of people dimension. Similarly, even though Nigeria is a strong contributor to gross domestic product on the continent, it has signed but not yet ratified the AfCFTA agreement and only a small proportion of its imports come from within the region. For those reasons, Nigeria's overall ranking on regional integration is low, despite its outstanding performance as Africa's second-best integrated country on the productive dimension.

Some countries' rankings at the dimension level can surprise as well. This can happen when a country posts exceptional performance on a given indicator. Libya's top position on the infrastructure dimension, for instance, is primarily due to its outstanding performance on the AfDB's Infrastructure Development Index – one of the indicators used to measure how well a region's infrastructure is integrated – where it ranks third in the continent.

The most integrated countries tend to perform well on at least three dimensions of regional integration. The least integrated countries tend to have poor performance on all dimensions. Twenty countries perform above the average and can be considered among the most integrated countries; 25 countries perform below average and can be considered among the least.

Map 1. Africa's Most and Least Integrated Countries



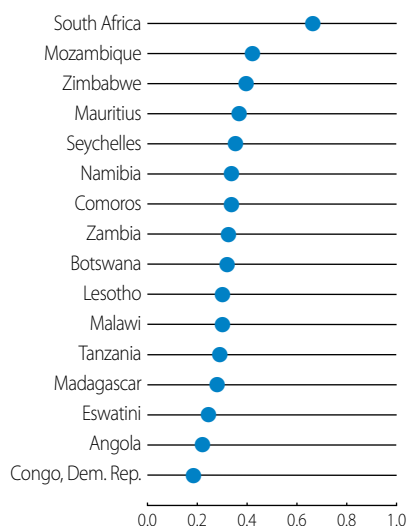
NOTE: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.. The final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.

Africa's regional economic communities

SADC

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) scores quite low (0.337), with 9 of its 16 members performing at a level that is average for this community. SADC's top performers are South Africa, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe; its bottom performers are the Democratic Republic of Congo, Angola, and Eswatini.

Figure 1. Overall Scores of SADC Member Countries



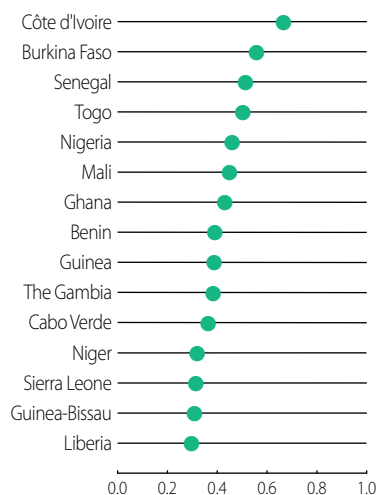
SADC's scores are most pulled down by gaps in regional infrastructure (average score 0.214). South Africa achieves a near-perfect score (0.893), but the next two performers, Seychelles and Mauritius, score only 0.512 and 0.446, respectively, while the bottom five performers (the Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, and Tanzania) score near zero. The Democratic Republic of Congo and Tanzania do better on productive integration, where they fall into the average zone, but at 0.239, SADC's average score for productive integration is not much better than for integrated infrastructure.

SADC's country rankings appear to reflect the current state of socioeconomic integration in the community, where the best-performing countries have flourishing economies and enjoy a relatively good standard of living. SADC's strength lies in the free movement of people.

ECOWAS

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) enjoys a moderate average score of 0.425, but its low score on the productive dimension suggests that vast improvements could be achieved if future investments were geared toward complementary productive capacities. Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, and Senegal are ECOWAS's strongest performers. Liberia, Guinea-Bissau, and Sierra Leone are its weakest.

Figure 2. Overall Scores of ECOWAS Member Countries



ECOWAS countries' best performance lies in the free movement of people dimension, testimony both to a vision and its fulfilment: the vision being ECOWAS's goal of creating a borderless region and its fulfilment being ECOWAS members' open visa policies. This said, only three countries – Burkina Faso, Mali, and Togo – have adhered to the Free Movement of Persons (Kigali) Protocol. This explains why the regional economic community's average score is not higher than 0.733.

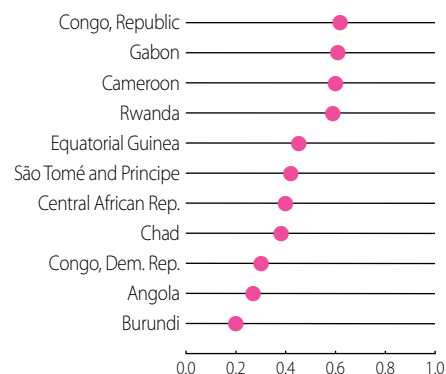
The regional economic community's average is pulled down by the near-total lack of productive integration by seven of ECOWAS's 15 members. The strongest of this group (Mali) scores only 0.101, while the weakest (Niger) scores zero. The performance of ECOWAS's most integrated countries is not enough to compensate: the top performer, Côte d'Ivoire, scores a respectable 0.718, but the second-strongest country, Nigeria, only scores 0.540 and the third-strongest, Senegal, hits 0.388.

Part of the solution may lie in exporting and importing more intermediate goods. Côte d'Ivoire does well in this area, as does Nigeria, while The Gambia and Sierra Leone, which are among the lowest achievers, do very poorly.

ECCAS

The Republic of Congo is the top-performing country in the **Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)**, followed by Gabon and Cameroon. Burundi, Angola, and the Democratic Republic of Congo are the bottom performers. With an overall score of 0.442, ECCAS is moderately integrated. Unlike most regional economic communities, ECCAS excels on the macroeconomic dimension, but like most regional economic communities, it lags on the productive dimension. The disparities among member states are large.

Figure 3. Overall Scores of ECCAS Member Countries

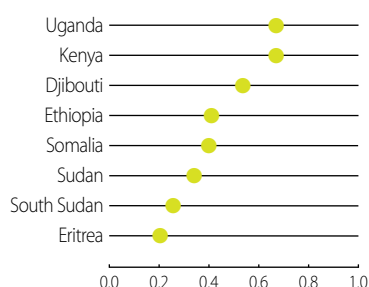


What are the markers of ECCAS's strength in macroeconomic integration? The first observation is that eight of ECCAS's 11 countries score highly (between 0.753 and 0.923) and two countries score well (between 0.489 and 0.600). If the lowest performer, Angola (score of zero), were discounted, ECCAS's performance on this dimension would be stronger still. It should be noted, however, that none of ECCAS's members has bilateral investment treaties in force. For this reason, countries' macroeconomic integration is only assessed on the basis of the regional convertibility of their currency and their inflation differential.

IGAD

The **Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)** assembles eight countries that range from the economically small Somalia to Kenya, a continental powerhouse. Its overall regional integration score is 0.438. IGAD performs best in the free movement of people, as most of its members have committed to liberalising mobility on the continent. The productive dimension is where it has most to improve.

Figure 4. Overall Scores of IGAD Member Countries



Within IGAD, Uganda and Kenya are the most successful at regional integration; Eritrea and South Sudan are the least successful.

Uganda leads IGAD on integrated production and integrated trade. It has the highest score for the export of intermediate goods in the region. It also has the best trade share in the region, and the second-best share of exports.

Ethiopia leads comfortably on macroeconomic integration. Its currency is easily convertible, and with Sudan, it is one of IGAD's two countries with a bilateral investment treaty in force.

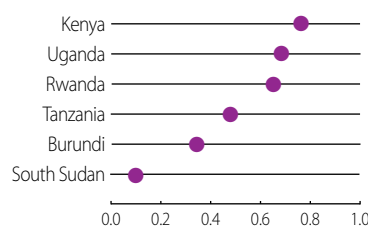
Kenya is first in integrated infrastructure, topping its peers both on the AfDB's Infrastructure Development Index and in terms of flight connections.

As for the free movement of people, Djibouti and Somalia are the top performers. As noted in the discussion of COMESA, these countries achieve a perfect score.

EAC

The best performer in the **East African Community (EAC)** is Kenya, followed by Uganda, while the worst performers are South Sudan and Burundi. EAC is relatively well integrated, with an overall score of 0.537. It performs most strongly on the free movement of people dimension, where its countries average 0.664, but at 0.660, macroeconomic integration is not far behind. No EAC member has a bilateral investment treaty in force, but the currency of Rwanda, EAC's top performer on this dimension (0.991), is easily convertible and Tanzania (0.833) has the community's best inflation differential.

Figure 5. Overall Scores of EAC Member Countries



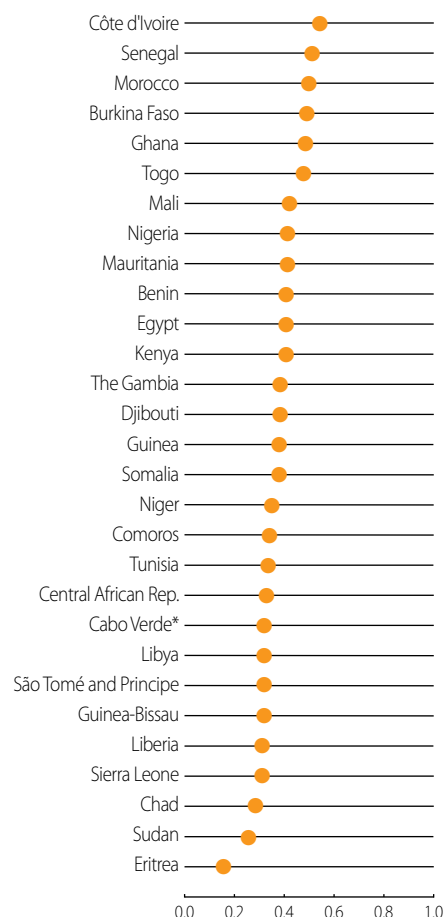
EAC countries perform most weakly on the productive dimension, where they average 0.434. This average belies the strong performance of Kenya (0.910) and Uganda (0.822) and is best explained by the low positions of Burundi (near zero) and South Sudan (0.073).

Although the regional economic community's score in trade integration is not high either (0.440), it is important to note that the community has eliminated tariffs between its members. Its low score on trade is therefore mostly attributable to a low share of regional exports.

CEN-SAD

ARII records a low level of integration in the **Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD)**, which averages only 0.377 and whose highest achiever reaches only 0.541. Similar to ECOWAS and SADC, CEN-SAD performs poorly on the productive and infrastructure dimensions but fares relatively well on the free movement of people dimension.

Figure 6. Overall Scores of CEN-SAD Member Countries



* Although Cabo Verde is no longer a member of CEN-SAD, its scores have been included to facilitate comparison to ARII 2016.

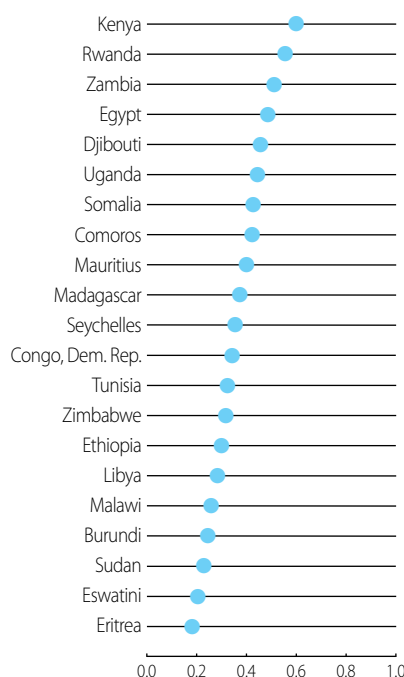
Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, and Morocco are CEN-SAD's most integrated countries (Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal are also top performers in ECOWAS). Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal's high scores are attributable in part to their trading fuel and lubricants with each other: this activity feeds into these countries' productive integration scores, which are almost identical (0.620 for Côte d'Ivoire and 0.619 for Senegal) and which far outstrip CEN-SAD's next-highest performer, Liberia (0.412). CEN-SAD's third-most integrated country, Morocco, leads its peers on macroeconomic integration. Morocco has a near-perfect score on this dimension (0.941) and has the most bilateral investment treaties in force.

Eritrea, Sudan, and Chad are CEN-SAD's least integrated countries.

COMESA

Kenya, Rwanda, and Zambia are the three most integrated countries in the **Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)** while Eritrea, Eswatini, and Sudan are the least. COMESA has a low average score of 0.367 and its top performer's score is 0.596. COMESA's best performance is in trade, but it has much potential for improvement in all the other dimensions, especially the productive dimension. Indeed, with one exception, no COMESA member achieves more than 0.669 on trade, productive, macroeconomic or infrastructural integration. Zambia is the outlier: its achievement of 0.951 on trade integration reflects its best share of trade and exports in the region. The country also scores well on productive integration (0.829).

Figure 7. Overall Scores of COMESA Member Countries

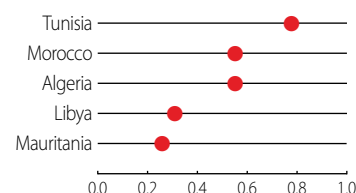


COMESA's other high performers include Comoros, Djibouti, and Somalia, which achieve a perfect score on the free movement of people dimension. This score pulls their overall rankings to the above-average zone. On the other dimensions of regional integration, however, the highest score among these three is 0.443, achieved by Djibouti in trade.

AMU

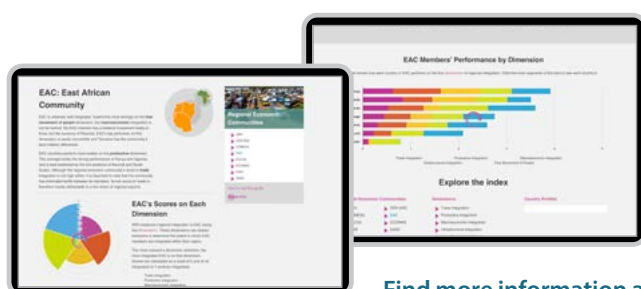
With only five members, the **Arab Maghreb Union (AMU)** is the regional economic community in Africa with the smallest number of member states. Because of this, the scores of the region's outliers have a stronger effect on the region's average than is the case for other communities.

Figure 8. Overall Scores of AMU Member Countries



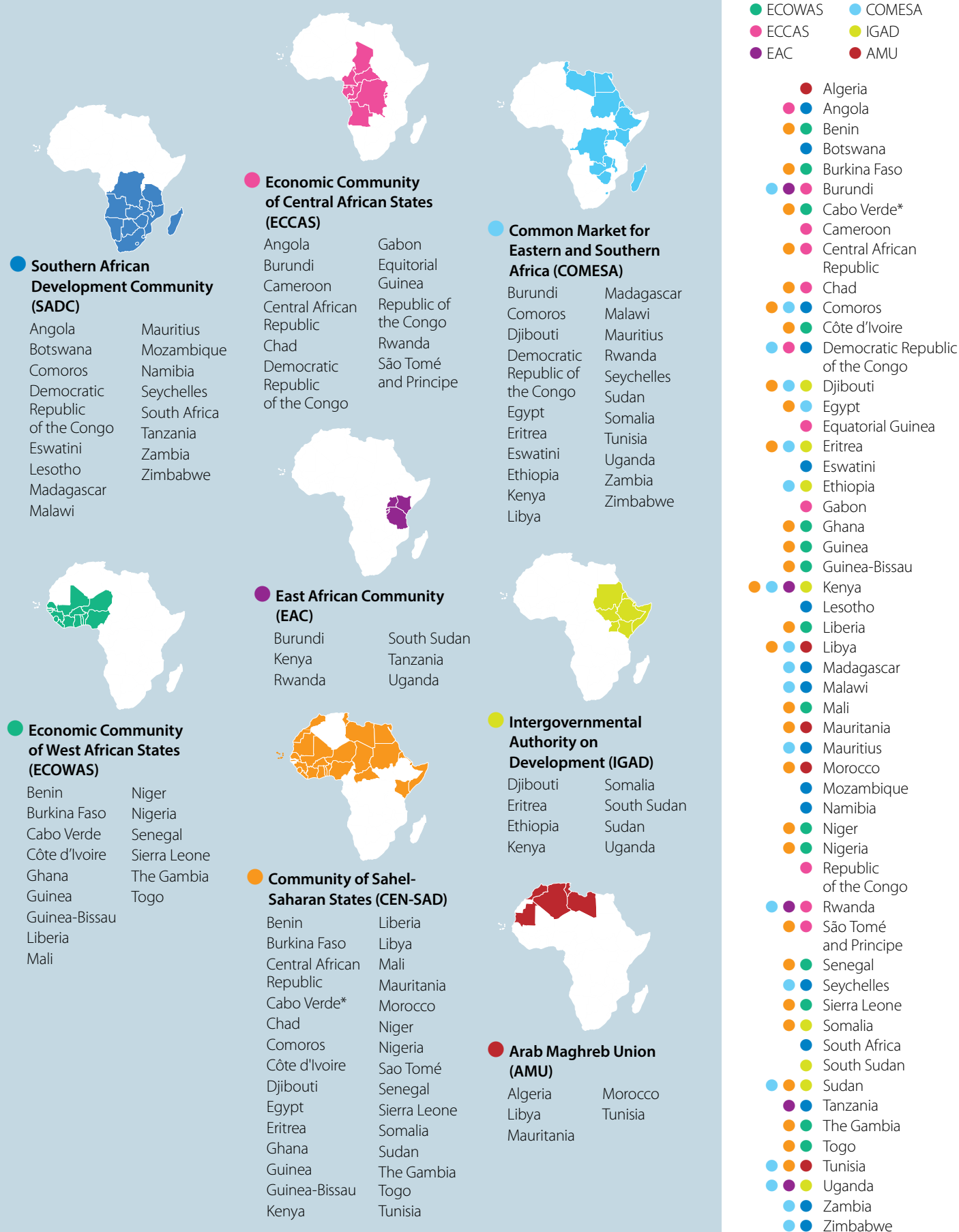
AMU is moderately integrated, with an average score of 0.488. It differs from other regional economic communities in that its weakness lies in the free movement of people and it performs relatively well on macroeconomic policies. As for the other three dimensions, AMU's score on trade (0.481) is moderate: as much as its members may trade outside of Africa, their exports within the region are low. AMU's score for productive integration averages about the same (0.449) but members' scores vary greatly, from near zero for Mauritania to 0.796 for Tunisia. Tunisia is also AMU's leader on infrastructural integration (0.906), with good flight connections within the region and a good score in the AfDB's infrastructure index. AMU's next three performers on this dimension – Algeria, Morocco, and Libya – are grouped around 0.550. Mauritania scores zero.

Tunisia and Morocco are AMU's strongest performers overall. Mauritania and Libya are its weakest.



Find more information about the Africa Regional Integration Index at: www.integrate-africa.org

Figure 9. Africa's Regional Economic Communities



* Although Cabo Verde is no longer a member of CEN-SAD, its scores have been included to facilitate comparison to ARII 2016.

Principal recommendations

The results are incontrovertible: Africa scores low on regional integration. This means that more can be done, and better.

The most pressing concern is the sluggish **production** that is holding regional integration back across the continent. Improving regional networks of production and trade by enhancing countries' productive, distributive, and marketing capacities in a strategic manner – that is, so that countries' capacities complement each other – would pay off well. Better cross-border co-operation among public and private stakeholders would give this endeavour its greatest chance of success. Some countries still need to win their place in regional commodity and value chains; others need to establish firm ground so as to maintain their position. Win-win solutions can be found.



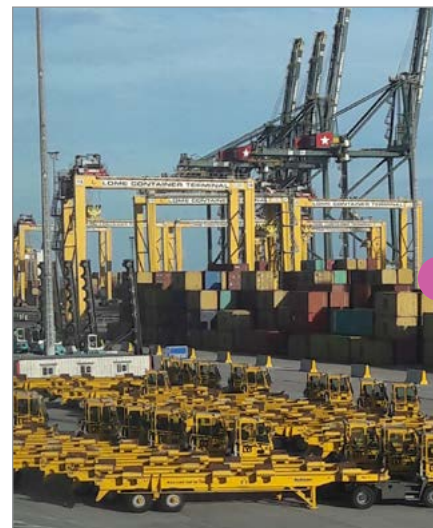
What is the way forward? In practical terms, a lot more needs to be done to investigate opportunities to build innovative, regional **value-chain frameworks** in different sectors. Furthermore, using better technology, higher-quality inputs, and updated marketing techniques would remove a number of bottlenecks. With the AfCFTA now in its operational phase, production and exports are likely to increase.



But for growth to be more than ephemeral, production-related decisions must be made on solid grounds and with a long-term perspective; they must embed state-of-the-art techniques and technologies and be forward-looking. Not to be overlooked, non-tariff barriers constitute a major challenge to fully implementing regional trade agreements and the AfCFTA: they must be addressed. In addition, national planners need to encourage and emphasise continuous investment in research and development.

Global value chains do not function without **people**. The continent should dig into its labour goldmine by identifying skills gaps and developing cross-border skills enhancement programs. In simple terms, the extent to which countries and regions will benefit from regional and global value chains depends on the skills of their populations: more precisely, on how well workers' competencies match the technology and production capacities of today and tomorrow. Recent studies indicate that for any industry to succeed in the global economy, cognitive skills such as literacy, numeracy, and problem-solving are of absolute importance. Transferable skills

such as these shield a population from the negative social impacts sometimes occasioned by the introduction of global value chains. Global production is expected to become more and more fragmented and sophisticated; this makes it all the more crucial that policymakers continue to develop skills that can adapt to the requirements of a changing labour market.



After policymakers address obstacles to the productive dimension of regional integration, they should look to the continent's **infrastructure** deficit. A failure to tackle Africa's infrastructure needs would prove disastrous to regional economic and social integration. Without adequate infrastructure, raw materials do not get to factories, production does not take place, goods do not reach consumers, and trade and financial activities do not flourish, either within borders or across them. Unbundling production from national boundaries depends on functioning logistics and operational transport infrastructure. Foreign direct investment flows to locations with cost advantages; poor infrastructure is a major deterrent.



In addition, the functioning of modern society depends on the smooth supply of a vast range of infrastructure-dependent services that improve the quality of life. These services are the foundation for social well-being, acceptable health and safety standards, and a decent environment.

In short, poor infrastructure equates to a bleak future, both economically and socially.

One of the keys to sustained economic and social development is long-term, coordinated **planning** to develop and maintain basic regional infrastructure and logistics.

But developing and maintaining infrastructure is costly: growing demands for infrastructure puts government's budgets under great pressure. In many developing countries, public finances are overwhelmed by demographic upsurges such as urbanisation, growing populations, and migration. The costs of providing peace and security also constrain budgets.

To cope, policymakers should look to innovative approaches to **financing** infrastructure. While some countries are already adept at involving the private sector, innovative variants of public-private partnerships could attract additional private capital and expertise. Among other avenues, pension funds and insurance markets are promising sources of finance for low-risk projects.

But improving access to finance does not solve the problem of poorly integrated infrastructure. Rigorous **competition** should be introduced in procurement processes and in construction, and greater **transparency** should be established at all stages of a project. Legal and regulatory frameworks

should be reviewed and more efficient infrastructure demand management systems should be set up to smooth the supply of services and products, to better mitigate wear and tear, and to cater to unforeseen events, such as natural or man-made disasters. Naturally, actors should also invest in new technology and adopt innovative management strategies.





The productive and infrastructure dimensions of regional integration are intricately linked. Improving one improves the other. Corrective measures to tackle these two dimensions would be a massive boon for the **trade dimension** of regional integration.

But it would be a mistake to rely on production and infrastructure alone as a means of improving trade. This is why the 2019 ARII's third recommendation is to move decisively to implement the AfCFTA while mitigating harmful side-effects, such as lower tariff revenues, that sometimes accompany free trade agreements.



Once operational, the **AfCFTA** will be the largest trading block in the world. It has untapped potential to develop the continent and lift millions out of poverty if mitigation measures are in place.

Our final recommendations address the **free movement of people** and **macro-economic integration**. While the 2019 ARII shows better results for these dimensions than for the three dimensions just discussed, performance is far from uniform. For instance, the Arab-Maghreb Union (AMU) has yet to explore the potential of freer movement of people. As for macroeconomic integration, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the East African Community (EAC) operate no bilateral investment treaties at all. Yet the importance of a mobile workforce and foreign investment are well documented: the former accelerates innovation and reduces costs, while the latter is a *sine qua non* for increasing production and developing the infrastructure within a region, thus paving the way for greater prosperity.

Insofar as mobility is concerned, therefore, we recommend greater visa openness with the goal of a visa-free regime for all African citizens and use of the African passport as provided for in the African Union's Free Movement of Persons Protocol (Kigali).



The 2019 edition of the Africa Visa Openness Index calculates a record 87% of African countries either improving or maintaining their index score from 2018, with much of the improvement coming from the adoption of e-visas and visas upon arrival for Africans. But Africa's regional economic communities can do more: from issuing multi-year visas after assessing an applicant, all the way to creating visa-free regional blocs. More regional cooperation on the freedom of movement among regional economic communities will go far to integrate the continent.

As for macroeconomic policies, policymakers should move to make substantial investments a reality in the regions and the continent. They should harmonise plans of action to safeguard macroeconomic stability and they should ensure adherence to agreements made among regional economic communities and at the continental level. Early warning systems should be put in place to better manage external shocks such as natural disasters and capital outflows.

Section 2.

The Strengths and Weaknesses of the Continent and its Regions



The dimensions and indicators of regional integration

ARII uses sixteen indicators, grouped into five dimensions, to measure how well each country and region in Africa is integrated with its neighbours. ARII also measures the state of regional integration for the continent as a whole.

The **trade, productive, and macroeconomic dimensions** of ARII are three dimensions of regional integration that are closely monitored in the European Union and the Asia-Pacific. The centrality of foreign investment and regional trade to the production

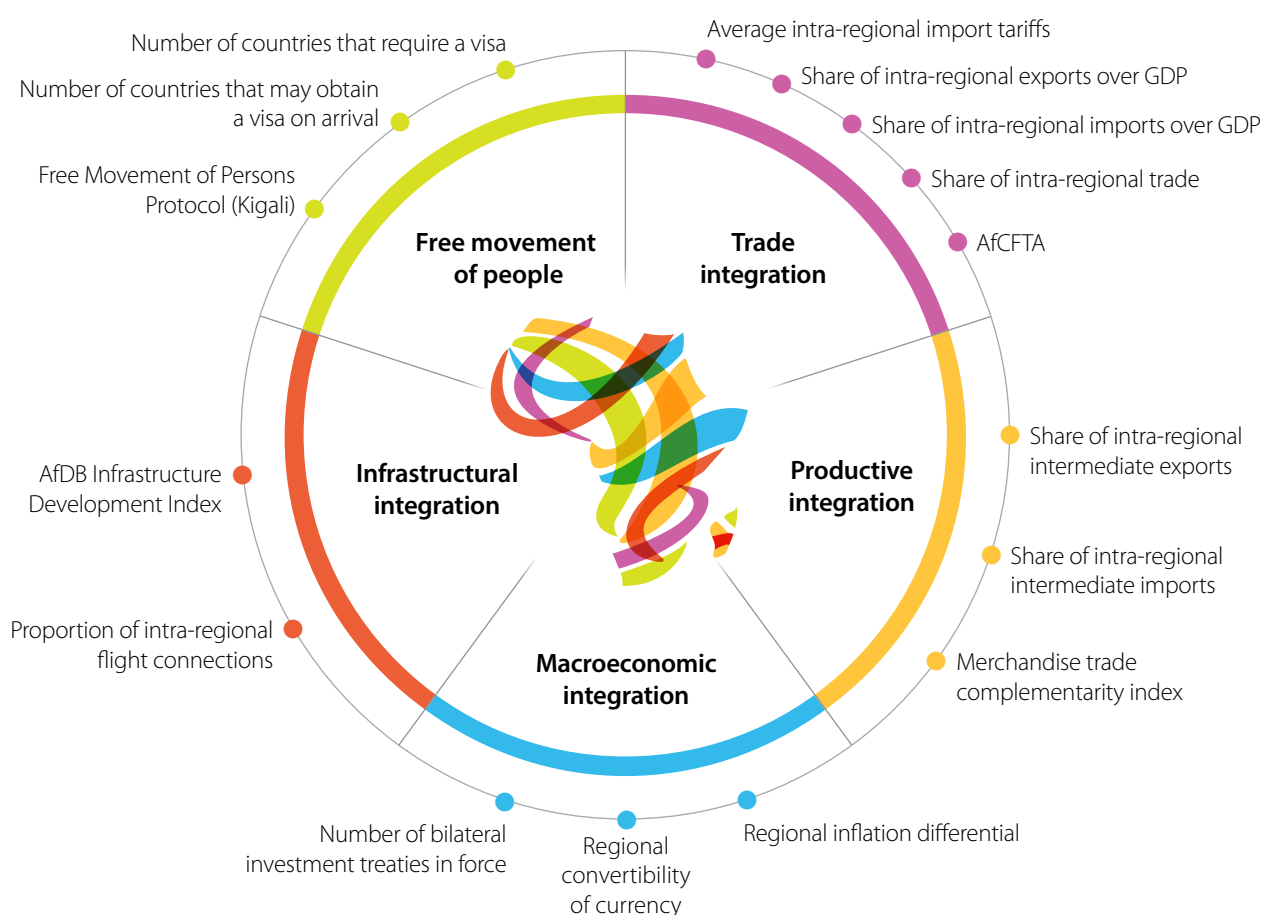
of final or intermediate goods and ultimately, to economic growth and development, is deeply ingrained in contemporary discourse. This said, the indicators used to evaluate these dimensions differ from one continent or region to another.

To these three dimensions, ARII adds two dimensions that are relevant for developing countries. **Regional infrastructure** directly affects transaction costs, prosperity, and ultimately, stability. In developing countries, the state of regional infrastructure varies

greatly: comparisons on this dimension give us important clues as to ways to boost a country's prosperity.

Another important aspect of integration is the degree to which the factors of production, including people, can move freely. The **free movement of people** from places where there are no jobs to places where labour is in high demand makes production more efficient and fosters social links that fuel regional integration in turn.

Figure 10. The Dimensions and Indicators of Regional Integration





Trade integration

Africa has eliminated significant trade tariffs in recent years. Yet tariffs are only one way of limiting trade: non-tariff measures – sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures, variances in labelling laws, and rules of origin – can affect commerce as well.

ARII uses four indicators to assess the extent to which a country trades with others in the region. New in 2019, the trade dimension of regional integration also estimates the potential for integration at a deeper level by noting whether countries have signed or ratified the agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

- **Share of intra-regional exports over GDP** measures the value of the goods that a country has exported within the region as a percentage of that country's gross domestic product.
- **Share of intra-regional imports over GDP** measures the value of the goods that a country has imported from within the region as a percentage of that country's gross domestic product.
- The **share of intra-regional trade** is defined as the sum of a country's exports and imports within the region as a proportion of all of the region's intra-regional trade.
- **Average intra-regional import tariffs** seeks to capture the effect of policies that enhance or inhibit trade openness. It measures the ad valorem equivalents of the minimum rates of the tariffs that a country has levied on its imports from the other countries in its region.
- The **AfCFTA** indicator reveals whether countries have signed or ratified the African Continental Free Trade Area agreement (ratified = 2; signed = 1, not signed = 0). It is measured for countries, not for regional economic communities.

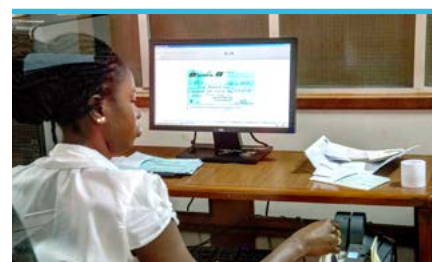


Productive integration

A country is well-integrated productively if its productive capacities complement those of other countries in the region; that is, if it specialises in those stages of production where it has a comparative advantage and can benefit from economies of scale.

The productive integration dimension uses three indicators to evaluate a country's involvement in regional supply and value chains:

- The **share of intra-regional intermediate exports** refers to a country's exports of intermediate (semi-finished) goods to the region as a percentage of all of that country's exports of goods to the region.
- The **share of intra-regional intermediate imports** refers to a country's imports of intermediate (semi-finished) goods from within the region as a percentage of all of that country's imports of goods from the region.
- The **merchandise trade complementarity index** compares a country's export profile to the export profile of the region. This indicator is calculated as the sum of the absolute value of the difference between the import shares and the export shares of the countries under study vis-à-vis the region divided by two.



Macroeconomic integration

The convergence and stabilisation of macroeconomic policies in a region creates a healthy financial climate that attracts cross-border investments. The degree to which a country is macroeconomically coherent with its neighbours helps investors to calculate the value and potential of their investments.

To measure macroeconomic integration, ARII uses three indicators:

- The **regional inflation differential** measures the difference between a country's inflation rate and the inflation rate targeted by the region. In cases where country data is not available, the indicator uses the minimum positive rate (that is, the lowest non-negative inflation rate) of the region.
- The **regional convertibility of currency** indicator evaluates the ease with which foreigners and businesses can transact. More specifically, it counts the number of countries within the region with which a country shares a common currency or with whose currency its own currency is convertible.
- For lack of comprehensive data on regional foreign direct investment, the **number of bilateral investment treaties in force** is used as a proxy for the scope of cross-border capital flows. This number is net of treaties that have not been ratified and treaties that have been terminated.



Infrastructural integration

According to the 2018 edition of the African Development Bank's Infrastructure Development Index, infrastructure investments account for over half of recent economic growth in Africa. This growth is principally driven by improvements in information and communication technology. To fuel the most growth, however, infrastructure must be developed to facilitate connections not only within a country, but between a country and its region and beyond.

ARII uses two indicators to measure the extent to which Africa's infrastructure is regionally integrated:

- The **AfDB Infrastructure Development Index** is a composite index of nine measures of the state of electricity, transport, information and communication technologies, and water and sanitation in an area. Indicators of a more regional nature – cross-border road connectivity, cross-border electrical infrastructure, the cost of mobile roaming – would be preferred, but comprehensive, reliable data on these elements is not presently available.
- At time of writing, 28 African countries had signed the Single African Air Transport Market, an initiative aiming at opening Africa's skies. ARII does not use this variable because what matters most for integration is implementing, not signing, agreements like this one. Instead, ARII measures countries' **proportion of intra-regional flight connections**: that is, the number of a country's flight connections to and from points within the region as a percentage of all intra-regional flight connections.



Free movement of people

Welcoming visa policies mean more business, more investment, and more innovation. They make it possible to scale up local ventures, build economies of scale, and develop efficient value chains. Digital technology plays a role: recent developments are streamlining entry processes and making it possible for more students, traders, and residents to travel, exchange knowledge, and build new markets.

ARII uses three indicators to measure how well countries and regional economic communities cooperate on the freedom of movement:

- The **number of countries that may obtain a visa on arrival** indicator counts the number of countries whose citizens may be granted visas on arrival by the other countries in the region. It captures the ease with which people from that country can move around the region for tourism, business, or day-to-day transactions.
- The **number of countries that require a visa** indicator counts the number of countries whose citizens strictly require a visa when travelling to each of the other countries in the region.
- The **Free Movement of Persons Protocol (Kigali)** indicator measures whether a country has ratified the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment. Once implemented, this protocol will allow African workers, students, researchers, and border residents to move freely between signatory states (ratified = 1; not ratified = 0).

The Scoring System

ARII scores performance on each indicator and dimension on a scale from 0 to 1. Scores closer to 0 indicate low performance (a country or region is less integrated), while scores closer to 1 indicate high performance (a country or region is more integrated). Scores around 0.5 are considered to be moderate/average.

Under linear conditions, a score below 0.333 is classified as low, a score between 0.334 and 0.667 is classified as average, and a score above 0.668 is classified as high.

Low-, average-, and high-performing countries are classified based on a 95 percent confidence interval from the mean.

Africa's scores

African leaders have long agreed on the benefits of regional integration. The graph on this page illustrates the extent to which that agreement has translated into reality.

On this graph, the more outward a dimension stretches, the more integrated the continent is on that dimension. Scores are calculated on a scale of 0 (not at all integrated) to 1 (entirely integrated).

Average score 0.327
Strongest dimension Free movement of people
Weakest dimension Productive integration

Realising only a third of its potential, Africa's score shows room to improve rankings on all five dimensions of regional integration. And with recent developments on the continent, change is on the horizon.

Having entered into force in May 2019 and launched in July 2019, the AfCFTA is expected to be the world's largest continental free-trade area with a market of more than 1.2 billion people. Over the next five years, 90% of tariffs on goods will be eliminated. It is anticipated that the pink line in this graph will stretch further as countries and regions take advantage of a larger market. Production of goods and services for export and investment in regional infrastructure is expected to rise, and countries will realise improvements in the other aspects of regional integration (production, macroeconomic policy, and the free movement of people).

Regional economic communities

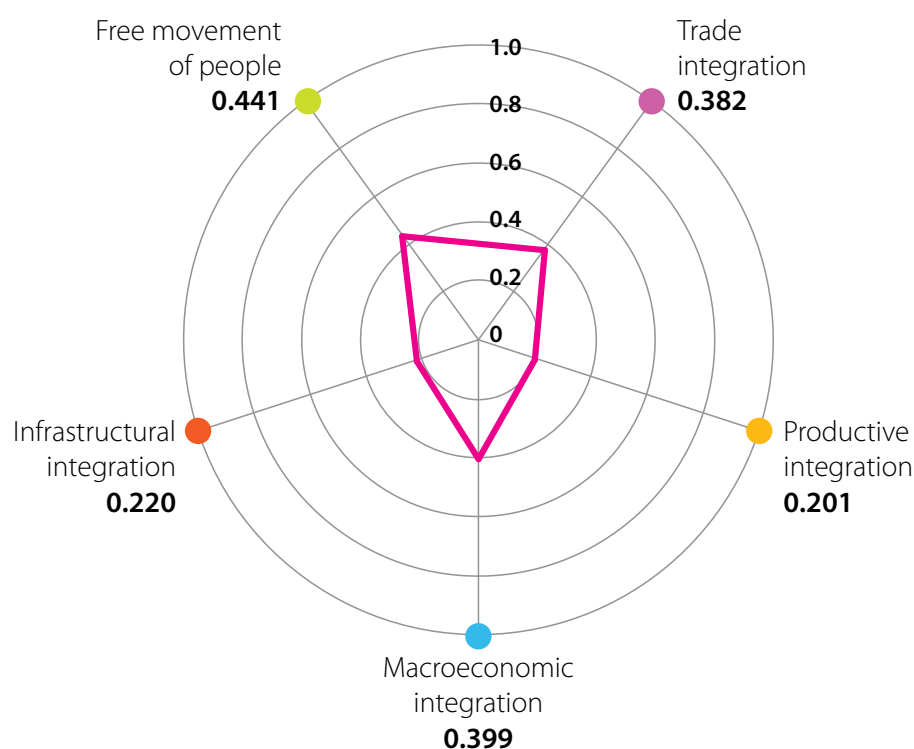
The graphs on the next two pages illustrate how Africa's regional economic communities score on the five dimensions of regional integration.

The highest score overall is obtained by the East African Community (EAC). Although EAC is Africa's leader, however, it occupies only a little more than half of the area of the graph.

The Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), followed by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), achieves the best balance between dimensions. The greatest differences between dimensions appear in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), whose scores range from 0.733 on the free movement of people dimension to 0.220 on the productive dimension.

The lowest points for overall integration are scored by the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

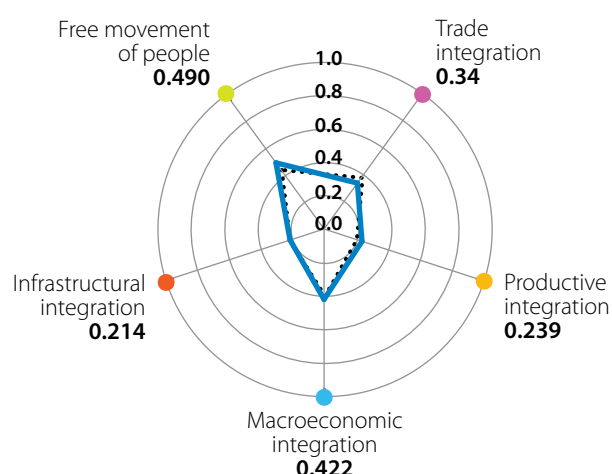
Figure 11. Africa's Scores on the Five Dimensions of Regional Integration



Regional economic communities' scores

Figure 12. SADC's Scores on the Five Dimensions of Regional Integration

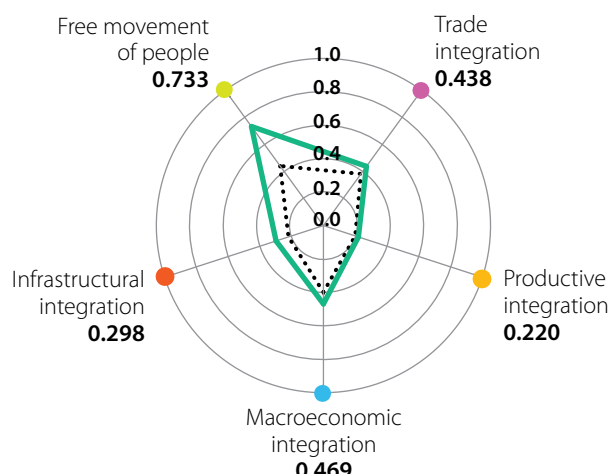
Average score	0.337
Strongest dimension	Free movement of people
Weakest dimension	Infrastructural integration



Dotted line represents Africa's scores.

Figure 13. ECOWAS's Scores on the Five Dimensions of Regional Integration

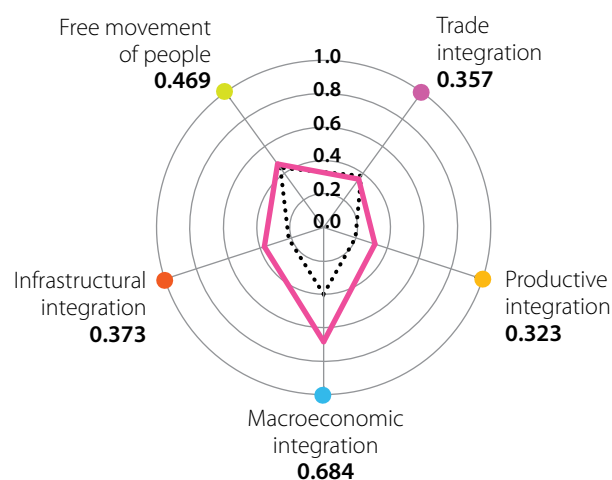
Average score	0.425
Strongest dimension	Free movement of people
Weakest dimension	Productive integration



Dotted line represents Africa's scores.

Figure 14. ECCAS's Scores on the Five Dimensions of Regional Integration

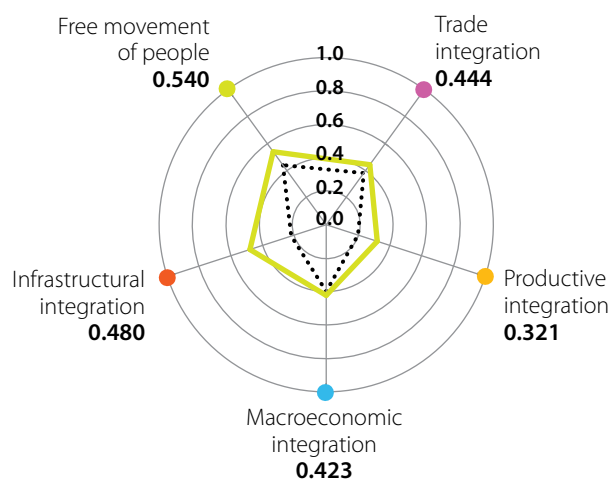
Average score	0.442
Strongest dimension	Macroeconomic integration
Weakest dimension	Productive integration



Dotted line represents Africa's scores.

Figure 15. IGAD's Scores on the Five Dimensions of Regional Integration

Average score	0.438
Strongest dimension	Free movement of people
Weakest dimension	Productive integration

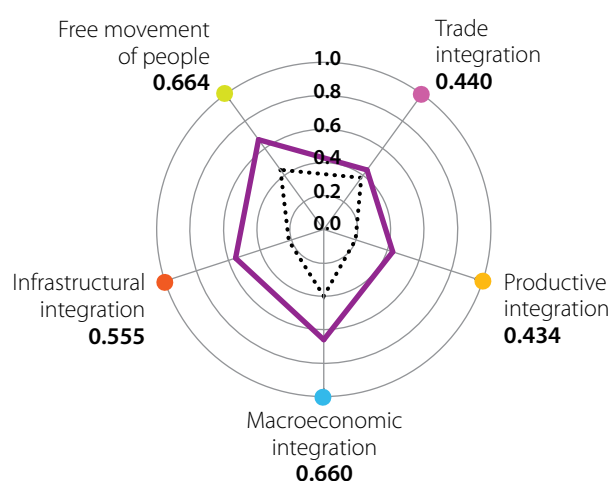


Dotted line represents Africa's scores.

NOTE: On these graphs, the more outward a dimension stretches, the more integrated the region is on that dimension. Scores are calculated on a scale of 0 (not at all integrated) to 1 (entirely integrated).

Figure 16. EAC's Scores on the Five Dimensions of Regional Integration

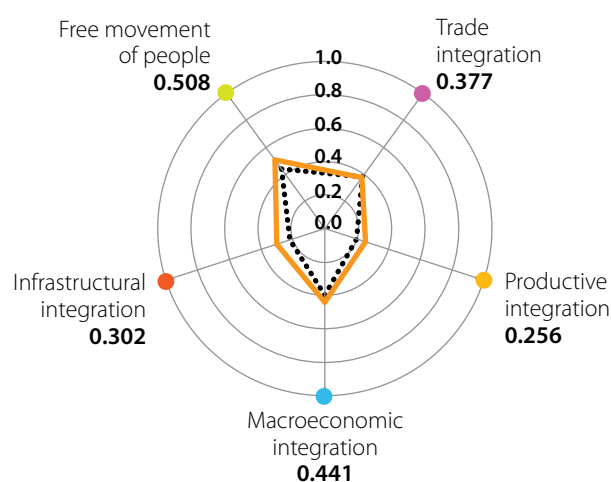
Average score	0.537
Strongest dimension	Free movement of people
Weakest dimension	Productive integration



Dotted line represents Africa's scores.

Figure 17. CEN-SAD's Scores on the Five Dimensions of Regional Integration

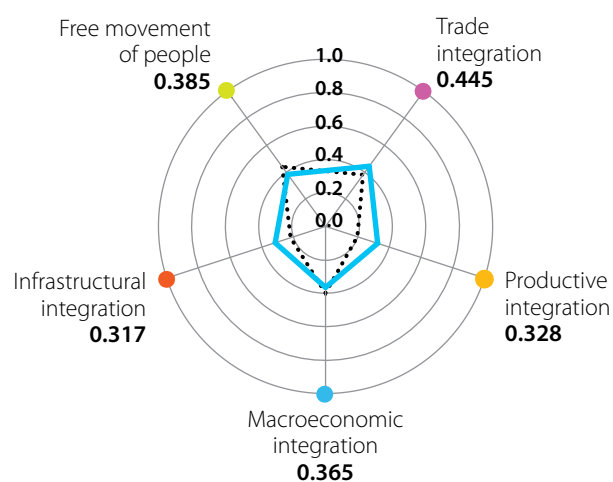
Average score	0.377
Strongest dimension	Free movement of people
Weakest dimension	Productive integration



Dotted line represents Africa's scores.

Figure 18. COMESA's Scores on the Five Dimensions of Regional Integration

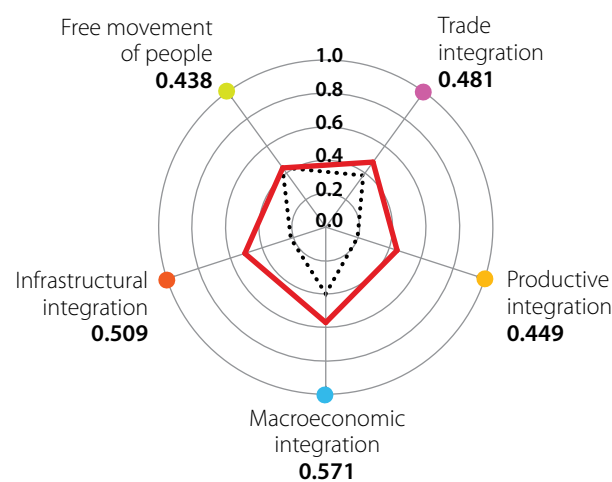
Average score	0.367
Strongest dimension	Trade integration
Weakest dimension	Infrastructural integration



Dotted line represents Africa's scores.

Figure 19. AMU's Scores on the Five Dimensions of Regional Integration

Average score	0.488
Strongest dimension	Macroeconomic integration
Weakest dimension	Free movement of people



Dotted line represents Africa's scores.

Section 3. Africa's Most and Least Integrated Countries

Map 2. Africa's High Performers on the Five Dimensions of Regional integration

This map identifies African countries that perform above average on the five dimensions of regional integration. Countries are listed by order of ranking, beginning with the most-integrated country.

Trade integration

Eswatini
Namibia
Lesotho
South Africa
Zimbabwe
Côte d'Ivoire
Botswana
The Gambia
Senegal
Ghana
Republic of the Congo
Djibouti
Rwanda
Burkina Faso
Uganda
Zambia
Mali
Kenya
Niger
Togo

Productive integration

South Africa
Nigeria
Angola
Tunisia
Zambia
Côte d'Ivoire
Kenya
Morocco
Namibia
Egypt
Cameroon
São Tomé and Príncipe
Botswana
Mozambique

Macroeconomic integration

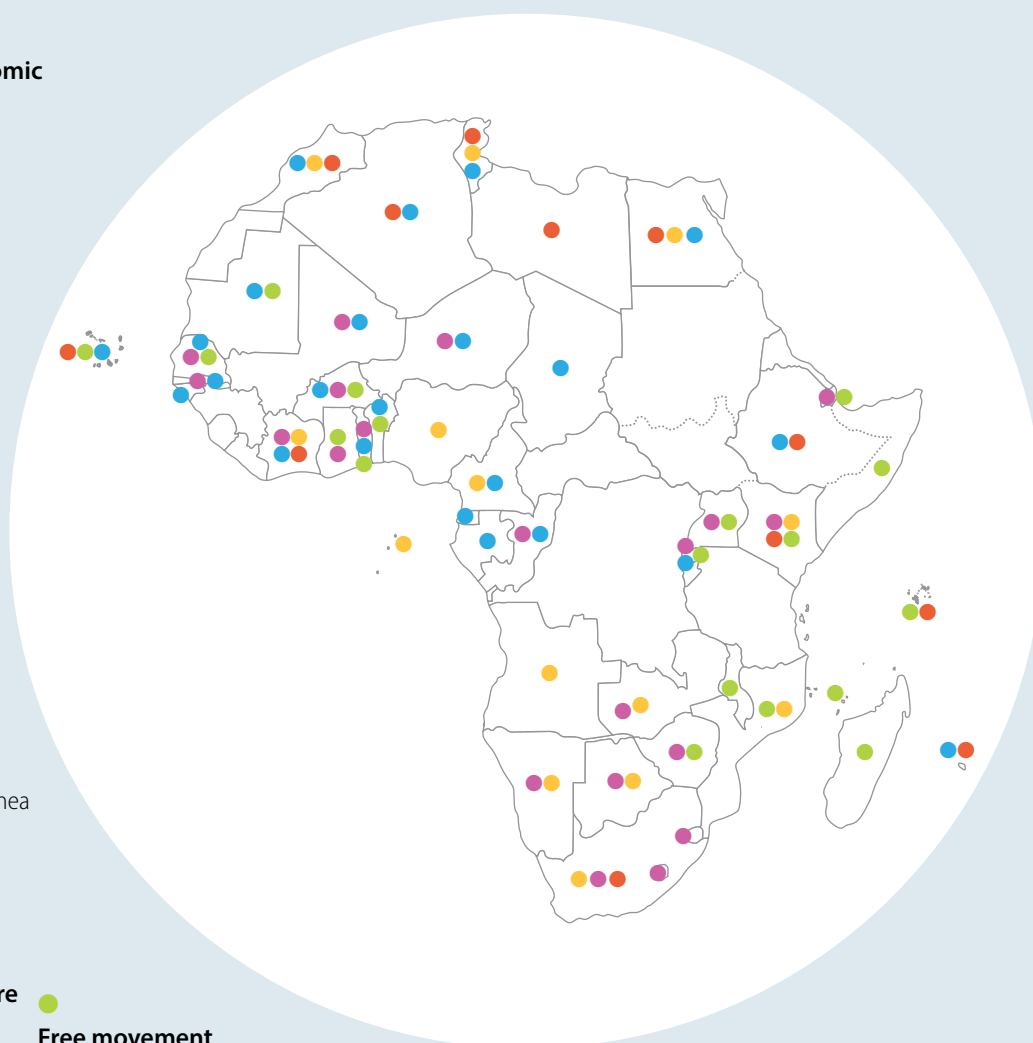
Morocco
Mauritius
Egypt
Rwanda
Mali
Burkina Faso
Mauritania
Cabo Verde
Senegal
Ethiopia
Gabon
The Gambia
Algeria
Niger
Republic of the Congo
Tunisia
Côte d'Ivoire
Togo
Cameroon
Equatorial Guinea
Benin
Guinea-Bissau
Chad

Infrastructure integration

South Africa
Egypt
Seychelles
Morocco
Tunisia
Mauritius
Libya
Kenya
Algeria
Ethiopia
Côte d'Ivoire
Cabo Verde

Free movement of people

Comoros	Madagascar
Djibouti	Benin
Somalia	Seychelles
Mauritania	Senegal
Mozambique	Malawi
Togo	Burkina Faso
Rwanda	Zimbabwe
Ghana	Guinea-Bissau
Uganda	Cabo Verde
Kenya	



Scores are calculated on a scale of 0 (not at all integrated) to 1 (entirely integrated).

NOTE: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. The final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.

Overall integration

Top performers

With a score of 0.625, South Africa is the most regionally integrated country on the continent. Next comes Kenya, which scores 0.444. These two countries are followed by Rwanda, Morocco, and Mauritius, which score 0.434, 0.430, and 0.424, respectively.

The continent's best performer overall is also the top performer on the infrastructure and productive dimensions (on production, South Africa reaches the maximum score). The country fares among the top four on the trade dimension and is an average performer on the macroeconomic dimension. Its weakness lies in the free movement of people, where it ranks low.

The second-most integrated country on the continent, Kenya, enjoys very good performance on the productive, infrastructure, and free movement of people dimensions. It is among the top performers in the trade dimension, as it has ratified the AfCFTA agreement. It performs poorly on the macroeconomic dimension.

In contrast, macroeconomic integration is a strength in Rwanda, which holds Africa's fourth place on that dimension. Rwanda also boasts very good performance on the free movement of people: the country ratified the AfCFTA agreement promptly and liberalised the mobility of labour by signing the Free Movement of Persons Protocol (Kigali). Despite ranking third on regional integration overall, Rwanda is a low performer on the productive dimension.

Morocco and Mauritius enjoy the first and second positions on the macroeconomic dimension. Moreover, both countries have good regional infrastructure: Morocco ranks fourth and Mauritius ranks sixth continent-wide.

Bottom performers

The least integrated African country is South Sudan, which scores 0.147. Next is Eritrea, with a score of 0.161. Eritrea lies in the bottom six on the free movement of people, infrastructure, macroeconomic,

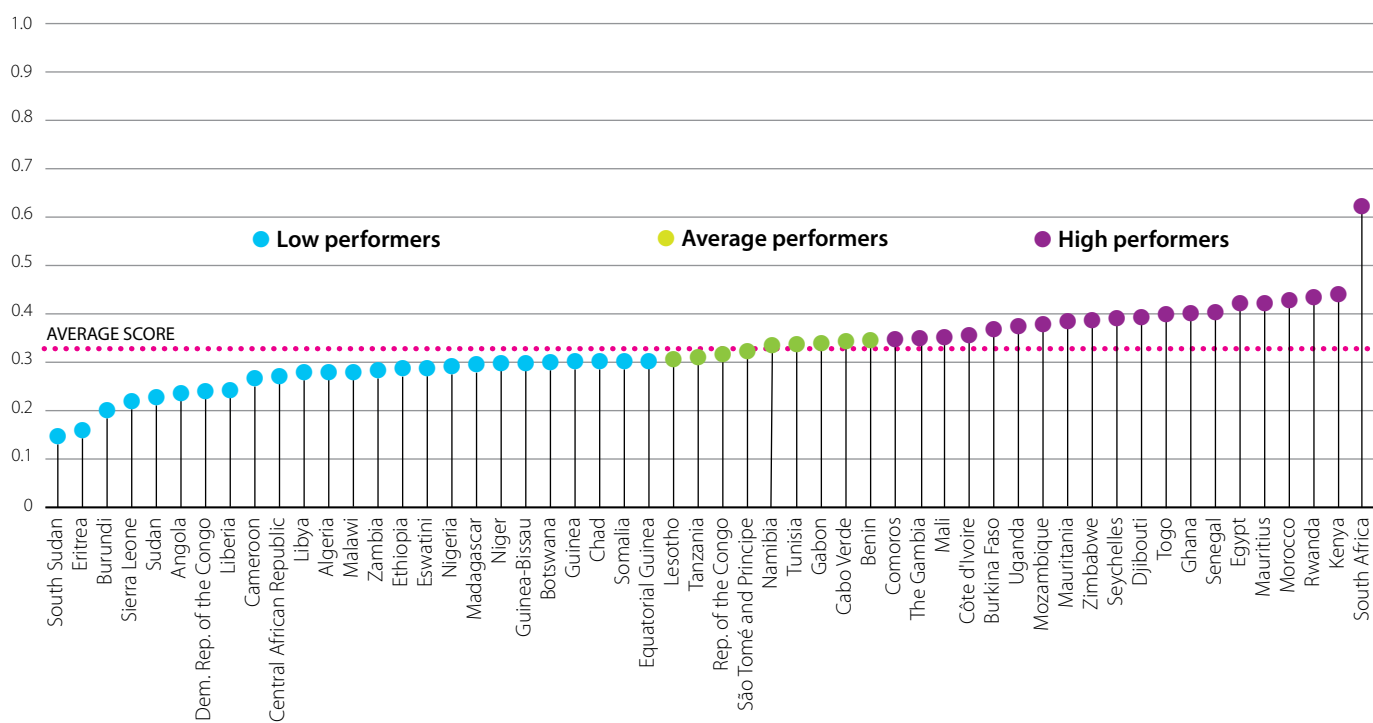
and trade dimensions. The weaknesses of South Sudan are in the macroeconomic and infrastructure dimensions, where it ranks last.

The other least-performing countries are Burundi, Sierra Leone, and Sudan. Low performance in Burundi and Sierra Leone is principally driven by these countries' lack of commitment to liberalise the movement of people. Sudan performs very poorly on regional trade.

Overall performance

Overall integration on the African continent is low, with an average score of 0.327. The high score of only 0.625 shows that Africa has extensive potential to boost integration and tap its benefits. The disparity in countries' performance is significant, particularly on the productive and infrastructure dimensions. Countries fare better on the free movement of people and macroeconomic dimensions.

Figure 20. Countries' Scores and Rankings on Overall Regional Integration

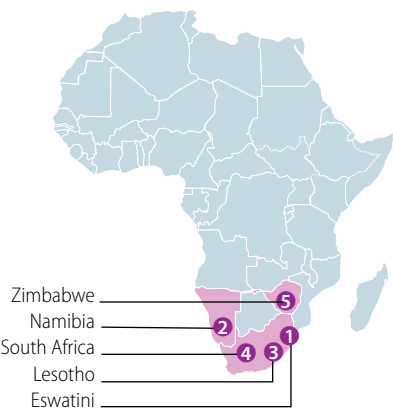


Trade integration

Top performers

With a score of 0.730, Eswatini is Africa's best performer on trade integration, followed by Namibia at 0.715. The next three countries that trade the most with their region are Lesotho, South Africa, and Zimbabwe, with scores of 0.655, 0.627, and 0.550, respectively.

Map 3. Trade Integration: Top Five Performers



These rankings reflect the fact that four of the top performers are members of the Southern African Customs Union (SACU). SACU has achieved a high level of trade liberalisation, boasting a full customs union that renders its economies strongly interdependent. Botswana, SACU's remaining member, ranks seventh in trade integration on the continent.

Although Zimbabwe is not a member of SACU, it enjoys a favourable tariff rate for the region and has ratified the AfCFTA agreement. Most top-performing countries (for example, Côte d'Ivoire, Eswatini, Namibia, and South Africa) have ratified the AfCFTA agreement as well.

Bottom performers

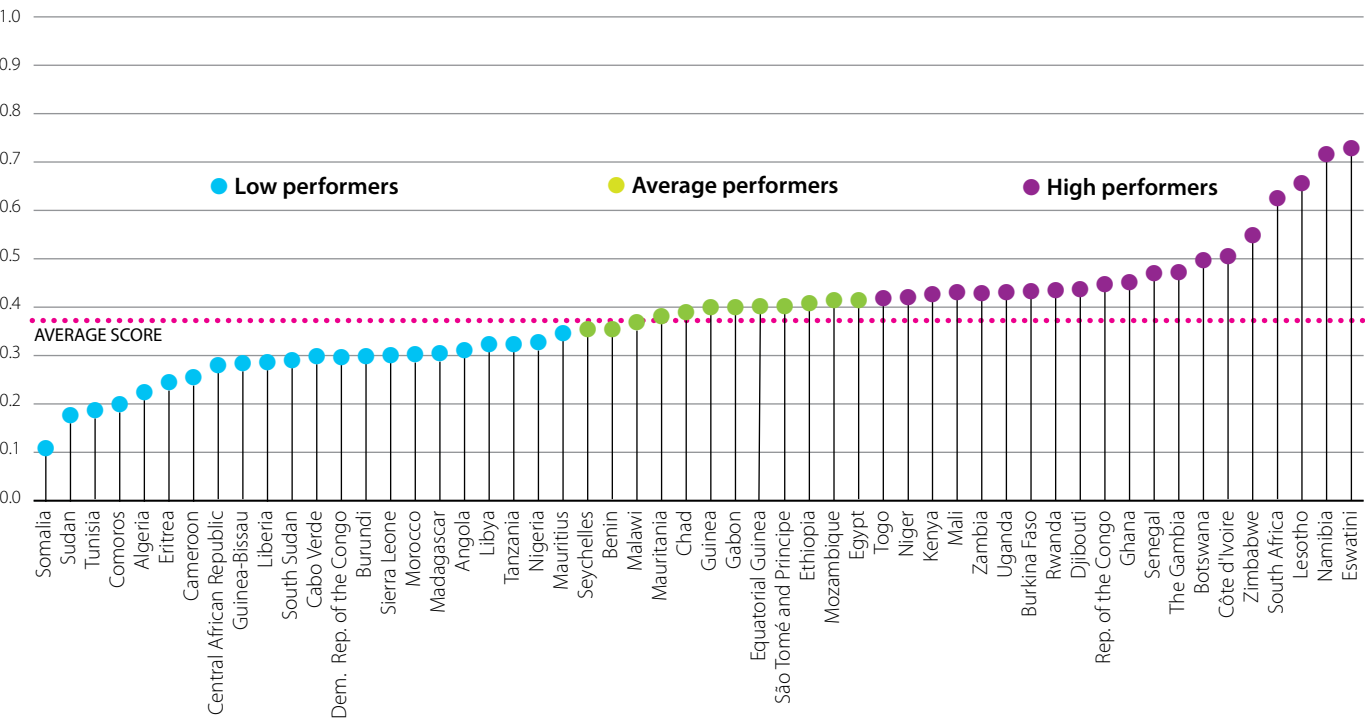
The country whose trade is the least integrated with its region is Somalia, which scores 0.111. Somalia is preceded by Sudan, Tunisia, Comoros, and Algeria, which score 0.178, 0.189, 0.200, and 0.226, respectively.

Tunisia, Somalia, Sudan, and Comoros have the highest import tariffs in the region. Algeria's poor performance can be attributed to the low volume of its imports and exports within the region.

Overall performance

Averaging 0.383, trade integration on the African continent tends towards the lower rungs of the score ladder, reflecting the fact that Africa has the highest average import duties and the highest average non-tariff barriers in the world. As more countries ratify the AfCFTA agreement and start liberalising trade within the continent, regional exports and imports will grow and scores on this dimension will rise. As trade increases, so will the demand for production capacities and regional infrastructure, spurring growth in these dimensions of integration as well.

Figure 21. Countries' Scores and Rankings on Trade Integration

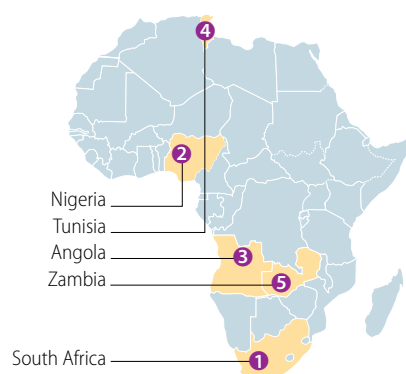


Productive integration

Top performers

South Africa is the continent's leader in productive integration, showcasing a maximum score of 1. Regional imports and exports of intermediate products to and from South Africa account for a larger proportion of regional trade in South Africa than they do in any other country on the continent and South Africa has the highest score on the merchandise trade complementarity index.

Map 4. Productive Integration: Top Five Performers



The second-most trade-integrated country, Nigeria, lies far behind, with a score of 0.364. Nigeria's flourishing fuel exports contribute to its ranking. Nigeria is followed by Angola, Tunisia, and Zambia, which score 0.340, 0.340, and 0.324, respectively. The trade of intermediate products in Tunisia and Angola largely complements the production profiles of these countries' neighbours. Zambia's high position can be attributed to its substantial imports of industrial equipment.

Bottom performers

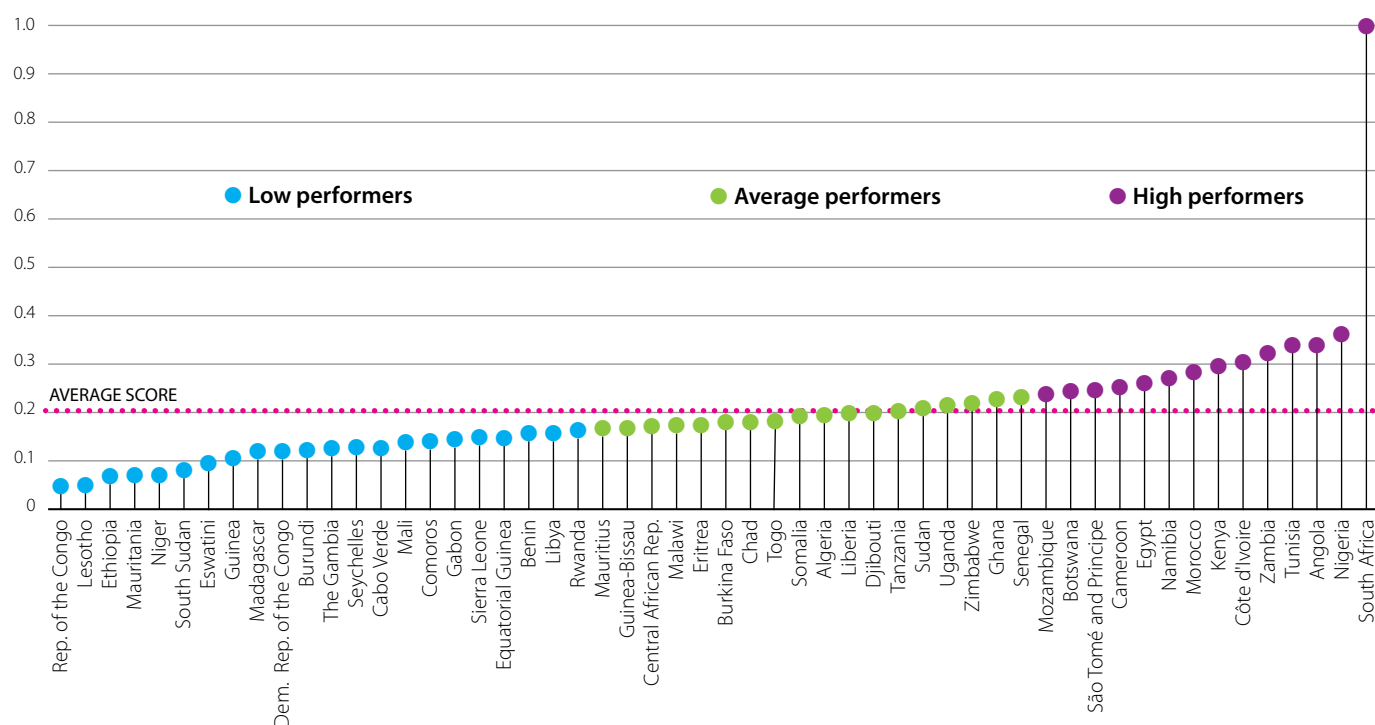
The least integrated countries are the Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Ethiopia, Mauritania, and Niger. The weakness of the least performing country, Republic of Congo, lies in its low exports of intermediate products. The complementarity of Lesotho's production with other production in the region is weak, and Niger imports few intermediate goods. The other low-performing countries perform poorly on exports.

Overall performance

The productive dimension of regional integration is Africa's weakest point. Africa's average score for this dimension is only 0.201, and 33 countries score even lower. This implies that production is not evenly dispersed across the continent and countries are not reaping the benefits of their comparative advantages. This may be due to poor or inexistent logistics: well-functioning logistics are necessary to regional supply chains.

It is urgent that African countries improve their productive capacities. They can achieve this by better coordinating pan-African trade and investment policies and by fostering more cooperation among public and private sector stakeholders.

Figure 22. Countries' Scores and Rankings on Productive Integration

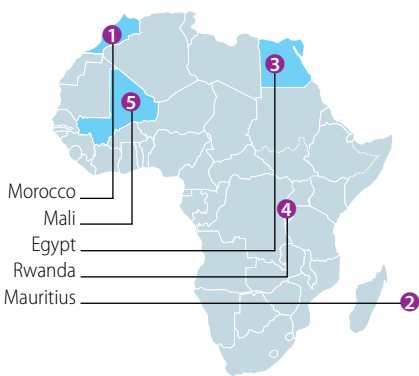


Macroeconomic integration

Top performers

Morocco is the most integrated country in Africa on the macroeconomic dimension. Scoring 0.809, Morocco ranks far ahead of the runner-up, Mauritius, which scores 0.633. These two are followed by Egypt, Rwanda, and Mali, which score 0.632, 0.570, and 0.542, respectively.

Map 5. Macroeconomic Integration: Top Five Performers



The top performers tend to be countries whose currencies are easily convertible to other currencies. This is the case for the Rwandan franc and the Moroccan dirham. Egypt, Morocco, and Mauritius also have the greatest number of bilateral investment treaties presently in force, another factor that boosts their position on this dimension.

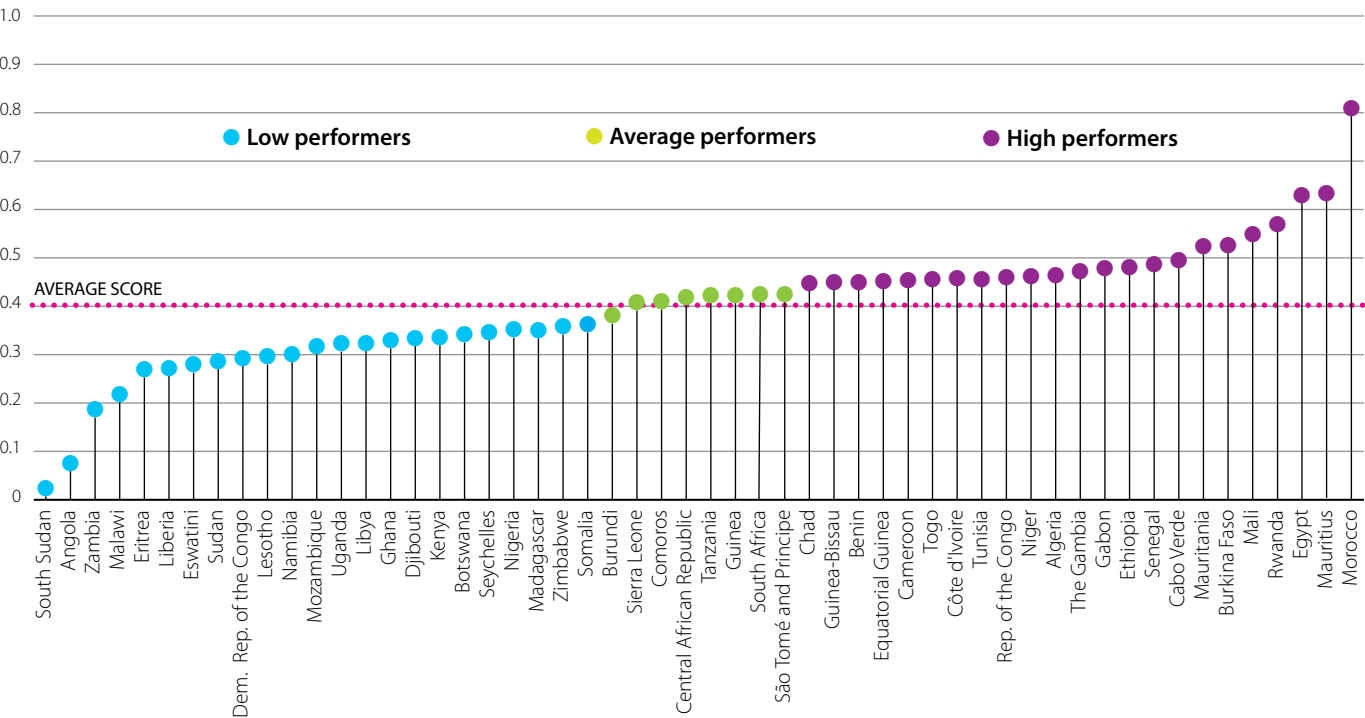
Bottom performers

The two least macroeconomically integrated countries in Africa are South Sudan and Angola, which score near zero (0.023 and 0.077, respectively). Other low-ranking countries are Zambia, Malawi, and Eritrea, score 0.185, 0.219, and 0.270, respectively. South Sudan has Africa's most unfavourable inflation rate and no bilateral investment treaties. Other countries whose currencies are not convertible also rank poorly.

Overall performance

The continent's average score is 0.399, which is moderate. Heterogeneity across countries is great, with a gap of nearly 0.8 between the most and least integrated countries. This result is mainly driven by exorbitant inflation in some countries. Adhering to sound, coordinated fiscal and monetary policies is a priority if the continent is to experience economic stability. A healthy economic climate would increase cross-border investment and macroeconomic integration.

Figure 23. Countries' Scores and Rankings on Macroeconomic Integration

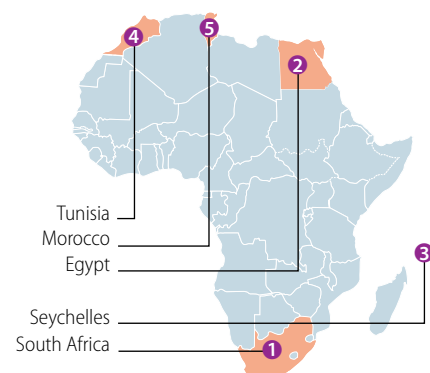


Infrastructural integration

Top performers

South Africa is the continent's highest-ranked country on the infrastructure dimension. With a score of 0.898, it far outstrips the other most integrated countries. The next-strongest performers are Egypt, Seychelles, Morocco, and Tunisia, which score 0.585, 0.531, 0.530, and 0.498, respectively.

Map 6. Infrastructural integration: Top Five Performers



South Africa is well connected by air. It has the best flight connections within the continent, giving its citizens and the citizens of the rest of Africa the possibility of moving somewhat efficiently within Africa. Morocco and Tunisia also enjoy good flight connections. The AfDB's Infrastructure Development Index awards Seychelles top points for infrastructure. Seychelles is followed by Egypt.

Bottom performers

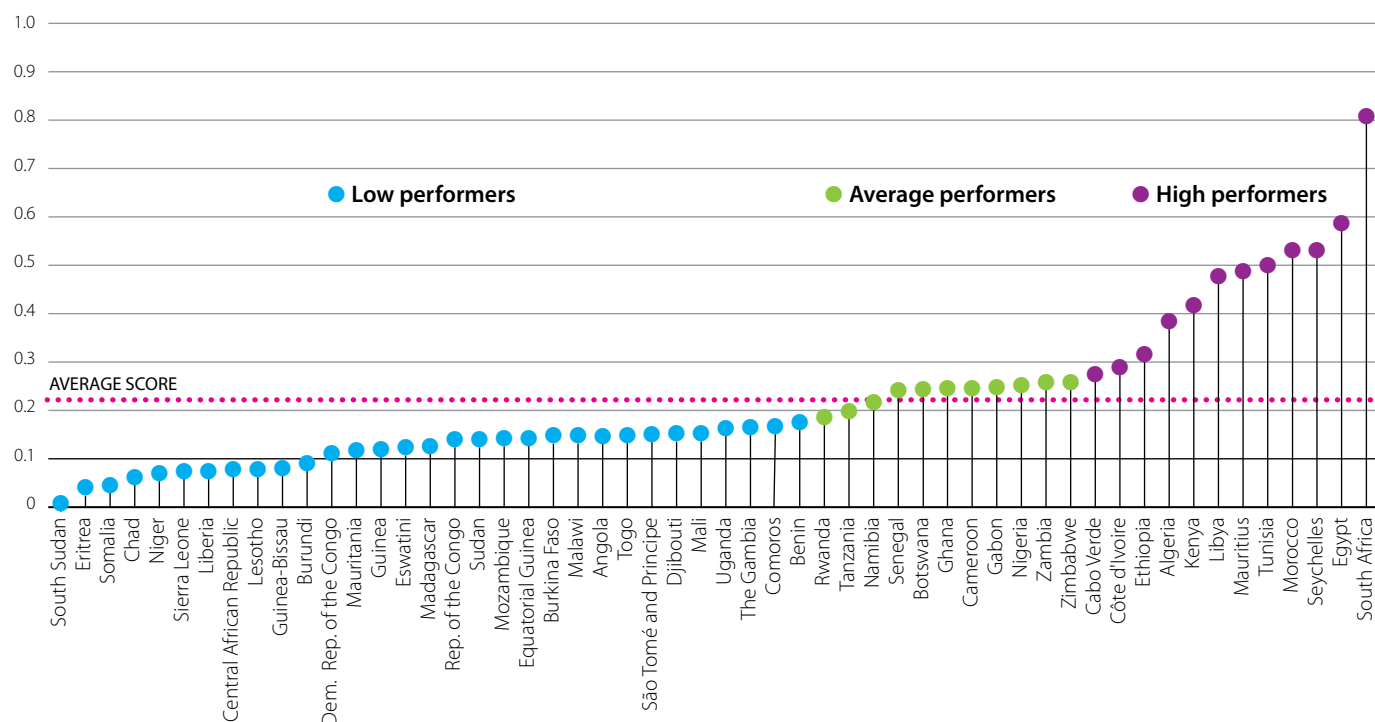
South Sudan, Eritrea, Somalia, Chad, and Niger have the least integrated infrastructure on the continent: all score below 0.07. Somalia, South Sudan, Niger, and Chad also have the least developed infrastructure as measured by the AfDB's Infrastructure Development Index. Eritrea's weakness lies in its poor flight connections within the continent.

Overall performance

With a score averaging only 0.220, Africa lags in infrastructural integration. Many countries score near zero and the infrastructure of a staggering 31 countries is poorly integrated. Only 11 African countries have infrastructure that is moderately well integrated in their region.

Regional integration cannot happen without adequate infrastructure. In our highly technological world, strong economic links in trade, finance, production, and social development depend on well-designed, well-connected infrastructure. Strategies to address the infrastructure deficit should be implemented without delay.

Figure 24. Countries' Scores and Rankings on Infrastructural Integration



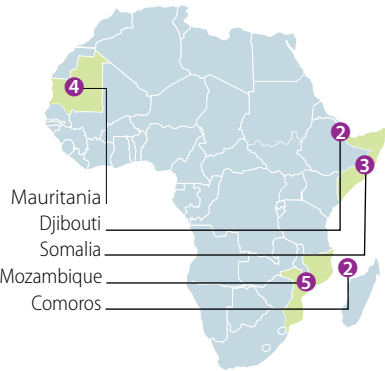
The free movement of people

● Top performers

With perfect scores, Comoros, Djibouti, and Somalia share the top position on the free movement of people dimension. Citizens from all 53 African countries can obtain a visa on arrival in these countries, all three of which have adhered to the Free Movement of Persons Protocol (Kigali).

Mauritania and Mozambique follow with scores of 0.951 and 0.944, respectively. Mauritania and Mozambique have signed the protocol as well.

Map 7. The Free Movement of People: Top Five Performers



● Bottom performers

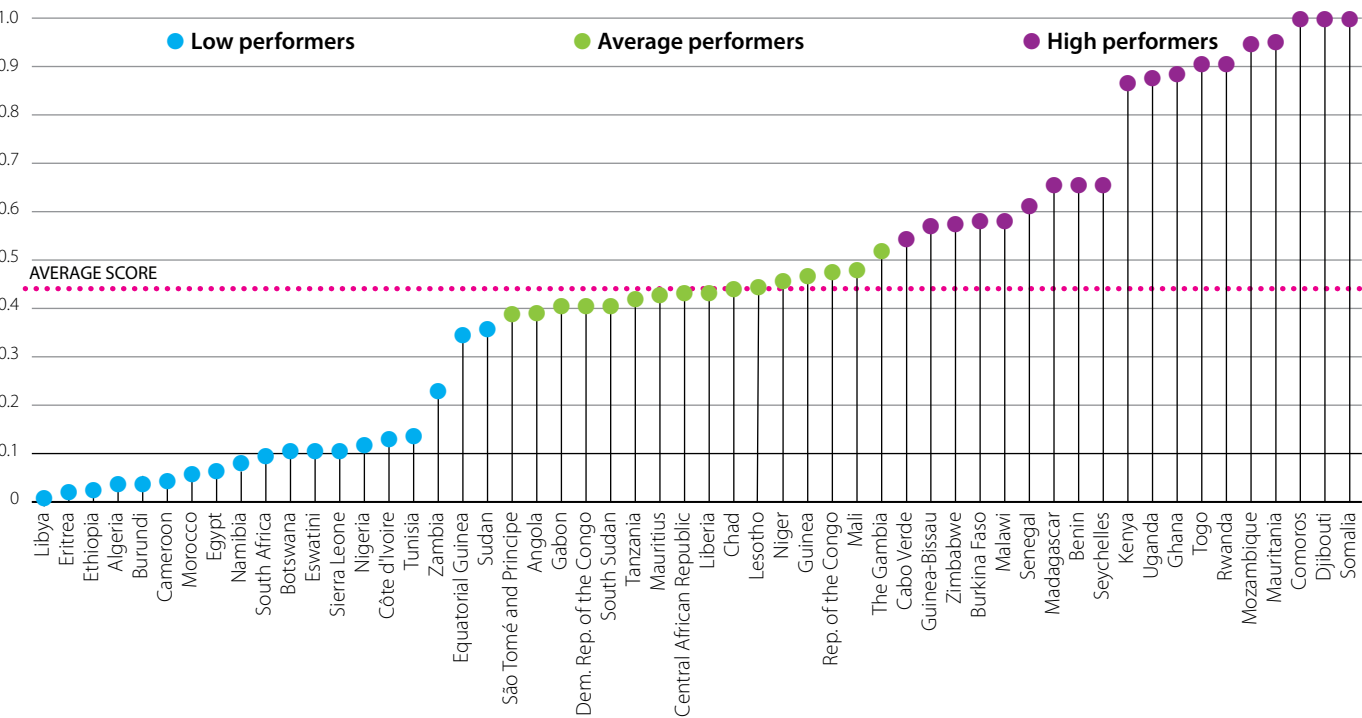
Libya, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Burundi, and Algeria are the least integrated countries on the free movement dimension: their scores are close to 0. None of these poorly integrated countries have signed the Free Movement of Persons Protocol (Kigali), and they require most African citizens to obtain a visa to enter their territory.

● Overall performance

There is great disparity in countries' scores on this dimension. Many countries score below 0.1, far below the African average of 0.441. This finding reflects the roadblocks that African citizens encounter when they travel, making it harder for them to conduct business, act as tourists, and help integrate the continent in general. Adhesion to the Free Movement of Persons Protocol (Kigali) and greater visa openness would improve scores on this dimension by lowering transaction costs, increasing trade, and making production more efficient.

ARII's Free Movement of People dimension and the Visa Openness Index measure different things. While both evaluate the openness of countries' visa regimes (whether a country's nationals can travel in the region without a visa or can apply for a visa upon arrival), ARII also assesses the degree to which African countries have committed to the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment.

Figure 25. Countries' Scores and Rankings on the Free Movement of People



Section 4. Country Scores

This section presents each country's scores on the five dimensions of regional integration as well as countries' score on regional integration overall. The tables rank countries against their neighbours and against all the other countries in Africa, and they indicate whether countries perform above, below, or at the average for their group.

Results are presented for all countries in Africa and for countries within each regional economic community. Some countries in Africa are members of more than one regional economic community. Because of this, a country may have different scores and rankings for the same dimension. For example, Libya scored 0.462 on trade integration within COMESA, where it ranked ninth out of 21 countries, but only 0.390 within AMU, where it ranked fourth out of five countries.

Some differences in scores and rankings can be explained by historical links, comparative advantages, and topography. Regional policies also play a role. If, for example, a country imposes visa restrictions on the countries that are members of the first regional economic community to which it belongs and but not on countries that are members of the second regional economic community to which it belongs, its score on the free movement of people dimension may be lower within the first community than within the second.



Table 1. Scores and Rankings on Each Dimension of Regional Integration – All Countries

Country	Regional integration	Ranking	Trade integration	Ranking	Productive integration	Ranking
South Africa	0.625	1	0.627	4	1.000	1
Kenya	0.444	2	0.428	18	0.296	7
Rwanda	0.434	3	0.435	13	0.164	33
Morocco	0.430	4	0.304	39	0.284	8
Mauritius	0.424	5	0.348	33	0.169	32
Egypt	0.422	6	0.414	21	0.263	10
Senegal	0.404	7	0.472	9	0.232	15
Ghana	0.403	8	0.454	10	0.230	16
Togo	0.399	9	0.418	20	0.183	25
Djibouti	0.394	10	0.438	12	0.204	21
Seychelles	0.393	11	0.352	32	0.129	42
Zimbabwe	0.387	12	0.550	5	0.221	17
Mauritania	0.386	13	0.381	29	0.072	51
Mozambique	0.380	14	0.411	22	0.239	14
Uganda	0.376	15	0.434	15	0.217	18
Burkina Faso	0.370	16	0.434	14	0.181	27
Côte d'Ivoire	0.357	17	0.506	6	0.305	6
Mali	0.352	18	0.431	17	0.139	40
The Gambia	0.351	19	0.472	8	0.127	43
Comoros	0.350	20	0.200	51	0.141	39
Benin	0.347	21	0.353	31	0.159	35
Cabo Verde	0.344	22	0.297	43	0.129	41
Gabon	0.340	23	0.402	26	0.143	38
Tunisia	0.338	24	0.189	52	0.340	4
Namibia	0.337	25	0.715	2	0.271	9
São Tomé and Príncipe	0.324	26	0.404	24	0.247	12
Republic of the Congo	0.317	27	0.448	11	0.049	54
United Republic of Tanzania	0.312	28	0.323	35	0.205	20
Lesotho	0.308	29	0.655	3	0.052	53
Equatorial Guinea	0.304	30	0.403	25	0.149	36
Somalia	0.303	31	0.111	54	0.194	24
Chad	0.303	32	0.386	28	0.182	26
Guinea	0.303	33	0.400	27	0.107	47
Botswana	0.302	34	0.496	7	0.245	13
Guinea-Bissau	0.301	35	0.285	46	0.170	31
Niger	0.299	36	0.425	19	0.073	50
Madagascar	0.296	37	0.305	38	0.120	46
Nigeria	0.292	38	0.325	34	0.364	2
Eswatini	0.288	39	0.730	1	0.097	48
Ethiopia	0.287	40	0.407	23	0.069	52
Zambia	0.287	41	0.431	16	0.324	5
Malawi	0.282	42	0.369	30	0.174	29
Algeria	0.282	43	0.226	50	0.195	23
Libya	0.280	44	0.321	36	0.159	34
Central African Republic	0.273	45	0.282	47	0.173	30
Cameroon	0.268	46	0.255	48	0.252	11
Liberia	0.244	47	0.287	45	0.200	22
Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.241	48	0.299	42	0.121	45
Angola	0.238	49	0.308	37	0.340	3
Sudan	0.228	50	0.178	53	0.209	19
Sierra Leone	0.222	51	0.303	40	0.149	37
Burundi	0.203	52	0.301	41	0.123	44
Eritrea	0.161	53	0.245	49	0.175	28
South Sudan	0.147	54	0.290	44	0.081	49
Average	0.327		0.383		0.201	
Standard deviation	0.078		0.123		0.133	

Scores are calculated on a score of 0 (low) to 1 (high).

- The country is a high performer: it scores higher than the average range.
- The country is an average performer: it scores within the average range.
- The country is a low performer: it scores below the average range.

Macroeconomic integration	Ranking	Infrastructurel integration	Ranking	Free movement of people	Ranking	Performance		
						HIGH	AVERAGE	LOW
0.423	25	0.898	1	0.093	45	●		
0.337	38	0.415	8	0.864	10	●		
0.570	4	0.184	23	0.907	6	●		
0.809	1	0.530	4	0.056	48	●		
0.633	2	0.487	6	0.426	29	●		
0.632	3	0.585	2	0.062	47	●		
0.490	9	0.241	20	0.611	14	●		
0.331	40	0.244	18	0.883	8	●		
0.456	18	0.150	31	0.907	6	●		
0.335	39	0.152	29	1.000	1	●		
0.347	36	0.531	3	0.655	11	●		
0.357	33	0.261	13	0.574	17	●		
0.523	7	0.117	42	0.951	4	●		
0.320	43	0.141	36	0.944	5	●		
0.322	42	0.162	27	0.876	9	●		
0.525	6	0.147	34	0.580	16	●		
0.458	17	0.292	11	0.130	40	●		
0.542	5	0.154	28	0.481	21	●		
0.471	12	0.164	26	0.518	20	●		
0.410	29	0.166	25	1.000	1	●		
0.450	21	0.174	24	0.655	11		●	
0.494	8	0.274	12	0.544	19		●	
0.477	11	0.247	16	0.407	33		●	
0.458	16	0.498	5	0.136	39		●	
0.301	44	0.215	21	0.080	46		●	
0.424	24	0.150	30	0.388	34		●	
0.462	15	0.140	38	0.475	22		●	
0.422	27	0.197	22	0.420	30		●	
0.297	45	0.080	46	0.444	25		●	
0.450	20	0.143	35	0.345	37			●
0.362	32	0.047	52	1.000	1			●
0.447	23	0.064	51	0.438	26			●
0.422	26	0.120	41	0.469	23			●
0.342	37	0.242	19	0.105	43			●
0.449	22	0.081	45	0.568	18			●
0.462	14	0.069	50	0.456	24			●
0.352	34	0.126	39	0.655	11			●
0.352	35	0.252	15	0.117	41			●
0.280	48	0.124	40	0.105	43			●
0.482	10	0.316	10	0.025	52			●
0.185	52	0.258	14	0.229	38			●
0.219	51	0.148	33	0.580	15			●
0.464	13	0.384	9	0.037	50			●
0.325	41	0.480	7	0.006	54			●
0.417	28	0.079	47	0.432	27			●
0.456	19	0.245	17	0.043	49			●
0.272	49	0.076	48	0.432	27			●
0.292	46	0.112	43	0.407	32			●
0.077	53	0.149	32	0.388	34			●
0.289	47	0.141	37	0.357	36			●
0.408	30	0.074	49	0.105	42			●
0.379	31	0.091	44	0.037	50			●
0.270	50	0.040	53	0.019	53			●
0.023	54	0.009	54	0.407	31			●
0.399		0.220		0.441				
0.128		0.166		0.304				

Table 2. Scores and Rankings on Each Dimension of Regional Integration – SADC

Country	Regional integration	Ranking	Trade integration	Ranking	Productive integration	Ranking
South Africa	0.667	1	0.542	4	0.993	1
Mozambique	0.422	2	0.348	8	0.245	7
Zimbabwe	0.395	3	0.393	7	0.279	5
Mauritius	0.372	4	0.240	10	0.120	10
Seychelles	0.352	5	0.238	11	0.068	15
Namibia	0.342	6	0.586	1	0.355	3
Comoros	0.338	7	0.012	16	0.086	13
Zambia	0.328	8	0.411	6	0.404	2
Botswana	0.326	9	0.478	5	0.334	4
Lesotho	0.303	10	0.569	3	0.063	16
Malawi	0.299	11	0.278	9	0.119	11
United Republic of Tanzania	0.293	12	0.200	13	0.146	9
Madagascar	0.286	13	0.214	12	0.082	14
Eswatini	0.253	14	0.585	2	0.093	12
Angola	0.226	15	0.197	14	0.278	6
Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.188	16	0.156	15	0.155	8
Average	0.337		0.340		0.239	
Standard deviation	0.103		0.170		0.223	

Table 3. Scores and Rankings on Each Dimension of Regional Integration – ECOWAS

Country	Regional integration	Ranking	Trade integration	Ranking	Productive integration	Ranking
Côte d'Ivoire	0.667	1	0.772	1	0.718	1
Burkina Faso	0.561	2	0.530	4	0.271	5
Senegal	0.516	3	0.567	3	0.388	3
Togo	0.504	4	0.580	2	0.226	7
Nigeria	0.464	5	0.456	9	0.540	2
Mali	0.454	6	0.517	5	0.101	9
Ghana	0.434	7	0.475	6	0.273	4
Benin	0.391	8	0.474	7	0.174	8
Guinea	0.389	9	0.304	12	0.061	12
The Gambia	0.386	10	0.442	10	0.057	14
Cabo Verde	0.363	11	0.210	14	0.087	11
Niger	0.321	12	0.467	8	0.000	15
Sierra Leone	0.316	13	0.275	13	0.060	13
Guinea-Bissau	0.314	14	0.307	11	0.095	10
Liberia	0.298	15	0.198	15	0.251	6
Average	0.425		0.438		0.220	
Standard deviation	0.101		0.150		0.193	

Scores are calculated on a score of 0 (low) to 1 (high).

- The country is a high performer: it scores higher than the average range.
- The country is an average performer: it scores within the average range.
- The country is a low performer: it scores below the average range.

Macroeconomic integration	Ranking	Infrastructural integration	Ranking	Free movement of people	Ranking	Performance		
						HIGH	AVERAGE	LOW
0.630	4	0.893	1	0.224	13	●		
0.656	3	0.110	8	0.797	2	●		
0.414	7	0.234	4	0.683	3	●		
0.720	1	0.446	3	0.344	12		●	
0.327	11	0.512	2	0.616	6		●	
0.365	10	0.200	7	0.224	13		●	
0.527	5	0.105	11	1.000	1		●	
0.226	14	0.219	6	0.390	10		●	
0.387	8	0.223	5	0.224	13		●	
0.323	12	0.050	14	0.561	7		●	
0.365	9	0.109	9	0.656	4		●	
0.701	2	0.066	13	0.390	10		●	
0.496	6	0.039	15	0.638	5			●
0.302	13	0.096	12	0.224	13			●
0.093	16	0.107	10	0.461	8			●
0.223	15	0.021	16	0.407	9			●
0.422		0.214		0.490				
0.178		0.221		0.223				

Macroeconomic integration	Ranking	Infrastructural integration	Ranking	Free movement of people	Ranking	Performance		
						HIGH	AVERAGE	LOW
0.449	5	0.656	1	0.667	4	●		
0.832	2	0.278	8	1.000	1	●		
0.449	5	0.503	2	0.667	4	●		
0.449	5	0.276	9	1.000	1	●		
0.252	15	0.349	5	0.667	4		●	
0.379	12	0.287	7	1.000	1		●	
0.253	14	0.474	4	0.667	4		●	
0.417	10	0.242	10	0.667	4		●	
0.862	1	0.214	11	0.667	4		●	
0.541	4	0.290	6	0.667	4		●	
0.417	11	0.500	3	0.667	4			●
0.449	5	0.071	15	0.667	4			●
0.550	3	0.122	12	0.667	4			●
0.449	5	0.113	13	0.667	4			●
0.288	13	0.103	14	0.667	4			●
0.469		0.298		0.733				
0.171		0.165		0.133				

Table 4. Scores and Rankings on Each Dimension of Regional Integration – ECCAS

Country	Regional integration	Ranking	Trade integration	Ranking	Productive integration	Ranking
Republic of the Congo	0.619	1	0.890	1	0.429	2
Gabon	0.612	2	0.504	2	0.391	3
Cameroon	0.599	3	0.383	4	0.871	1
Rwanda	0.594	4	0.296	8	0.356	5
Equatorial Guinea	0.453	5	0.372	6	0.322	6
São Tomé and Príncipe	0.422	6	0.192	9	0.130	10
Central African Republic	0.404	7	0.307	7	0.166	9
Chad	0.385	8	0.409	3	0.176	8
Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.304	9	0.080	11	0.270	7
Angola	0.273	10	0.374	5	0.359	4
Burundi	0.201	11	0.118	10	0.080	11
Average	0.442		0.357		0.323	
Standard deviation	0.141		0.208		0.205	

Table 5. Scores and Rankings on Each Dimension of Regional Integration – IGAD

Country	Regional integration	Ranking	Trade integration	Ranking	Productive integration	Ranking
Uganda	0.675	1	0.739	1	0.915	1
Kenya	0.674	2	0.566	2	0.813	2
Djibouti	0.537	3	0.549	3	0.200	3
Ethiopia	0.413	4	0.475	4	0.043	8
Somalia	0.404	5	0.297	7	0.175	4
Sudan	0.342	6	0.230	8	0.111	7
South Sudan	0.256	7	0.379	5	0.148	6
Eritrea	0.205	8	0.317	6	0.166	5
Average	0.438		0.444		0.321	
Standard deviation	0.166		0.159		0.317	

Table 6. Scores and Rankings on Each Dimension of Regional Integration – EAC

Country	Regional integration	Ranking	Trade integration	Ranking	Productive integration	Ranking
Kenya	0.792	1	0.628	2	0.822	2
Uganda	0.717	2	0.829	1	0.910	1
Rwanda	0.685	3	0.532	3	0.349	4
United Republic of Tanzania	0.513	4	0.309	4	0.446	3
Burundi	0.380	5	0.223	5	0.003	6
South Sudan	0.134	6	0.117	6	0.073	5
Average	0.537		0.440		0.434	
Standard deviation	0.226		0.246		0.342	

Scores are calculated on a score of 0 (low) to 1 (high).

- The country is a high performer: it scores higher than the average range.
- The country is an average performer: it scores within the average range.
- The country is a low performer: it scores below the average range.

Macroeconomic integration	Ranking	Infrastructural integration	Ranking	Free movement of people	Ranking	Performance		
						HIGH	AVERAGE	LOW
0.770	7	0.431	4	0.535	3	●		
0.793	5	0.827	1	0.535	3	●		
0.813	2	0.793	2	0.156	10	●		
0.923	1	0.407	5	1.000	1	●		
0.804	3	0.373	6	0.380	8		●	
0.803	4	0.507	3	0.473	6		●	
0.753	8	0.152	9	0.629	2		●	
0.781	6	0.000	11	0.535	3		●	
0.600	9	0.111	10	0.473	6			●
0.000	11	0.260	7	0.380	8			●
0.489	10	0.245	8	0.062	11			●
0.684		0.373		0.469				
0.243		0.251		0.234				

Macroeconomic integration	Ranking	Infrastructural integration	Ranking	Free movement of people	Ranking	Performance		
						HIGH	AVERAGE	LOW
0.386	3	0.609	3	0.771	3	●		
0.377	4	1.000	1	0.654	4	●		
0.309	7	0.718	2	1.000	1		●	
0.853	1	0.539	4	0.061	8		●	
0.352	5	0.279	6	1.000	1		●	
0.547	2	0.501	5	0.299	6		●	
0.309	6	0.038	8	0.416	5			●
0.249	8	0.157	7	0.117	7			●
0.423		0.480		0.540				
0.182		0.293		0.349				

Macroeconomic integration	Ranking	Infrastructural integration	Ranking	Free movement of people	Ranking	Performance		
						HIGH	AVERAGE	LOW
0.814	4	1.000	1	0.657	3	●		
0.495	5	0.619	3	0.657	3		●	
0.991	1	0.731	2	1.000	1		●	
0.833	2	0.600	4	0.410	6		●	
0.827	3	0.378	5	0.668	2		●	
0.000	6	0.000	6	0.590	5			●
0.660		0.555		0.664				
0.330		0.309		0.175				

Table 7. Scores and Rankings on Each Dimension of Regional Integration – CEN-SAD

Country	Regional integration	Ranking	Trade integration	Ranking	Productive integration	Ranking
Côte d'Ivoire	0.541	1	0.783	1	0.620	1
Senegal	0.509	2	0.585	2	0.388	5
Morocco	0.495	3	0.393	13	0.335	9
Burkina Faso	0.490	4	0.565	4	0.260	16
Ghana	0.487	5	0.517	6	0.269	12
Togo	0.480	6	0.536	5	0.268	13
Mali	0.422	7	0.571	3	0.118	23
Nigeria	0.414	8	0.514	7	0.619	2
Mauritania	0.413	9	0.319	18	0.033	29
Benin	0.407	10	0.476	10	0.196	18
Egypt	0.405	11	0.445	11	0.304	10
Kenya	0.403	12	0.301	19	0.249	17
The Gambia	0.387	13	0.486	9	0.090	26
Djibouti	0.386	14	0.301	20	0.189	19
Guinea	0.379	15	0.345	15	0.268	14
Somalia	0.375	16	0.035	29	0.397	4
Niger	0.350	17	0.495	8	0.047	28
Comoros	0.341	18	0.146	27	0.107	24
Tunisia	0.335	19	0.131	28	0.342	7
Central African Republic	0.327	20	0.267	24	0.381	6
Cabo Verde*	0.319	21	0.286	21	0.063	27
Libya	0.319	22	0.439	12	0.167	21
São Tomé and Príncipe	0.318	23	0.239	25	0.341	8
Guinea-Bissau	0.317	24	0.343	16	0.150	22
Liberia	0.309	25	0.268	23	0.412	3
Sierra Leone	0.309	26	0.385	14	0.273	11
Chad	0.285	27	0.270	22	0.097	25
Sudan	0.250	28	0.162	26	0.265	15
Eritrea	0.157	29	0.320	17	0.179	20
Average	0.377		0.377		0.256	
Standard deviation	0.084		0.161		0.147	

*Although Cabo Verde is no longer a member of CEN-SAD, its scores have been included to facilitate comparison to ARII 2016.

Scores are calculated on a score of 0 (low) to 1 (high).

- The country is a high performer: it scores higher than the average range.
- The country is an average performer: it scores within the average range.
- The country is a low performer: it scores below the average range.

Macroeconomic integration		Ranking	Infrastructural integration		Ranking	Free movement of people		Ranking	Performance		
									HIGH	AVERAGE	LOW
0.486	10		0.595	5		0.210	22		●		
0.484	11		0.467	6		0.623	10		●		
0.941	1		0.797	1		0.058	26		●		
0.573	4		0.268	13		0.772	8		●		
0.420	19		0.428	7		0.806	7		●		
0.484	12		0.269	12		0.829	6		●		
0.556	5		0.303	11		0.564	11		●		
0.348	22		0.376	8		0.187	23		●		
0.612	2		0.185	18		0.920	4		●		
0.478	13		0.244	14		0.634	9			●	
0.488	9		0.781	2		0.058	27			●	
0.222	26		0.332	9		0.920	5			●	
0.573	3		0.230	17		0.553	14			●	
0.261	25		0.173	19		1.000	1			●	
0.473	16		0.236	15		0.564	11			●	
0.312	24		0.114	26		1.000	1			●	
0.490	8		0.145	22		0.564	11			●	
0.315	23		0.137	23		1.000	1				●
0.406	20		0.693	3		0.152	25				●
0.444	18		0.079	28		0.436	19				●
0.495	7		0.331	10		0.440	18				●
0.382	21		0.651	4		0.000	29				●
0.458	17		0.146	21		0.389	20				●
0.477	14		0.128	24		0.475	17				●
0.195	28		0.123	25		0.518	15				●
0.528	6		0.151	20		0.187	23				●
0.475	15		0.092	27		0.482	16				●
0.211	27		0.234	16		0.377	21				●
0.194	29		0.060	29		0.011	28				●
0.441			0.302			0.508					
0.150			0.210			0.308					

Table 8. Scores and Rankings on Each Dimension of Regional Integration – COMESA

Country	Regional integration	Ranking	Trade integration	Ranking	Productive integration	Ranking
Kenya	0.596	1	0.571	4	0.663	2
Rwanda	0.556	2	0.631	2	0.371	8
Zambia	0.517	3	0.951	1	0.829	1
Egypt	0.483	4	0.487	6	0.586	3
Djibouti	0.456	5	0.423	12	0.257	10
Uganda	0.447	6	0.604	3	0.585	4
Somalia	0.426	7	0.267	19	0.273	9
Comoros	0.423	8	0.250	20	0.148	18
Mauritius	0.399	9	0.395	14	0.246	13
Madagascar	0.373	10	0.330	17	0.205	15
Seychelles	0.354	11	0.445	10	0.093	19
Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.343	12	0.477	8	0.569	5
Tunisia	0.323	13	0.149	21	0.443	6
Zimbabwe	0.316	14	0.481	7	0.168	16
Ethiopia	0.297	15	0.382	15	0.066	21
Libya	0.282	16	0.462	9	0.407	7
Malawi	0.258	17	0.527	5	0.247	12
Burundi	0.243	18	0.434	11	0.155	17
Sudan	0.230	19	0.362	16	0.248	11
Eswatini	0.202	20	0.405	13	0.083	20
Eritrea	0.183	21	0.306	18	0.243	14
Average	0.367		0.445		0.328	
Standard deviation	0.114		0.162		0.207	

Table 9. Scores and Rankings on Each Dimension of Regional Integration – AMU

Country	Regional integration	Ranking	Trade integration	Ranking	Productive integration	Ranking
Tunisia	0.780	1	0.790	1	0.796	1
Morocco	0.550	2	0.465	3	0.632	2
Algeria	0.547	3	0.507	2	0.604	3
Libya	0.307	4	0.390	4	0.211	4
Mauritania	0.255	5	0.253	5	0.000	5
Average	0.488		0.481		0.449	
Standard deviation	0.189		0.177		0.295	

Scores are calculated on a score of 0 (low) to 1 (high).

- The country is a high performer: it scores higher than the average range.
- The country is an average performer: it scores within the average range.
- The country is a low performer: it scores below the average range.

Macroeconomic integration	Ranking	Infrastructural integration	Ranking	Free movement of people	Ranking	Performance		
						HIGH	AVERAGE	LOW
0.389	9	0.616	2	0.734	5	●		
0.589	2	0.273	11	0.884	4	●		
0.147	19	0.380	8	0.361	10	●		
0.669	1	0.661	1	0.056	15	●		
0.352	12	0.186	15	1.000	1	●		
0.364	10	0.259	12	0.447	7	●		
0.364	11	0.150	19	1.000	1	●		
0.441	7	0.192	14	1.000	1	●		
0.502	4	0.470	7	0.374	9		●	
0.414	8	0.154	18	0.715	6		●	
0.336	13	0.565	3	0.330	11		●	
0.142	20	0.156	16	0.393	8		●	
0.471	5	0.514	4	0.052	16		●	
0.327	14	0.291	9	0.322	12			●
0.554	3	0.484	5	0.017	20			●
0.119	21	0.476	6	0.000	21			●
0.174	18	0.201	13	0.177	13			●
0.451	6	0.155	17	0.052	16			●
0.268	17	0.284	10	0.019	19			●
0.304	15	0.117	20	0.122	14			●
0.289	16	0.069	21	0.037	18			●
0.365		0.317		0.385				
0.145		0.176		0.352				

Macroeconomic integration	Ranking	Infrastructural integration	Ranking	Free movement of people	Ranking	Performance		
						HIGH	AVERAGE	LOW
0.623	3	0.906	1	0.665	2	●		
0.998	1	0.526	4	0.111	4		●	
0.404	4	0.550	3	0.665	2		●	
0.167	5	0.561	2	0.000	5			●
0.667	2	0.000	5	0.750	1			●
0.571		0.509		0.438				
0.278		0.290		0.316				

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