Annual percentage growth rate of GDP at market prices based on constant local currency.

**Unemployment** is defined as follows in the Resolution concerning statistics of the economically active population, employment, unemployment and underemployment, adopted by the Thirtieth International Conference of Labour Statisticians (Geneva, 1982):

- The "unemployed" comprise all persons above a specified age who during the reference period were: a: "without work", i.e. were not in paid employment or self-employment, as defined in paragraph 9; b: "currently available for work", i.e. were available for paid employment or self-employment during the reference period; and c: "seeking work", i.e. had taken specific steps in a specified reference period to seek paid employment or self-employment. The specific steps may include registration as a public or private employment exchange; application to employers; checking at worksites, farms, factory gates, market or other assembly places; placing or answering newspaper advertisements; seeking assistance of friends or relatives; looking for land, building, machinery or equipment to establish one’s enterprise; arranging for financial resources, applying for permits and licences, etc.

**Table:**

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<td>Benin</td>
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<td>Burkina Faso</td>
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<td>Kenya</td>
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<td>dancers</td>
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<td>South Africa</td>
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**Explanatory note:**

The data presented on this map should be interpreted with caution. The introduction to the ILO’s Decent Work Indicators in Africa: A First Assessment Based on National Sources Report (ILO, 2012), from which most of the data were taken, states that many of the countries have not contributed enough to the database in this context, so the concept of the world map is based on expert opinion. It is a summary of current figures for current purposes, so the employment rate in Africa, for example, is a rough estimate of the world map.
Piet Konings and the History of Labour Studies at the African Studies Centre

Labour relations and trade unions are prominent subjects in the work of Piet Konings who produced a remarkable corpus of empirical and comparative studies, notably on Ghana and Cameroon, during his distinguished career as a senior researcher at the African Studies Centre in Leiden between 1978 and 2008.

Piet Konings called himself a ‘sociologist of development’ and his early work was on labour relations, trade unions and developmental issues in Africa. His PhD thesis, which he defended at Tilburg University in 1977, was an historical-sociological study of the relationship between Ghanaian trade unions and government development strategies between 1974 and 1976. Numerous other papers on labour relations and labour protests followed and in the 1980s he published articles on Ghana’s rural society, revolutionary development and the role of miners, before gradually doing more research on Cameroon. His research there focused on Cameroonians who have always thrived, within their own specific circumstances and historical conditions, to take charge of their lives in contexts of insecurity and state unpredictability, and how they have survived and developed not only economically but also in multidimensional ways.

Piet remained closely involved in labour issues as they provided a way of gaining a deeper understanding of wider political problems and offered answers to questions about ‘insiders’ and ‘outsiders’ in the socio-political domain in Cameroon. His focus on labour relations is evident in his later monographs (1993, 1995 and 1998) on labour resistance, Unilever and tea estates in Cameroon.

A selection out of the oeuvre of Piet Konings:


Many of Piet's publication are freely available online. The others can be borrowed from the ASC Library. http://www.ascleiden.nl/library

Want to keep up-to-date on labour issues In Africa? Subscribe to the ASC Library's alert on labour in Africa: http://www.ascleiden.nl/?7=content-labour

The need for a renewed labour oriented research agenda for Africa

In light of Africa's booming economies and that, according to IMF figures, six out of ten of the world's fastest-growing economies were in Africa in 2011, it has become increasingly urgent to understand such growth from a labour perspective. Trade unions are important and active players in the development arena and are significant contributors to the development effectiveness debate, as was illustrated by the creation of the Trade Union Development Cooperation Network (TUDCN) in 2008 and the adoption of the Trade Union Principles and Guidelines on Development Effectiveness in 2011. But what do all these numbers, rankings, GDP figures and spectacular growth rates mean for African workers? Will they be better off in the future? To what extent are labour movements and labour-oriented institutions, including social dialogue, playing an instrumental role in these processes? Although the Decent Work agenda is gaining importance, questions about the extent to which labour can benefit from the current economic boom in Africa remain largely unanswered. Against this backdrop, the African Studies Centre set up a research collaborative entitled ‘Labour Issues and Trade Unions in Africa Today’ in January 2013. Its aim is to fill the gap in current knowledge by creating and supporting a labour-oriented research network in Africa who are working in business, policymaking and other organizations.

If you are interested in joining the research collaborative or would like to be kept informed about upcoming events and research results, contact André Leliveld: lelivaehi@ascleiden.nl

If you want to learn more about labour issues and trade unions in Africa the following institutions and organization might be of interest.

Trade unions and labour NGOs:

CNV International http://www.cnvinternational.nl/
ACV: contact Karin Debroyo (309K9DBV@acv-csc.be) FOS-socialist solidarity http://www.fos-socialbe/
World Solidarity (WSM) http://www.wsm.be/
Liberal Trade Union of Belgium (ACLVB) http://www.cgbib.be
Trade Union Development Cooperation Network (TUDCN) http://www.tudcn.org/development-cooperation/lang=en

The African Studies Centre (ASC)
The ASC in Leiden, founded in 1947, is the only research institute in the Netherlands devoted entirely to the study of Africa. Its primary aims are to undertake scientific research on Africa in the social sciences, humanities and arts and to promote a better understanding of African societies. It is an independent institute but maintains close links with Leiden University, as part of LeidenGlobal. The ASC’s work is not only of importance to researchers but also to policymakers, journalists, NGOs, businesses and other organizations.

Research
The ASC’s research programme lasts for a period of five years. Projects are multidisciplinary, employ in-house expertise in collaboration with African colleagues and institutions by the Centre’s researchers and PhD and Research Masters students.

Library
The ASC’s Library, Documentation and Information Department has the most extensive and specialized collection on Africa in the Netherlands for the social sciences (including law and economics) and the humanities. The library, which is open to the general public, has more than 80,000 books, 1,500 documentaries and feature films from and about Africa, and subscribes to nearly 750 periodicals. African Studies Abstracts Online offers some 10,000 abstracts and journal articles and web directories provide background information on specific topics.

Publications
ASC researchers publish in many different journals and with well-known publishing houses. The Centre also has five publication series of its own.

Africa Yearbook
Afrika-Studiecentrum Series
African Dynamics
African Studies Collection
ASC Infosheets

Seminars Regular seminars are held at the ASC on Thursday afternoons on a wide range of topics. These are given by prominent local and international experts and are open to the general public.

Visiting Fellows
Eight African academics are invited to Leiden every year on three-month fellowships to promote an effective academic dialogue between Africa and the North. These scholars use their stay in Leiden for data analysis and writing.

Research Masters in African Studies
The ASC offers a two-year Research Masters in African Studies in cooperation with Leiden University’s Faculty of Humanities and the Faculty of Social Sciences. About 60% of the students on this course come from outside the Netherlands. The winning thesis is published in the African Studies Collection series.

ASC Community
The ASC Community includes fellows, affiliates and associates of the Centre, and people with a professional interest in Africa who are working in business, policymaking, NGOs and in media circles.

If we would like to welcome you as a partner in the ASC Community?

http://www.ascleiden.nl/?7=content-asccommunity

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Dr. André Leliveld (ASC), Dr. Mayke Kaag (ASC), Sherif Maher (Suez Canal University)
Dr. Andrii Leliveld (ASC), Dr. Mayke Kaag (ASC), Sherif Maher (Suez Canal University) and Nel de Vink (DeVink Mapdesign)

Africa 2013 – African Studies Centre
Africa's Economic Growth from a Labour Perspective: Selected Decent Work Indicators

Employment by economic classification in the developing regions, 2001 and 2011
Share in total employment (%)

2001 2011

Sub-Saharan Africa

South Asia

East Asia

Latin America and the Caribbean

Middle East

Developing middle class

Developing middle class and above

Developing middle class

Near poor

Extremely poor

2001

2011

Sub-Saharan Africa

South Asia

East Asia

Latin America and the Caribbean

Middle East

Developing middle class

Developing middle class and above

Developing middle class

Near poor

Extremely poor

This figure shows the relative impact of Africa's growth on productive employment. When comparing Sub-Saharan Africa and East Asia, for instance, it can be seen that more than 60% of those employed in Sub-Saharan Africa fall in the extremely poor and moderately poor categories, despite the continent's growing middle class. In East Asia, on the other hand, there has been a significant increase in the developing middle class. The percentage of extremely poor in North Africa is considerably lower than in Sub-Saharan Africa but the group of near poor as a share of total employment is the largest.


If you need to learn more about labour issues and trade unions in Africa the following institutions and organization might be of interest.

Research Institutes:

Institute for Work and Society (HWV)at the Catholic University of Leuven: http://www.ihwv.kuleuven.be/
International Institute for Social History (IISH) in Amsterdam: http://socialhistory.org/en/region-africa

International Institute for Social History (IISH) in Amsterdam:

http://www.soas.ac.uk/adl-development-research/labour/