

Africa Emerges as the Next Global Manufacturing Powerhouse

Johannesburg, South Africa: 12 August 2024 – Africa is rapidly positioning itself as a key player in the global manufacturing landscape, offering unprecedented opportunities for growth and investment. With manufacturing contributing over **10.5%** to the continent's GDP, Africa is on the cusp of a manufacturing revolution, driven by dynamic economies such as South Africa, Nigeria, and Egypt.

Investment Opportunities Abound

Africa's manufacturing sector is witnessing robust growth, with top-performing nations like South Africa, which leads the continent, followed by Nigeria and Egypt, making significant strides in industries including automotive, textiles, and consumer goods. The continent's increasing focus on industrialization, coupled with favourable policies and emerging trade agreements like the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), is creating an ideal environment for businesses seeking to expand their global footprint.

Special Economic Zones (SEZs) across the continent are at the forefront of this transformation. Notably, Ethiopia's **Hawassa Industrial Park** has become a magnet for foreign direct investment, particularly in the textile and apparel industries. Likewise, Morocco and South Africa's burgeoning automotive sectors, which together produce nearly **1 million** vehicles annually, highlight Africa's growing significance in global supply chains.

Top Manufacturing Countries in Africa

- **South Africa** is the largest manufacturing hub on the continent, contributing approximately **13%** of its GDP from the sector.
- **Nigeria** follows, where manufacturing contributes around **8.7%** of GDP, heavily driven by food, beverages, and tobacco industries.
- **Egypt** is another key player, with manufacturing contributing **16.7%** to its GDP, driven by textiles, chemicals, and consumer goods.

Sustainability at the Core

As global attention shifts towards sustainable practices, African nations are not being left behind. Investments in renewable energy and green manufacturing are gaining momentum, with countries like South Africa leading initiatives to reduce carbon footprints in manufacturing. These efforts not only align with global sustainability trends but also make Africa an attractive destination for eco-conscious investors.

The Time to Invest is Now

Africa's youthful and rapidly growing population represents a vast workforce and a burgeoning consumer market, making it an ideal location for manufacturing investments. With foreign direct investment in the sector on the rise, particularly in high-growth areas like automotive, textiles, and food processing, now is the time to seize the opportunity.

Join the Revolution at the 2024 Manufacturing Indaba

Africa's manufacturing sector is poised for exponential growth, and the world is taking notice. As the continent embraces industrialisation and innovation, it is set to become a global manufacturing powerhouse. Companies and investors are encouraged to be part of Africa's industrial renaissance, driving the future of manufacturing on the continent. These critical issues of manufacturing growth and potential will take center stage at the upcoming [Manufacturing Indaba Conference and Exhibition](#). This premier event, set to take place from the 22 – 23 October 2024 at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa, will bring together industry leaders, policymakers, and investors to discuss the future of manufacturing in Africa. Don't miss this opportunity to engage with key stakeholders and be part of Africa's industrial renaissance.

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