



Ghana

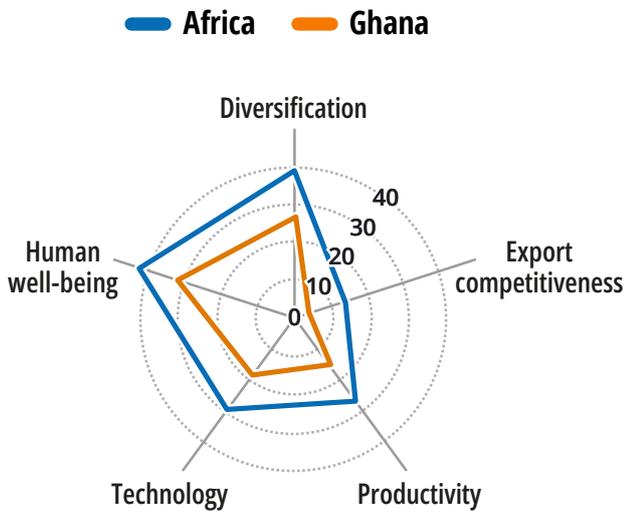
acetforafrica.org/ati/ghana

📍 Capital City: Accra • Population: 33.5 million
 • Population Growth: 1.9% • GDP Growth: 3.2%
 • GDP per capita: US\$2176 — Source: World Bank Open Data (2022)

2020 SCORE
19.1
/100

CHANGE
▼ -0.7
SINCE 2000

DEPTH comparison

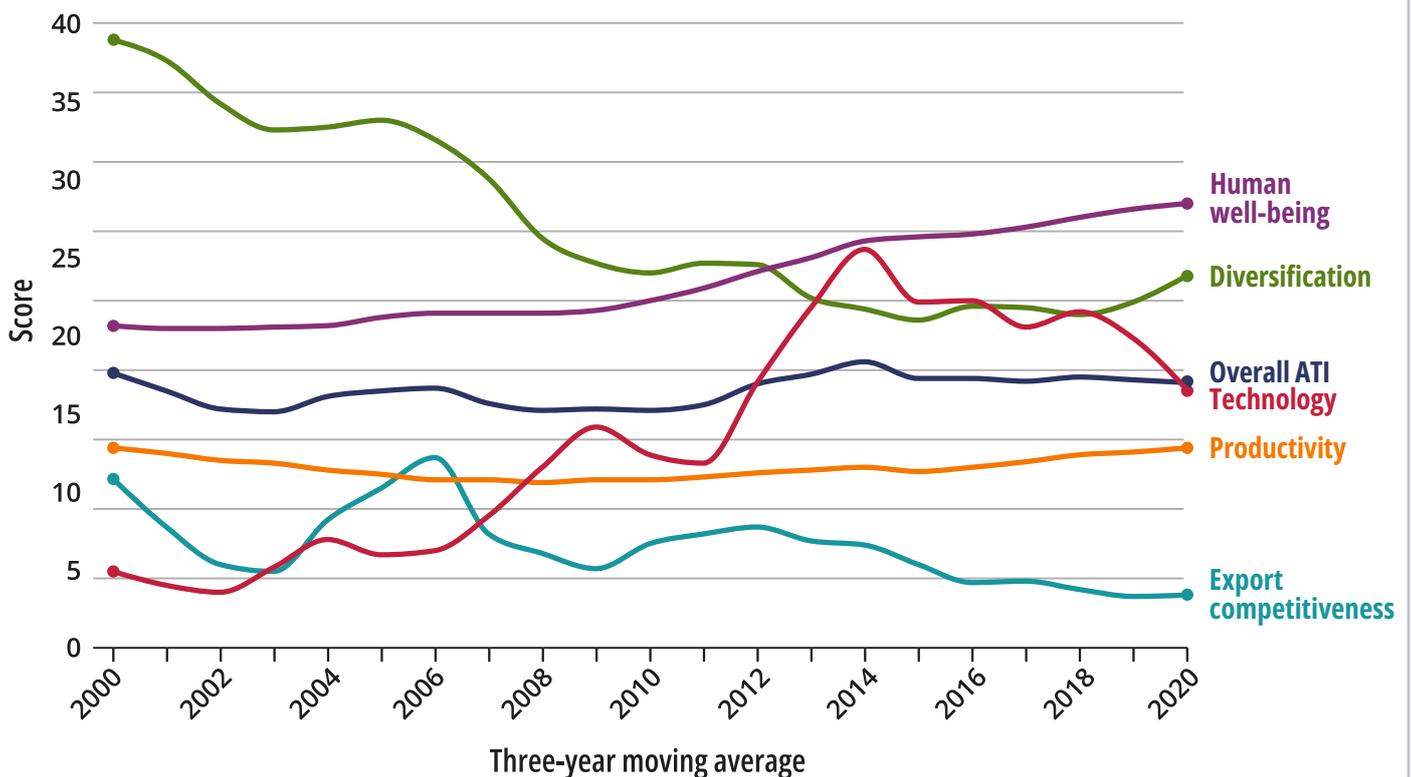


Ghana's DEPTH scores, 2020

D Diversification	26.8	▼ -17.0
E Export competitiveness	3.8	▼ -8.4
P Productivity increases	14.4	▲ +0.1
T Technology upgrading	18.6	▲ +13.1
H Human well-being	32	▲ +8.8

CHANGE FROM 2000 TO 2020, SCORES OUT OF 100

Economic transformation in Ghana, 2000–2020



Ghana is a lower-middle-income country in West Africa. Between 2000 and 2020, the country experienced rapid GDP growth, reaching an all-time high of 14.1 percent in 2011, when the country's commercial oil production began. However, growth has been sensitive to investment uncertainty in the traditional sectors. The economy has also suffered from falling productivity in the manufacturing sector and high vulnerability to external and commodity price shocks. Overall, Ghana's development is marred by numerous challenges, including debt and energy crises, large trade and fiscal imbalances, infrastructure weaknesses, and inconsistent long-term development planning.

DEPTH performance

Ghana is a low economic transformer with an overall ATI score of 19.1. Its DEPTH progress has been weak and unstable since peaking with an overall ATI score at 20.6 in 2014. Ghana scores below the African average in every DEPTH dimension, with particularly poor scores in *Productivity increases* and *Export competitiveness* and a rapid decline in *Diversification*.

26.8 Diversification

Ghana performs increasingly poorly in this dimension. It has become significantly less diversified since 2000, even as the economy shifted from farming to services, aided by government support for the banking and ICT sectors. It has leapfrogged industrial development with the share of manufacturing declining by more than half between 2000 and 2020. Exports have become increasingly concentrated, with the share of the top five products (crude oil, cocoa, gold, wood products, and fruit and nuts) rising from 70 percent in 2000 to 89 percent in 2020.

3.8 Export competitiveness

Ghana scores very low in this dimension, a reflection of its limited integration into global and regional value chains. Ghana is constrained by low product diversification and a lack of export sophistication. Almost all of Ghana's current export basket—94 percent—has low technology content, which has not changed significantly over the last 30 years. This reflects, in part, the country's limited success in diversifying into non-traditional exports and upgrading technology for production. Consequently, Ghana's competitiveness has not been improving over time, and the country remains vulnerable to external shocks.

14.4 Productivity increases

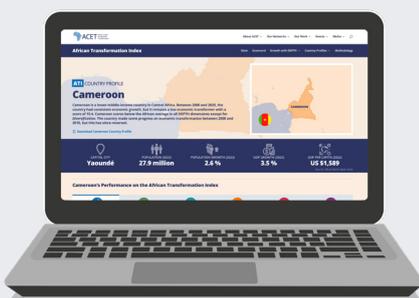
Ghana's productivity is significantly below the African average. Labor productivity has remained flat since 2000. Manufacturing labor productivity dropped by almost 50 percent between 2012 and 2020, and services productivity has remained relatively flat. However, agricultural productivity started increasing steadily after 2010.

18.6 Technology upgrading

Ghana scores significantly below the African average in this dimension, though it has begun to catch up to its peers. The generally poor technology content of production and mechanized exports partly reflects the inability of the small manufacturing sector to access highly skilled and innovative workers capable of applying more complex production technologies. Progress has also been limited by energy supply challenges and a lack of investment in research and development.

32 Human well-being

Ghana performs best on *Human well-being* but remains below the African average. Robust growth and significant improvement in per capita incomes—from \$935 in 2000 to \$1815 in 2020—contributed to a substantial reduction in poverty, but income inequality remains relatively high. While there has been progress in formal sector employment, the vast majority of workers, especially female workers, remain in the informal sector.



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