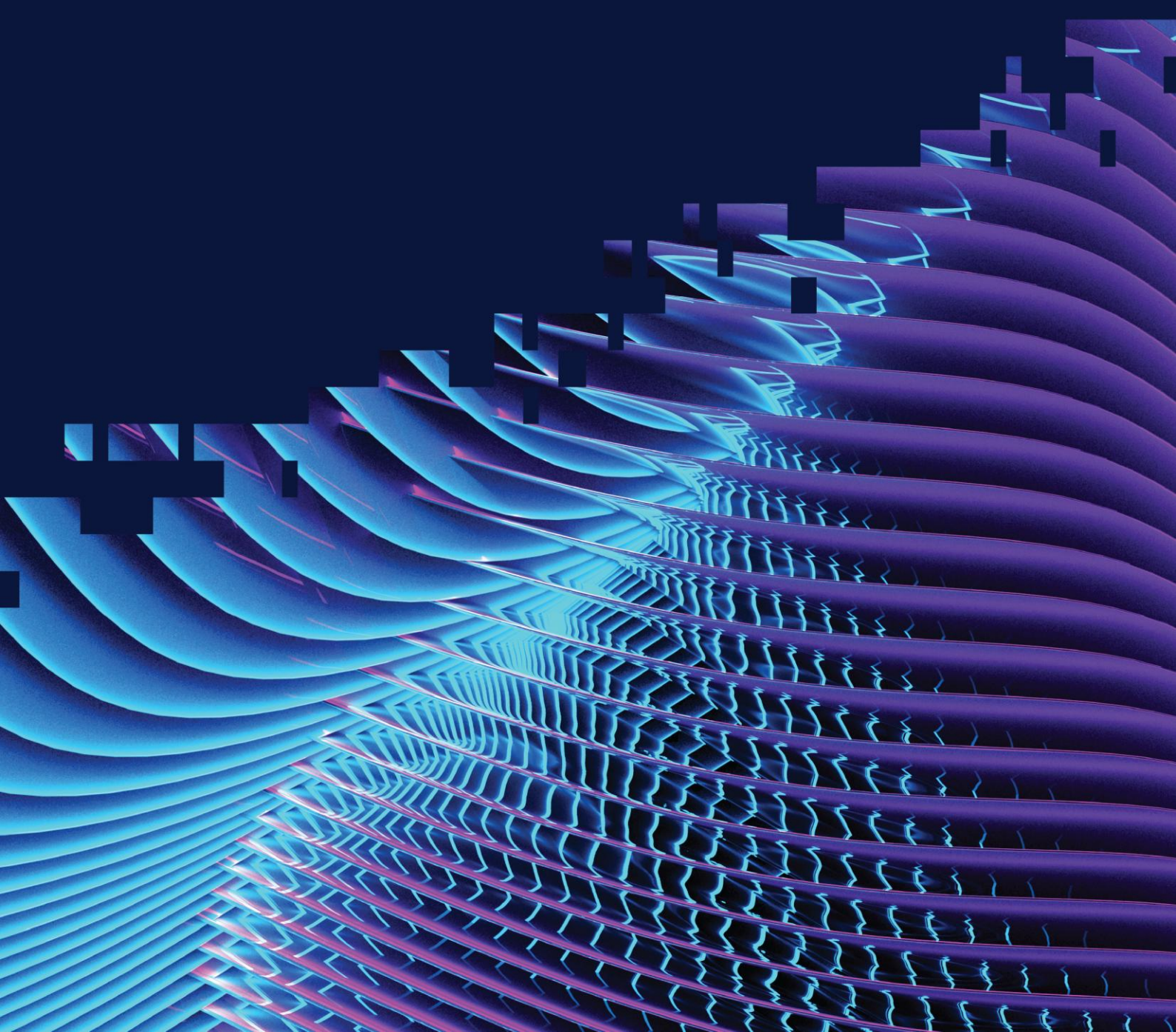


RSMEA Newsletter

# Overview of the Kenya 2026/27 National Budget



# CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....3

GLOBAL ECONOMIC OUTLOOK.....4

REGIONAL ECONOMIC OVERVIEW.....6

KENYA'S ECONOMIC OUTLOOK .....10

BUDGET SPEECH HIGHLIGHTS .....12

KEY SECTOR ALLOCATIONS.....13

### Caveat

This newsletter has been prepared by RSM (Eastern Africa) Consulting Ltd, and the views are those of the firm, independent of its directors, employees and associates. This newsletter is for general guidance, and does not constitute professional advice. Accordingly, RSM (Eastern Africa) Consulting Ltd, its directors, employees, associates and its agents accept no liability for the consequences of anyone acting, or refraining from acting, in reliance on the information contained herein or for any decision based on it. No part of the newsletter may be reproduced or published without prior written consent. RSM (Eastern Africa) Consulting Ltd is a member firm of RSM, a worldwide network of accounting and consulting firms. RSM does not offer professional services in its own name and each member firm of RSM is a legally separate and independent national firm.



## INTRODUCTION

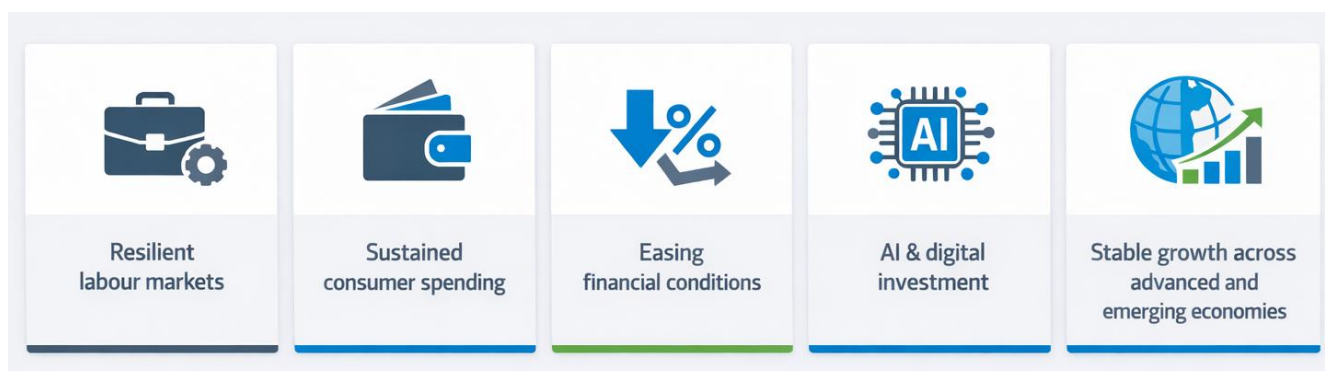
On 11<sup>th</sup> June 2026, the Cabinet Secretary for the National Treasury and Economic Planning, John Mbadi, presented the FY 2026/27 Budget Statement to Parliament, outlining the Government's fiscal priorities, expenditure plans, and revenue strategy. As the fourth budget under the Kenya Kwanza Administration, the budget is anchored on the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), which seeks to promote inclusive growth, strengthen economic resilience, create jobs, and improve livelihoods amid a challenging global economic environment characterized by geopolitical tensions, inflationary pressures, high debt levels, and market volatility.

The FY 2026/27 budget proposes total expenditure of KShs. 4.82 trillion (23.2% of GDP), with priority allocations to education, healthcare, security, infrastructure, affordable housing, and social empowerment programmes. Total revenue and grants are projected at KShs. 3.63 trillion, including KShs. 2.986 trillion in ordinary revenue, with the Government focusing on broadening the tax base, enhancing compliance, and improving tax administration rather than introducing significant new taxes. Despite the projected revenue growth, the budget anticipates a fiscal deficit of approximately KShs. 1.17 trillion, underscoring the need to balance economic growth, fiscal consolidation, and debt sustainability. Below is an analysis of the economic outlook and the key highlights of the FY 2026/27 Budget Statement.



## GLOBAL ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

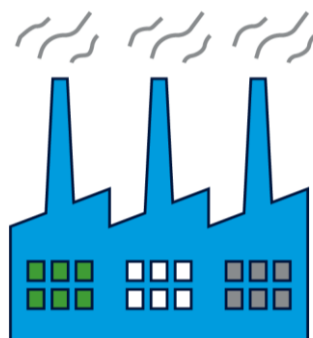
The global economy entered 2026 with relatively strong underlying momentum, supported by resilient labour markets, sustained consumer spending, easing financial conditions, and continued investment in artificial intelligence (AI) and digital technologies. Growth in several advanced and emerging economies remained broadly stable throughout 2025, underpinned by declining inflation, improved household spending power, and strong demand for technology related goods and services. Furthermore, the rapid adoption of AI technologies has emerged as a significant driver of investment, productivity enhancement, and international trade, particularly in technologically advanced economies.



Despite these positive developments, the global economic outlook has become increasingly uncertain following the escalation of the conflict in the Middle East in early 2026. The conflict has significantly altered the global economic landscape by increasing geopolitical risks, disrupting commodity markets, and creating renewed concerns regarding inflation and energy security. As a result, many international institutions have revised their growth forecasts downward, reflecting the growing risks to global economic stability and the possibility of prolonged economic disruption.

One of the most significant transmission channels through which the conflict has affected the global economy is the energy market. The Middle East remains a critical supplier of global oil and natural gas, and the escalation of hostilities has heightened concerns regarding the security of energy production facilities and key shipping routes, particularly around the Strait of Hormuz. As one of the world's most important maritime transit corridors for crude oil and liquefied natural gas, any disruption within the region has immediate implications for global energy prices. As such, oil and gas prices have experienced significant volatility, increasing production and transportation costs across multiple sectors of the global economy.

The rise in energy prices has also had a cascading effect on other commodities and industrial inputs. Fertilisers, petrochemicals, sulphur, and helium, many of which are linked directly or indirectly to energy production, have experienced notable price increases. These developments have elevated operational costs for manufacturers, agricultural producers, transport operators, and other energy-intensive industries. Developing economies have been particularly vulnerable to these shocks due to their reliance on imported fuel and commodity inputs, exposing them to higher inflationary pressures and widening fiscal imbalances.



According to the United Nations World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) Mid-Year Update 2026, global economic growth is projected to slow to 2.5% in 2026 as geopolitical tensions, trade uncertainties, and rising commodity prices weigh on economic activity. This projection represents a significant downward revision from earlier expectations and underscores the fragility of the global recovery. While some moderation in inflation and monetary tightening had previously supported expectations of stronger growth, the renewed geopolitical tensions have introduced additional headwinds to economic expansion.

Global trade continues to demonstrate resilience despite the challenging geopolitical environment. Demand for technology products, digital infrastructure, semiconductors, and AI-related services remains strong and continues to support international trade flows. Increased investment in AI infrastructure, cloud computing, data centres, and digital transformation initiatives has emerged as an important source of economic activity and productivity growth. These developments are particularly evident in Asia, North America, and select European economies where governments and private sector investors continue to allocate substantial resources towards technological innovation.

Looking ahead, risks to the global economic outlook remain predominantly tilted to the downside. A prolonged escalation of the Middle East conflict could result in sustained energy supply disruptions, further increases in commodity prices, tighter financial conditions, and weaker investment activity. Under adverse scenarios, global growth could slow considerably, accompanied by higher inflation, increased unemployment, and deteriorating fiscal positions in many economies. Additional risks include rising sovereign debt burdens, financial market volatility, climate-related shocks, and the potential for escalating trade disputes among major economies.

To support sustainable and inclusive growth, policymakers will need to strike a careful balance between maintaining price stability and supporting economic activity. Fiscal policy should focus on preserving debt sustainability while promoting strategic investments in infrastructure, technology, education, and energy security. Similarly, structural reforms aimed at enhancing labour market participation, improving business environments, strengthening supply chain resilience, and fostering innovation will remain critical to supporting long-term economic growth.

Table 1 below summarizes the World Economic Outlook Projections:

World Economic Outlook (Real GDP in %)			
Real GDP Growth (%)	Average	Projections	
	2025	2026	2027
Global economy (World)	3.4	3.1	3.2
Advanced Economies	1.9	1.8	1.7
Emerging and Developing Asia	5.5	4.9	4.8
Emerging and Developing Europe	2.0	2.0	2.1
Latin America and the Caribbean	2.4	2.3	2.7
Middle East and Central Asia	3.6	1.9	4.9
Sub-Saharan Africa	4.5	4.3	4.4

Table 1 Source (IMF World Economic Outlook)



## REGIONAL ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

Africa commenced 2026 with stronger macroeconomic fundamentals following significant stabilization efforts undertaken over the past two years. Declining inflation, improving fiscal balances, strengthening external positions, and easing monetary conditions supported economic recovery across much of the continent. However, this recovery faces renewed headwinds arising from escalating geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, increasing trade fragmentation, declining development assistance, and persistent debt vulnerabilities.

## GROWTH TRENDS

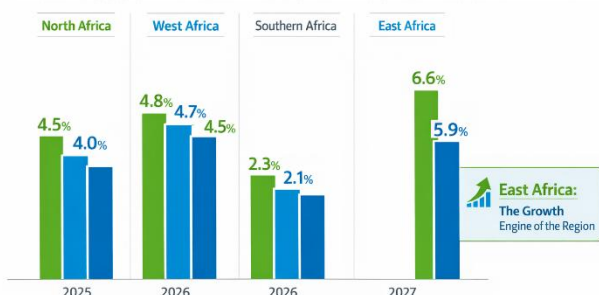
At the start of 2026, the global economy had a considerable strain, shaped by geopolitical tensions, supply chain disruptions, and volatile commodity markets. The Middle East conflict has intensified these pressures, raising energy, fertilizer, and shipping costs, which in turn fuel inflation and production challenges worldwide. Africa nonetheless showed resilience in 2025, with GDP growth rising supported by stronger commodity prices, easing inflation, improved terms of trade, and accommodative financial conditions.

The African Development Bank reviewed the growth numbers within the specific sub-regions in Africa, North Africa, Africa, Southern Africa, East Africa however remains the continent's growth engine, driven by infrastructure investment, services expansion, regional integration, and favourable demographics.

### Africa Growth Outlook



### Africa Regional Growth Comparison



### East Africa Growth Engine

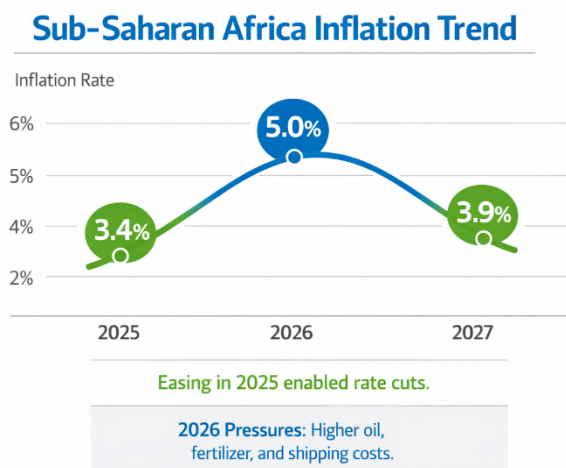


Fastest-Growing Region in Africa



## INFLATION AND INTEREST RATES

Inflation moderated significantly across Africa during 2025 as food and fuel prices stabilised, exchange rates strengthened and monetary policy remained relatively tight. Across Sub-Saharan Africa, median inflation declined allowing several countries to begin reducing policy interest rates.



However, inflationary pressures have re-emerged in 2026 following the escalation of the Middle East conflict. Rising oil and fertilizer prices, together with shipping disruptions, have increased production costs and import bills across the continent with IMF projections indicating that median inflation in Sub-Saharan Africa will increase by the end of 2026 before moderating in 2027.

East African economies remain particularly vulnerable due to their dependence on imported petroleum products and agricultural inputs. Higher fertilizer prices present significant risks to agricultural production and food security, while elevated transport costs are likely to increase the prices of consumer goods.

This is evident by the slight widening of the fiscal deficit in 2025 among African countries reflecting weak revenue. This is expected to widen further especially for non-oil importing countries which are expected to face higher import bills due to higher oil prices. This is especially the case for East African countries.

## DEBT SUSTAINABILITY AND MACROECONOMIC STABILITY

Public debt sustainability remains one of the most significant macroeconomic challenges facing African economies.

### AFRICA PUBLIC DEBT AND DEBT SERVICE PRESSURE

TOTAL PUBLIC DEBT IN 2024

**\$1.9 TRILLION**

Share of Government Revenue Spent on Debt Servicing



Higher global interest rates and tighter financial conditions are increasing debt burdens across Africa.

The IMF notes that more than one-third of Sub-Saharan African countries are currently at high risk of debt distress or already in debt distress. In addition, fiscal deficits in many countries remain above levels required to stabilise public debt. Rising borrowing costs and declining development assistance have further complicated debt management efforts.

Although stronger growth has helped improve debt-to-GDP ratios in some countries, fiscal vulnerabilities remain elevated. Sustaining growth rates above borrowing costs remains critical to maintaining debt sustainability over the medium term.

The IMF further highlights that declining Official Development Assistance represents an emerging fiscal challenge, particularly for low-income and fragile states. Reduced concessional financing may compel governments to rely increasingly on more expensive domestic and commercial borrowing, potentially exacerbating debt sustainability concerns and crowding out private sector credit.

## FISCAL AND MONETARY POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

Fiscal consolidation efforts across Africa continued in 2025, supported by improved revenue collection, prudent expenditure management and stronger economic growth. Despite these gains, fiscal space remains constrained by rising debt-servicing costs, declining concessional financing and increasing development expenditure needs.

The IMF projects Sub-Saharan Africa's fiscal deficit to widen due to higher fuel costs and social protection spending.

### Expected fiscal deficit



On the monetary front, central banks generally maintained prudent policy stances during 2025. As inflation eased and exchange rates stabilized, several countries, including Kenya, begun gradually lowering interest rates to support economic activity. However, rising global energy and food prices have increased inflationary risks, requiring policymakers to balance economic growth objectives with the need to maintain price and exchange rate stability. Consequently, the IMF advises central banks to remain cautious and avoid premature monetary easing where inflation expectations remain vulnerable.



## REGIONAL RISKS AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

### Regional Risks, Impact and Policy Response

#### 1. Regional Risk

Middle East conflict

#### 2. Main Impact

Higher fuel, fertiliser and shipping costs

#### 3. Policy Response

Maintain prudent monetary and FX policy



#### Debt vulnerability

Reduced fiscal space and higher debt service

Strengthen domestic resource mobilisation



#### Climate and food security

Lower agricultural output and higher food prices

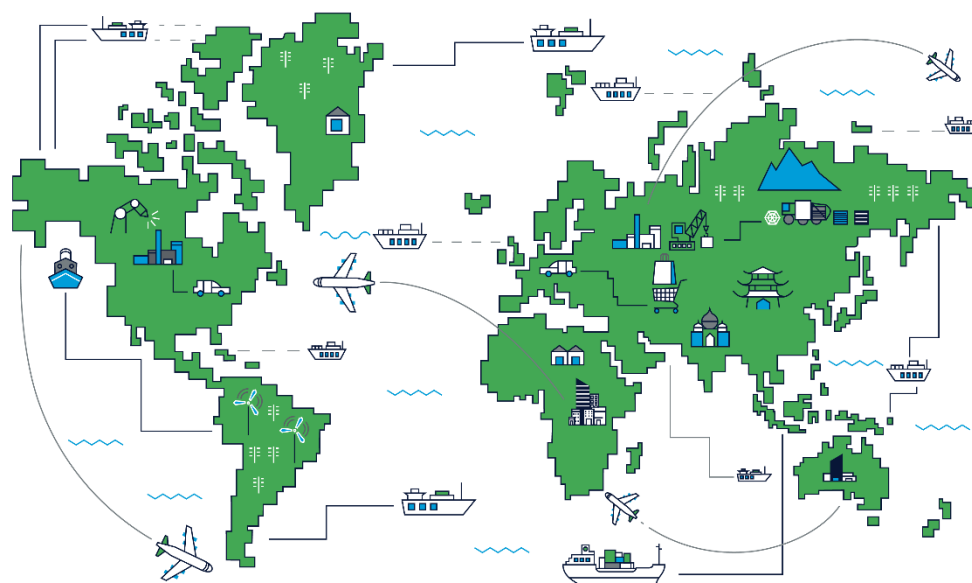
Reduce import dependence and improve resilience



#### External financing pressure

Less concessional funding and tighter liquidity

Attract external flows and deepen capital markets

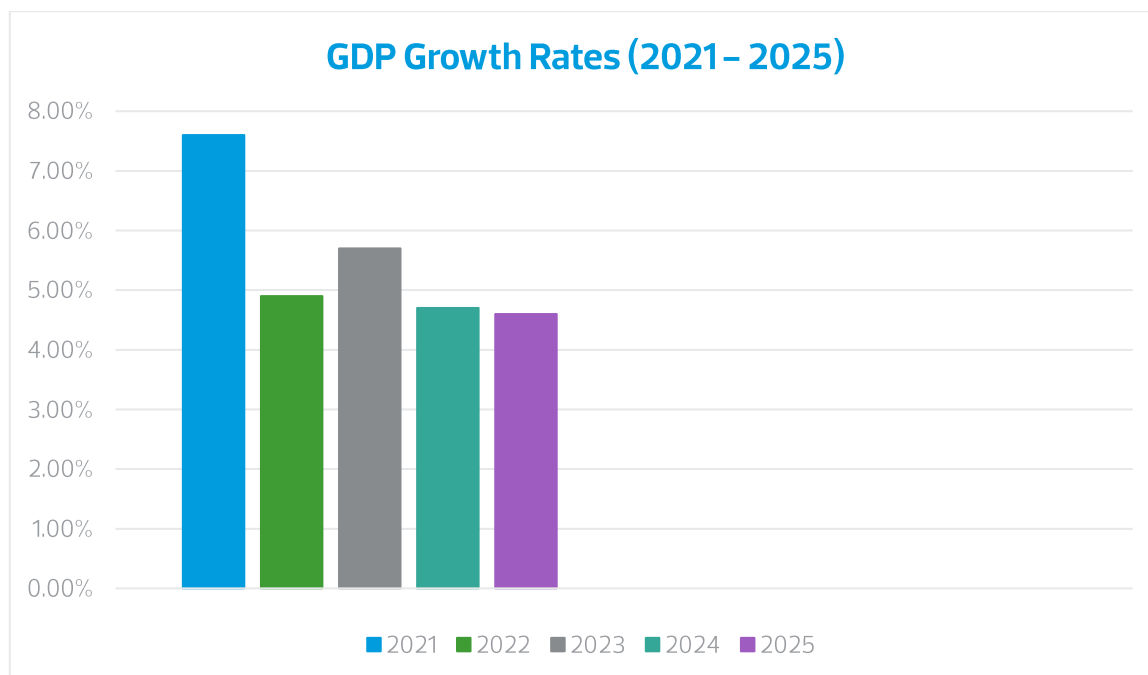


## KENYA'S ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

### MACROECONOMIC INDICATORS

Kenya remains East Africa's largest economy, with a reported GDP of KShs. 17.6 trillion/\$ 136 billion in 2025 and a reported GDP per capita of \$ 2,549 trillion per the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics.

This represented a 4.6% GDP growth rate with an expected growth rate of 5 – 5.2% in 2026.



The growth was supported by the diversified economy, spanning from infrastructure upgrades and regional trade.

Average inflation has however spiked from an average 4.1% in 2025 to 6.7% in May 2026. This was attributed mainly to the higher energy prices arising from the elevated global prices; however, it is important to note that the inflation has remained within Kenya's 5+2.5% target.

Period	Inflation Rate
Average inflation (2025)	4.1%
May 2025 inflation	3.8%
April 2026	5.6%
May 2026	6.1%

In the Banking Sector, monetary conditions have eased with the Central Bank rate reducing from 11.25% in December 2024 to 9% in December 2025 to 8.75% as at May 2026. There was also growth in deposits by 10.1% (commercial banks) and 5.3% (microfinance banks), while assets grew by 10.8%, 5.7%, and 11.5% across commercial banks, microfinance banks, and DT SACCOs, respectively.

Further, as per the Cabinet Secretary for Finance, the Country as of May 2026 maintains forex reserves of \$ 13.2 Billion which reflects 5.6 months of import cover. However, Kenya recorded a trade deficit in Q1 of 2026 of 164 billion Quarter 1 of 2026 despite the Balance of Trade averaging 638 billion.

Agricultural products remain central to Kenya's export industry with horticultural and tea being the most important with major imports being imports remained machinery and transportation equipment, petroleum products, motor vehicles, iron and steel, resins and plastics.



In the markets, the NSE 20 Share Index rose by 59.9% between May 2026 and May 2025 while market capitalization expanded by 61.6% within the same period.



## BALANCE OF TRADE

The nation recorded a trade deficit of 164 billion Quarter 1 of 2026 despite the Balance of Trade averaging 638 billion.<sup>1</sup> Agricultural products remain central to Kenya's export industry with horticultural and tea being the most important. Other export items include textiles, coffee, tobacco, iron and steel products, petroleum products, cement.<sup>2</sup>

In the relevant period, Kenya's main export destinations are the UK, Netherlands, Uganda, Tanzania, United States and Pakistan. On the other hand, Kenya's imports remained machinery and transportation equipment, petroleum products, motor vehicles, iron and steel, resins and plastics. Kenya's main import partners are India, China, UAE, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, United States and Japan.

<sup>1</sup>Trading Economics, Kenya's Balance of Trade, 2026. Available online at [www.tradeeconomics.com](http://www.tradeeconomics.com)

<sup>2</sup>Ibid

## BUDGET SPEECH HIGHLIGHTS

### REVENUE PROJECTIONS

The Government projects total revenue for FY 2026/27 at KShs. 3.63 trillion (17.4% of GDP), up from the FY 2025/26 target of KShs. 3.32 trillion. The increase reflects the Government's continued commitment to strengthening domestic revenue mobilization through enhanced tax administration, improved compliance, and expansion of the tax base, while maintaining its position of not introducing broad-based tax rate increases.

The revenue strategy is anchored on improving efficiency in revenue collection and leveraging digital systems to enhance compliance. Ordinary revenue is expected to contribute KShs. 2.99 trillion, while Appropriation-in-Aid collections are projected at KShs. 644.8 billion.

Revenue Source	KShs. Billion	% of GDP
Ordinary Revenue	2,985.70	14.3
Appropriation-in-Aid	644.8	3.1
Grants	43.6	0.2
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>3,630.50</b>	<b>17.4</b>



### EXPENDITURE PROJECTIONS

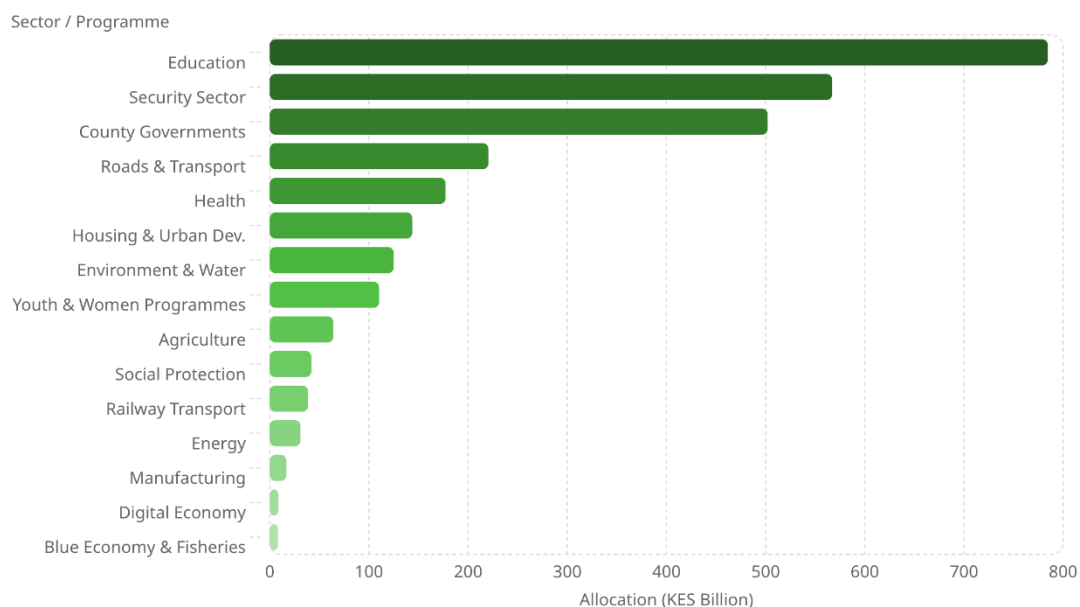
Total expenditure for FY 2026/27 is projected at KShs. 4.82 trillion, equivalent to 23.2% of GDP, underscoring the Government's continued investment in economic transformation, infrastructure development, human capital, and social protection programmes.

Recurrent expenditure remains the largest component of the budget at KShs. 3.57 trillion, while development expenditure is projected at KShs. 750 billion. County Governments have been allocated KShs. 502 billion to support devolved service delivery and local development initiatives.

Expenditure Category	KShs. Billion	% of GDP
Recurrent Expenditure	3,568.40	17.1
Development Expenditure	750	3.6
County Government Allocations	502	2.5
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>4,820.40</b>	<b>23.2</b>

## KEY SECTOR ALLOCATIONS

The FY 2026/27 Budget continues to prioritise investments in human capital, infrastructure development, affordable housing, healthcare, agriculture, and digital transformation. Education remains the largest beneficiary of public expenditure, while significant resources have also been directed towards security, transport infrastructure, health, and housing. These allocations signal areas where Government demand, procurement opportunities, and policy support are likely to remain strongest over the medium term.



Education leads at KShs. 784.5 billion, followed by the Security Sector at KShs. 567 billion and County Governments at KShs. 502 billion. Together, these three categories account for the vast majority of budgeted expenditure, underscoring the Government's priorities around human capital, national security, and devolved governance.

## FISCAL DEFICIT AND FINANCING

The fiscal deficit, including grants, is projected at KShs. 1.146 trillion, equivalent to 5.5% of GDP. The deficit will primarily be financed through domestic borrowing of KShs. 1.03 trillion (4.9% of GDP), while net external borrowing is projected at KShs. 116.2 billion (0.6% of GDP).

The Government has reaffirmed its commitment to fiscal consolidation, targeting a gradual reduction in the fiscal deficit over the medium term. Treasury projects the fiscal deficit to decline to approximately 3.3% of GDP by FY 2028/29 as part of broader efforts to strengthen debt sustainability and improve fiscal discipline.

The Cabinet Secretary reiterated that public debt remains an important instrument for financing development but emphasized the need for prudent debt management. In this regard, the Government is exploring innovative financing solutions, including debt-for-food and debt-for-development swaps, aimed at diversifying funding sources and broadening Kenya's investor base.

In addition, the Government is evaluating opportunities to access alternative international capital markets through the potential issuance of Samurai Bonds in Japan and Panda Bonds in China. These initiatives are intended to reduce reliance on traditional external financing sources while expanding access to competitively priced capital.

The Government is also considering the introduction of Sukuk instruments to tap into liquidity available in Islamic finance markets. According to the Cabinet Secretary, Sukuk issuances would attract investors seeking Sharia-compliant investment opportunities, enhance financial inclusion, diversify Kenya's funding sources, and contribute to the development of both domestic and international capital markets.

## PRIVATE SECTOR PERSPECTIVE

The FY 2026/27 Budget reflects a continued shift towards private-sector-led growth and infrastructure financing. While fiscal consolidation remains a key policy objective, the Government is increasingly relying on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), capital markets, and innovative financing structures to bridge funding gaps and accelerate economic development. Businesses operating in infrastructure, housing, healthcare, manufacturing, agriculture, digital services, and county-level procurement are likely to benefit from the significant allocations and policy support outlined in the Budget. At the same time, businesses should continue monitoring domestic borrowing levels, interest rate movements, and evolving tax compliance requirements as part of their strategic planning processes.

## TAX MEASURES AND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION REFORMS

A key theme of the FY 2026/27 Budget is the Government's commitment to enhancing domestic revenue mobilization through improved tax administration, simplification of compliance procedures, and expansion of the tax base rather than the introduction of broad-based tax increases. Consistent with the Cabinet Secretary's commitment to a predictable tax environment, the Finance Bill, 2026 focuses on improving efficiency, fairness, and simplicity within the tax system while supporting economic growth, investment, and competitiveness.

The proposed measures are expected to generate approximately **KShs. 98.9 billion** in additional revenue through enhanced compliance, administrative reforms, and targeted policy interventions. Businesses should therefore expect increased scrutiny, greater reliance on data-driven compliance mechanisms, and a continued shift towards digital tax administration.

## CUSTOMS MEASURES

The customs proposals are largely geared towards supporting local manufacturing, promoting value addition, lowering production costs, enhancing food security, and improving affordability for consumers.

Key customs measures include:

- Duty-free importation of selected inputs used in the manufacture of:
  - Pharmaceutical products;
  - Roofing materials;
  - Automotive parts and motorcycle assembly; and
  - Smartphones, laptops, and tablets.
- A 10% duty remission on selected inputs used in furniture and door manufacturing, as well as completely knocked-down kits used in motorcycle assembly.
- Duty-free importation of selected inputs used in the manufacture of roofing materials and related industrial products to support the Affordable Housing Programme.
- Reduced import duty on key food commodities:
  - Wheat imported at 10% duty instead of 35%; and
  - Rice imported at 35% or USD 345 per metric tonne instead of 75% or USD 345 per metric tonne.
- Duty-free importation of inputs used in the manufacture of animal feeds.
- Duty-free importation of dates during the 2027 Ramadan period.
- Increased import duty from 25% to 35% on selected paper and packaging products, including kraft paper, paperboard, sacks, bags and printed poly bags, aimed at protecting local manufacturers.
- Continued duty incentives for the assembly of smartphones, laptops and tablets to support local manufacturing and digital transformation.



## FINANCE BILL 2026 – KEY TAX PROPOSALS

### Income Tax Act

The Finance Bill proposes several income tax changes aimed at strengthening tax administration, promoting investment and enhancing fairness within the tax system.

Measure	Proposal	Affected Taxpayers
REITs	Extension of Capital Gains Tax exemption to qualifying property transfers into REITs	Investors and real estate sector
Corporate Tax Rate	Reduction from 37.5% to 30%	Non-resident petroleum contractors
Simplified Tax Framework	Direct registration and accounting for tax obligations	Non-resident persons
Filing Deadlines	Nil returns due within one month after year-end; employment income returns due within four months after year-end	Individual taxpayers
Offshore Share Transfers	Gains arising from offshore transfers deriving value from Kenyan assets become taxable in Kenya	Offshore holding companies and multinational groups
Card-Based Payment Transactions	Introduction of withholding tax on interchange fees and merchant service fees	Financial institutions
Deemed Dividends	Introduction of a 60% deemed-distribution threshold on undistributed income	Companies retaining profits

### Business Impact

Companies should review retained earnings policies, cross-border investment structures, financing arrangements, and payment processing models to assess the implications of the proposed changes. Particular attention should be given to offshore transaction structures and the proposed deemed-dividend provisions.



## Value Added Tax (VAT)

The VAT proposals seek to rationalize exemptions while providing targeted relief in selected sectors.

Measure	Proposal	Affected Taxpayers
Used Clothing and Footwear (Mitumba)	VAT payable at importation; subsequent local sales exempt from VAT	Mitumba traders
Financial Services	Clarification that only money transfer services such as M-Pesa remain VAT exempt	Financial institutions and fintechs
Dialyzers	VAT exemption introduced	Healthcare providers
Mobile Phones	VAT exemption on the supply of mobile phones	Mobile phone suppliers and consumers

### Business Impact

Fintech companies, payment service providers and financial institutions should reassess the VAT treatment of their services and transaction flows. The proposed exemptions are expected to provide relief to the healthcare and telecommunications sectors while simplifying VAT administration in selected industries.

## Excise Duty Act

The Excise Duty proposals introduce both relief measures and targeted policy changes intended to support local industries and simplify tax administration.

Measure	Proposal	Affected Taxpayers
Bottled Water	Removal of excise duty of KShs. 6.41 per litre	Bottled water manufacturers
Mobile Phones	Excise duty at 25% upon activation on a Kenyan telecommunications network	Mobile phone suppliers
Extra Neutral Alcohol	Excise duty reduced from KShs. 500 to KShs. 80 per litre	Licensed alcohol manufacturers
Vintage and Collector Vehicles	New excise framework for vehicles over 30 years old valued at KShs. 10 million and above	Collectors and importers

### Business Impact

The proposals are expected to reduce costs for selected manufacturers while introducing a simplified taxation framework for mobile devices and collector vehicles. Businesses should assess the pricing and operational implications of the proposed changes.

## Tax Procedures Act

Several proposals seek to modernise tax administration, improve compliance and enhance the Kenya Revenue Authority's enforcement capabilities.

### Key Takeaways for Taxpayers

Measure	Proposal	Affected Taxpayers
Pre-populated Tax Returns	KRA to generate tax returns using information already available in its systems	All taxpayers
Tax Amnesty	Six-month amnesty beginning 1 July 2026 for liabilities accrued up to 31 December 2025	Taxpayers with outstanding tax liabilities
Waiver of Penalties and Interest	Relief of up to KShs. 2 million arising from electronic tax system errors	Taxpayers
Virtual Asset Reporting Framework	Introduction of reporting obligations for virtual asset transactions	Virtual Asset Service Providers
General Anti-Avoidance Rule (GAAR)	Enhanced powers to challenge tax avoidance arrangements	Businesses and investors
Agency Notices	KRA is empowered to issue agency notices even where an assessment is under appeal	Taxpayers

The Finance Bill, 2026 reflects a clear shift towards enhanced tax administration, data-driven compliance, and broader tax visibility. While the Government has avoided introducing broad-based tax increases, businesses should expect increased scrutiny through pre-populated returns, information-based assessments, virtual asset reporting requirements, and the proposed General Anti-Avoidance Rule.

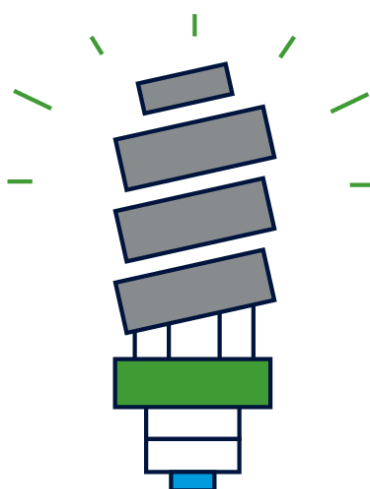
Businesses should therefore:

- Review existing tax structures and cross-border arrangements.
- Assess eligibility for the six-month tax amnesty programme.
- Re-evaluate retained earnings policies in light of the proposed deemed-dividend provisions.
- Review VAT treatment of payment, fintech and financial services.
- Strengthen tax governance, documentation, and data integrity processes.
- Assess the impact of customs and excise changes on pricing, supply chains and profitability.
- Monitor the legislative process closely, as the Finance Bill, 2026 remains subject to Parliamentary approval and may be amended before enactment.

## OUR PERSPECTIVE

The proposed tax measures demonstrate a deliberate policy shift towards broadening the tax base and improving compliance rather than increasing headline tax rates. While this approach provides a degree of certainty for taxpayers, it also signals a more sophisticated and data-driven compliance environment. Businesses that proactively review their tax positions, strengthen governance frameworks, and align their systems with evolving compliance requirements will be better positioned to manage risk and take advantage of available incentives.

For a deeper understanding, read our Kenya Finance Bill, 2026 newsletter which provides a detailed analysis of all the proposed amendments and their potential impact: <https://bit.ly/4dkbTN4>



### Caveat

This newsletter has been prepared by RSM (Eastern Africa) Consulting Ltd, and the views are those of the firm, independent of its directors, employees and associates. This newsletter is for general guidance, and does not constitute professional advice. Accordingly, RSM (Eastern Africa) Consulting Ltd, its directors, employees, associates and its agents accept no liability for the consequences of anyone acting, or refraining from acting, in reliance on the information contained herein or for any decision based on it. No part of the newsletter may be reproduced or published without prior written consent. RSM (Eastern Africa) Consulting Ltd is a member firm of RSM, a worldwide network of accounting and consulting firms. RSM does not offer professional services in its own name and each member firm of RSM is a legally separate and independent national firm.



## NAIROBI

1st Floor, Pacis Centre,  
Slip Road, off Waiyaki Way, Westlands  
P.O. Box 349, 00606  
Nairobi, Kenya

Tel: +254 20 3614000 / 4451747 / 8 / 9  
Mobile: +254 706 347950 / 772 786111  
Email: [info@ke.rsm-ea.com](mailto:info@ke.rsm-ea.com)  
Website: [www.rsm.global/kenya](http://www.rsm.global/kenya)  
Contact: Elvis Ogeto (Managing Partner)

## KAMPALA

6th Floor, DTB Centre,  
Plot 17/19, Kampala Road  
P.O. Box 31704,  
Kampala, Uganda

Tel: +256 414 342780  
Email: [info@ug.rsm-ea.com](mailto:info@ug.rsm-ea.com)  
Website: [www.rsm.global/uganda](http://www.rsm.global/uganda)  
Contact: John Walabyeki (Managing Partner)

## MOMBASA

Acacia Center, Mezzanine 1,  
Nyerere Avenue  
P.O. Box 87227, 80100  
Mombasa, Kenya

Tel: +254 41 2311778 / 2312640 / 2224116  
Mobile: +254 707 613329  
Email: [infomsa@ke.rsm-ea.com](mailto:infomsa@ke.rsm-ea.com)  
Website: [www.rsm.global/kenya](http://www.rsm.global/kenya)  
Contact: Ashif Kassam (Managing Partner)

### Follow us for news and more updates on:

 RSM Eastern Africa    @RSMEasternAfrica    RSM Eastern Africa    RSM Eastern Africa

RSM Eastern Africa LLP & RSM (Eastern Africa) Consulting Ltd are members of the RSM network and trade as RSM. RSM is the trading name used by the members of the RSM network. Each member of the RSM network is an independent accounting and consulting firm, each of which practises in its own right. The RSM network is not itself a separate legal entity of any description in any jurisdiction. The RSM network is administered by RSM International Limited, a company registered in England and Wales (company number 4040598) whose registered office is at 200 Aldersgate Street, Upper Ground Floor South, London, EC1A 4HD. The brand and trademark RSM and other intellectual property rights used by members of the network are owned by RSM International Association, an association governed by article 60 et seq of the Civil Code of Switzerland whose seat is in Zug.

© RSM International Association, 2026