



2026 KPMG Africa CEO Outlook

CEOs back growth as
cyber, AI and skills
gaps reshape
investment

The third edition of the KPMG Africa CEO Outlook shows confidence in growth, alongside a sharper focus on execution, resilience and measurable value

Africa's CEOs remain confident about growth, while navigating cybersecurity, supply-chain pressures, AI transformation and evolving workforce needs.

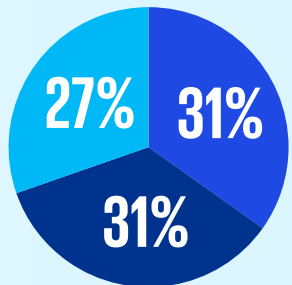
kpmg.com/CEOoutlook

© 2026 Copyright owned by one or more of the KPMG International entities. KPMG International entities provide no services to clients. All rights reserved.

Economic outlook

79% of CEOs are confident in their organisation's growth prospects

72% are confident in their domestic economies



Top threats to growth

- Cybersecurity and data security
- Supply-chain resilience
- AI integration into operating models

86%

reported revenue growth in their latest financial year

58%

expect annual earnings growth of at least 2.5%

Sustainability

41%

prioritise energy demand optimisation

65%

say they can meet new sustainability reporting requirements

Balancing climate ambition with energy reliability and affordability

Technology and AI

72% identify AI as a top investment priority

14% are keeping pace with or ahead of AI developments

Expected AI payback

48%

expect returns within one to three years

42%

expect returns in three years or longer

Trusted data

Effective governance

Workforce readiness

Talent

84% expect headcount growth over the next three years

86% intend to retain and retrain high-potential employees

82% are redesigning roles, career paths and team structures for human-AI collaboration

Skills gaps

AI upskilling

Workforce readiness