

Gabon

Macroeconomic indicators are improving in a slightly better business climate.

There has been a fresh upsurge in political tension since an opposition leader declared himself president.

Strategic partnerships are expected to generate about 50 000 jobs.

The country's main economic and social indicators improved in 2010, with restored overall growth (5.5%) and a healthier budget situation. The current account surplus grew despite inflation above the target level.

These advances were due to higher investments for the construction of facilities for the Africa Cup of Nations football tournament (*Coupe d'Afrique des Nations - CAN 2012*) and infrastructure projects for the 50th anniversary of independence celebrations, and to improved international circumstances bringing about better prices for Gabon's raw material exports.

Table 1: Macroeconomic indicators

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Real GDP growth	-1.4	5.5	4.2	4.9
CPI inflation	1.9	3.2	2.7	2.7
Budget balance % GDP	0.2	3.7	4.4	4.6
Current account % GDP	13.6	14.3	16.4	16.6

Source: National authorities' data; estimates (e) and projections (p) based on authors' calculations.

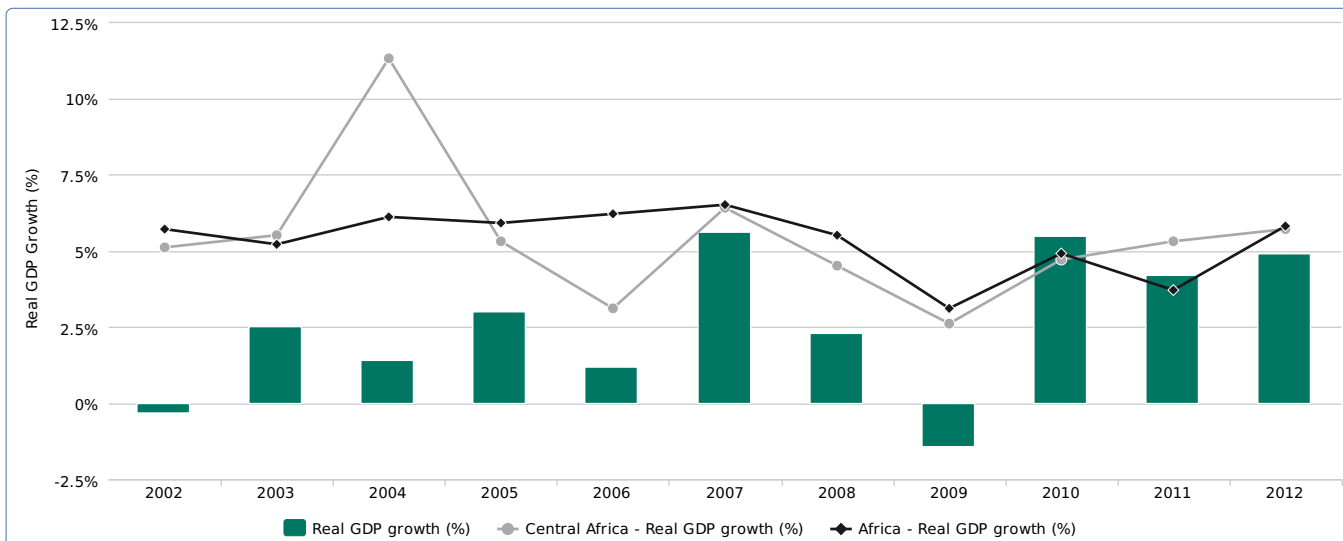
Figures for 2010 are estimates; for 2011 and later are projections.

StatLink  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932406460>

Despite a projected slowing of growth in 2011, budget and current balances should improve in 2011 and 2012 after the start, in the second semester of 2010, of projects to upgrade main roads, process timber locally and build low-cost housing.

These projects should meet the serious concerns of the population by providing material benefits, jobs, housing and welfare.

Figure 1: Real GDP growth (C)



Source: IMF and local authorities' data; estimates and projections based on authors' calculations.

Figures for 2010 are estimates; for 2011 and later are projections.