

Sub-Saharan Africa has a higher rate of female business ownership than the OECD & South Asia

The World Bank's Enterprise Survey (2014) of 135 countries and 130,000+ firms provides economic insight covering 12 thematic areas. Survey data shows that Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) has a higher rate (35%) of female business ownership/co-ownership than the OECD (32.6%), South Asia (17.5%), Eastern Europe & Central Asia (30.9%) and Middle East & North Africa (17.9). SSA's top 5 countries include Ivory Coast, Mali, Angola, Zimbabwe and Botswana and they all outperform Germany, Israel and India, among others.

Survey data on SSA also reveals strong growth trends in a number of business performance indicators, including sales. The SSA region achieved the second highest real annual sales growth rate at 11.7%, second only to East Asia & Pacific at 12.1%. Resonating with the region's strong sales performance, SSA has achieved the second highest employment growth rate for any region. SSA's top 3 countries with the highest employment growth rates include Ethiopia (14.7%), Angola (13.7%) and Gabon (13.7%).

