

By 2035, Africa's workforce will be larger than both China and India

Africa has both a young population and a growing labour force. Between 2010 and 2015, Africa's working-age population increased by 14% compared with 9% in India and only 1% in China. By 2035, the continent is expected to have a larger working-age population than China or India, at 1.1 billion people and will surpass 1.5 billion people by 2050. According to McKinsey, an expanding working-age population can be associated with strong rates of GDP growth and offers a potential demographic dividend.

A growing workforce population presents Africa with many potential benefits as well as challenges. Africa's economies have to create jobs for the people entering the workforce each year as well as ensure that the people have the skills to perform those jobs. Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) has some of the highest unemployment rates in the world. The unemployment rate in SSA stood at about 8% in 2014, down from 9% in 2010. Though this is progress, more jobs need to be created in Africa to propel the region's future growth.

