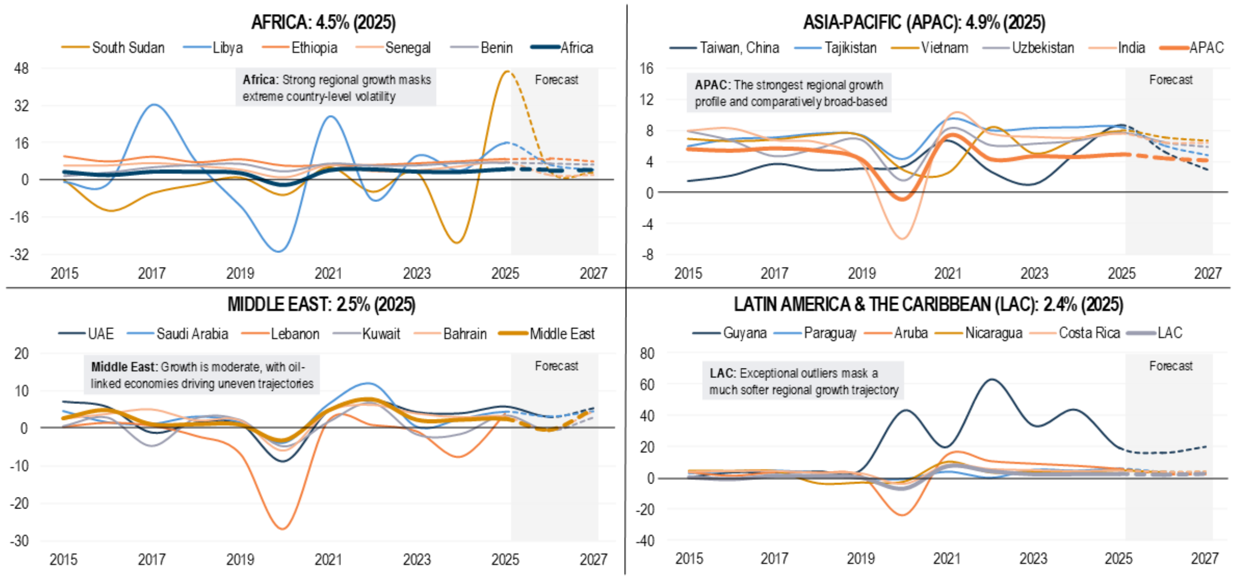
Growth Momentum Is Diverging Across Emerging Regions

Asia-Pacific and Africa are set to lead emerging-region growth through 2027, but the outlook reveals sharply different trajectories beneath the regional averages.

Real GDP Growth Across Emerging Regions and Their Top 5 Growth Economies, % (2015-2027F)



Source: IMF, ANDAMAN PARTNERS Analysis

Asia-Pacific and Africa are pulling ahead of other emerging regions in the near-term growth outlook. Asia-Pacific leads the four regions at 4.9% growth in 2025, closely followed by Africa at 4.5%, while the Middle East and Latin America & the Caribbean trail at 2.5% and 2.4%, respectively.

The IMF outlook suggests these differences will persist through 2027, even as growth moderates across several economies. The regional averages, however, conceal very different country stories. Africa’s strong headline rate sits alongside sharp volatility among fast-growing economies including South Sudan, Libya, Ethiopia, Senegal and Benin.

Asia-Pacific shows a broader growth profile, with India, Vietnam, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan maintaining relatively strong rates, while Taiwan follows a more variable path.

In the Middle East, the UAE and Saudi Arabia sit within a more moderate regional trajectory, while Lebanon and Bahrain illustrate the region’s greater volatility.

Latin America & the Caribbean provides perhaps the clearest warning against reading too much into individual high-growth economies. Guyana’s extraordinary oil-driven expansion stands far above the regional average, while Paraguay, Aruba, Nicaragua and Costa Rica follow much more modest trajectories.

For businesses and investors, the implication is clear: emerging-region growth remains comparatively strong, but opportunity is increasingly shaped by country-level differences rather than regional labels alone.

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