Vision
An international centre of excellence in public policy research and analysis

Mission
To provide quality public policy advice to the Government of Kenya and other stakeholders by conducting objective research and through capacity building in order to contribute to the achievement of national development goals
KIPPRA in Brief

The Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) is an autonomous institute whose primary mission is to develop capacities for policy formulation, implementation and evaluation within National and County governments; undertake relevant and timely policy research and analysis; serve as a point of policy engagement and communication on public policy; and develop and maintain a reservoir of knowledge on public policy in contributing to the achievement of national development goals.

For more information visit www.kippra.or.ke
KIPPRA Publications Series

- Kenya Economic Report
- Discussion Papers
- Working Papers
- Policy Papers
- Policy Briefs
- Client Reports
- Special Papers
- Occasional Papers
- Conference Proceedings
- KIPPRA Policy Monitor
The Kenya Economic Report (KER) is the flagship publication of the Institute. The report, which is produced annually and presented to Parliament by the Minister in charge of economic planning and development, analyses Kenya’s economic performance for the last year, prospects for the next three years, and benchmarks the performance against comparator and selected countries. It is produced in consultation with the Ministry of Devolution and Planning, The National Treasury, and Central Bank of Kenya.

1. KER 2009: Building a globally competitive economy
2. KER 2010: Enhancing sectoral contribution towards reducing poverty, unemployment and inequality in Kenya
3. KER 2011: Transformative institutions for delivering Kenya Vision 2030
4. KER 2012: Imperatives for reducing the cost of living in Kenya
5. KER 2013: Creating an enabling environment for stimulating investment for competitive and sustainable counties
6. KER 2014: Navigating global challenges while exploiting opportunities for sustainable growth
7. KER 2015: Empowering youth through decent and productive employment
8. KER 2016: Fiscal decentralization in support of devolution
9. KER 2017: Sustaining Kenya’s economic development by deepening and expanding economic integration in the region
11. KER 2019: Resource mobilization for sustainable development of Kenya
Discussion Papers (DPs) disseminate results and reflections from ongoing research activities of the Institute’s programmes. The papers are internally refereed and disseminated to inform and invoke debate on policy issues.


2. Institutional factors and foreign direct investment flows: Implications for Kenya (Ngugi R W and Nyang’oro O, 2005) – DP No. 48


18. Participatory prioritization of issues in smallholder agricultural commercialization in Kenya (Omiti J et al., 2006) – DP No. 64


22. Policy and institutional interventions to revitalize Kenya’s pyrethrum industry (Omiti J et al., 2007) – DP No. 68


32. Employment outcomes and export orientation of firms in Kenya’s manufacturing sector (Were M, 2007) – DP No. 78


34. Implications of the proposed WTO tariff reduction modalities: Case of Kenya’s agricultural tariff structure (Miencha F, 2007) – DP No. 80


37. Scaling up domestic support for sustainable development of agriculture in Kenya (Onyango C H and Omiti J M, 2008) – DP No. 83


40. Short term private capital flows and real exchange rate in Kenya (Odongo M T, 2008) – DP No. 86


42. Factors affecting growth of micro and small enterprises in Kenya (Gitonga A, 2008) – DP No. 88

43. Determinants of inter-firm networks in Kenya (Ng’ang’a J, 2008) – DP No. 89

44. Environmental sustainability and policy implications of urban building and construction in Kenya (Adero N, 2008) – DP No. 90

45. Determinants of Kenya’s fiscal performance (Sirengo J, 2008) – DP No. 91

46. Assessing Kenya’s oil vulnerability: Key indicators and policy options (Roba G M, 2008) – DP No. 92


56. Enhancing household fuel choice and substitution in Kenya (Osiolo H, 2009) – DP No. 102


60. Implications of the global financial crisis on the Kenyan economy (Macroeconomics Division, 2009) - DP No. 106
61. Are prior restrictions on factor shares appropriate in economic growth accounting estimations (Oduor J, 2010) - DP No. 107


63. Evaluating the impact of micro-franchising the distribution of anti-malarial drugs in Kenya on malaria mortality and morbidity (Oduor J, Kamau A and Mathenge E, 2010) - DP No. 109

64. General equilibrium real exchange rates in a three-good open economy setting (Oduor, J, 2010) - DP No. 110


67. Some effects of regional trade arrangements on Kenya’s export flows (Githuku S, 2010) – DP No. 113

68. Determinants of regional disparity in Kenya (Ng’ang’a J and Njenga G, 2010) – DP No. 114


70. To conserve or convert the Yala wetland (Ikiara M, Mwakubo S and Nyang’oro O, 2010) – DP No. 116
71. Liberalization of services and its implications on agricultural trade in Eastern Africa region (Onyango C, 2010) – DP No. 117


74. Production risk and farm technology adoption in rain-fed maize production in semi-arid lands of Kenya (Ogada M, 2010) – DP No. 120

75. A panel data analysis of the determinants of tourism destination (Sagwe J, 2010) – DP No. 121


79. International trade liberalization and economic growth: The role of regulatory policies (Biwott P, 2011) – DP 125

80. Is there a real estate market boom or bubble in urban Kenya: A case study of residential real estate in Nairobi Metropolitan Region (Mbae/Njoroge C, 2011) – DP 126

82. Evaluating the impact of road traffic congestion mitigation measures in Nairobi Metropolitan Region (Gachanja J, 2012) – DP 128

83. The relationship between electricity consumption and output in Kenyan manufacturing sector (Karumba M, 2012) – DP 129


85. Evaluating trade and revenue effects of the EAC customs union in Kenya (Onyango C, 2012) – DP 131


87. The water poverty index: A situational analysis of selected counties in Kenya (Githiora Y, 2012) – DP 133


89. Household demand for housing in urban Kenya: The case of Nairobi and Mombasa counties (Musyoka P, 2012) – DP 135

90. Enhancing formal access to water in Kenya: The non-revenue water management approach (Olwa B, 2012) – DP 136


93. Effects of minimum wage on gendered employment in Kenya (Bengal E, 2012) – DP 139


96. Effects of financial literacy on financial access in Kenya (Shibia A, 2012) – DP 142

97. Institutional and policy framework necessary for harnessing diaspora remittances in Kenya (Githuku S, 2013) – DP 143

98. Determinants of private car ownership in Kenyan households (Randu E, 2013) – DP 144


100. Cost efficiency and scale economies of Kenya’s water service providers (Kalunde H, 2013) – DP 146

101. Effect of health insurance on child and maternal health outcomes in Kenya (Kiplagat I, 2013) – DP 147

102. Sustainability of current account deficits in Kenya (Gichuki J, 2013) – DP 148
103. Diplomacy and exports: The case of Kenya (Gichuru J, 2013) – DP 149

104. Determinants of manufacturing firm’s location in Kenyan counties (Marang’a W, 2013) – DP 150

105. Dietary diversity and child malnutrition in Kenya (Mbogori T, 2013) – DP 151


110. Effects of household food expenditure on child nutritional status in Kenya (Ochieng’ C, 2013) – DP 156


112. The role of cash transfers in poverty reduction: Evidence from Kenya (Nafula N and Onsomu E, 2013) – DP 158

113. Poverty growth and inequality decomposition: A household survey analysis (Nafula N, Ndirangu L and Onsomu E, 2013) – DP 159


118. Alcohol consumption and health care expenditure (Kanina J, 2014) – DP 164

119. Predictors of availability of maternal health medicines in Kenya’s health facilities (Muriithi G, 2014) – DP 165

120. Analysis of electricity consumption by households in Kenya (Ojudi M, 2014) – DP 166

121. Stimulating supply of residential housing for low income earners in Kenya (Vuluku G, 2014) – DP 167


123. The sustainability and macroeconomic effects of the public sector wage bill in Kenya (Yagan S, 2014) – DP 169


126. Effects of mixed traffic on road traffic deaths in Kenya (Muhoro, G, 2015) – DP 172


133. A fiscal reaction function for Kenya (Mutuku C, 2015) – DP 179


137. Supply response of Kenya’s primary exports to price and non-price factors (Mugo P, 2015) – DP 183


143. Implications of trade facilitation on FDI in Kenya (Onyango, C H, 2017) – DP 189


146. Kenya’s Input-Output Table for development planning (Wanjala B M, 2017) – DP 192
147. Effect of trade facilitation on Kenyan exports to the European Union: Case of fruits and vegetables (Owino B, 2017) – DP 193


150. Macroeconomic determinants of public debt accumulation in Kenya (Kirui E, 2017) – DP 196

151. Destruction of riparian zones in the Nairobi Metropolitan region (Karangi M N, 2017) – DP 197

152. An analysis of the factors influencing wildlife population in some selected counties in Kenya’s rangelands (Kamochu W W, 2017) – DP 198


154. Effects of household environmental characteristics on child health in Kenya (Odima, A, 2017) – DP 200

155. Effects of capital assets on livelihood-based outcomes from livestock production among youth in the semi-arid lands of Kenya (Muma M, 2018) – DP 201

156. Foreign direct investment, spillover effects and innovation: Experience from the Kenyan enterprise sector (Nandwa M E, 2018) – DP 202

158. Determinants and welfare effect of smallholder farmers’ commercialization in Kenya (Murathi K N, 2018) – DP 204


160. Responsiveness of gross national saving rate to changes in fiscal and monetary policy in Kenya (Omanyo D O, 2018) – DP 206

161. Threshold fiscal deficit on economic growth in Kenya (Kiptoo S C, 2018) – DP 207

162. Challenges in implementing and enforcing collective bargaining agreements (Musili B M, 2018) – DP 208

163. Intensity of energy consumption among Kenya’s households (Mbaka, C K, 2018) – DP 209


169. The role of information communication technologies in innovation in Kenya’s micro, small and medium establishments (Gitonga A and Moyi E, 2018) – DP 215


171. Governance and coordination in management of drought and floods disasters (Kinoti J K, 2019) – DP 217


173 Transforming livestock production through systems thinking approach: The case of West Pokot and Narok counties (Kirui L and Laibuni N, 2019) – DP 219

174. Firms coping mechanisms and resilience to the impacts of droughts and floods in Kenya (Shibia, A A, 2019) – DP 220
Working Papers (WP)

Working Papers (WPs) disseminate results of ongoing research at the Institute. The papers in the series cover specific policy issues in detail and are meant to provide policy makers and researchers with background information that can be used in developing refined discussion and policy papers. The papers are authored and reviewed by KIPPRA researchers and disseminated to provoke debate and solicit comments.


17. Assessing the impact of climate change on agricultural production, trade and food security in the East African Community: The trade model (Omolo M, 2017) - WP 28


20. Climate change, agricultural production, trade, food security and welfare in East African Community (Laibuni N, Nyangena J, Muluvi A and Onyango C, 2019) – WP No. 31

21. Transforming livestock production through systems thinking approach: The case of West Pokot and Narok counties (Kirui L and Laibuni N, 2019) – WP 32
Improving public policy making for economic growth and poverty reduction

The KENYA INSTITUTE for PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH and ANALYSIS

Policy Brief No. 1/2014

Making Youth Employment Policies Work

Government policy and public investment has focused disproportionately on formal private sector development and on education that is geared to urban wage employment as a solution to youth unemployment. A closer look at the figures, however, reveals that underemployment, especially in rural areas, is the greater challenge. Analyzing data from Kenya’s youth employment policies, this Policy Brief looks at the opportunities for youth in agricultural and informal sectors and what greater benefits for young people—and for the country—might arise from retooling youth employment policies to focus on the opportunities for youth in agricultural and informal sectors.

Background

Youth employment is recognized by the Government of Kenya and its development partners as a priority. About two-thirds of Kenya’s unemployed are young people, and the National Youth Empowerment Program aims to provide marked youth employment opportunities. Unfortunately, the figures are misleading. They do not reveal the real nature of the problems facing young people in the job market. KIPPRA researchers have put together data from the 2006 Integrated Household Budget Survey and 2009 population census to give a more complete understanding.

According to the 2009 statistics based on the Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey, about 62% of the 14 million young Kenyans (aged 15–34) are employed. This figure is responsible for the first major misunderstanding because it includes a large group of young people who are engaged in low-paying and sporadic work—often in the informal sector. Only 2 million Kenyans in this age group, or about 14%, are employed in what they consider to be a good job, formal or otherwise, and that figure is the crux of the challenge. Youth employment is a much-documented topic in both national and international discussions. Young people under 25 are the most poorly educated and have the lowest productivity and the highest income levels.

Policy Brief

Improving youth employment policy making for economic growth and poverty reduction

By Boaz Munga and Eldah Onsomu, Policy Analysts, Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis

Policy Briefs (PB) aim at wide dissemination of the Institute’s policy research findings. The findings are meant to stimulate discussion and also build capacity in the public policy making process in Kenya.

1. Negotiating trade in services under an economic partnership agreement: A proposal for Kenya (PB 1, 2006)
2. Enhancing the role of development finance institutions in Kenya’s development process (PB 2, 2006)
4. Promoting private sector participation in provision of higher education in Kenya (PB 4, 2006)
6. Flaws in the development and allocation of Jua Kali sheds and hawkers markets in Kenya (PB 6, 2006)
8. Enhancing growth of the Nairobi Stock Exchange primary market (PB 8, 2006)
9. Using social budgeting to improve the budgetary process in Kenya (PB 9, 2006)
11. Improving the enabling environment for business in Kenya (PB 11, 2006)
12. Reducing implicit taxation of the agricultural sector in Kenya (PB 12, 2006)
13. High seed maize prices in Kenya (PB 13, 2006)
15. Attracting foreign direct investment into Kenya (PB 15, 2006)
16. Strengthening the budgetary framework for private healthcare providers in Kenya (PB 16, 2006)
17. The future of monetary policy regime in Kenya (PB 17, 2006)
18. Organizing urban road public transport in Nairobi city (PB 18, 2006)
1. Options for sustaining Kenya’s economic growth pattern (PB1, 2007)
2. Improving the growth of small firms sub-sector: Role of interfirm linkages (PB 2, 2007)
5. Enhancing the commercialization of smallholder agriculture in Kenya (PB 5, 2007)
6. Promoting development of bonds in Kenya (PB 6, 2007)
7. Improving the security situation in Kenya (PB 7, 2007)
8. Strategies for securing energy supply in Kenya (PB 8, 2007)
10. Improving technology competitiveness of small enterprises in Kenya (PB 10, 2007)
11. Effectiveness of financial sector reforms in promoting domestic private investment in Kenya (PB 11, 2007)
13. Strategies for revitalizing the pyrethrum industry in Kenya (PB 13, 2007)
14. Safeguarding Kenya’s agricultural sector from import surges (PB 14, 2007)
16. How should MSEs be supported to access the public procurement market in Kenya (PB 16, 2007)
17. Enhancing private sector participation in the provision of primary and secondary education in Kenya (PB 17, 2007)
1. Rebasing GDP: Rationale and the economic implications (PB 1, 2014)

2. Kenya now a middle income economy but Wanjiku still crying (PB 2, 2014)


4. Implications of GDP rebasing on skills and professional development (PB 4, 2014)

5. Rebased economy and the implications on Kenya’s participation in international trade (PB 5, 2014)
Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis

Policy Brief  No. 1/2017

Supporting Sustainable Development through Research and Capacity Building

Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis

No. 1/2017

Sustaining Kenya’s Economic Development by Deepening and Expanding Economic Integration in the Region

Kenya aspires to transform from a lower middle income country to an upper middle income country by year 2030. This aspiration is valid and attainable because most of the economic fundamentals are largely in place to enable the country take off. The economy has remained resilient over time, with economic growth rate increasing from 5.7% in 2015 to 5.8% in 2016 largely due to a stable macroeconomic environment.

However, the difference between Kenya’s total value of exports and total value of imports has been negative for some time. Due to the recent increase in government investments in infrastructure, public debt has increased to 52% of GDP, surpassing the East African Community (EAC) convergence criteria of 50% of GDP. But government borrowing plans are well anchored in the medium term debt management strategy to ensure debt sustainability.

The gap between savings and investment has remained high over time, meaning that there is need to boost the mobilization of domestic resources to enable access to adequate and appropriate financing of the required investment. Interest rates are stabilizing following the capping in 2016 and continued tight monetary policy stance adopted to maintain stability. However, the capping has partly resulted into decline in credit to the private sector as banks tighten lending requirements.

To attain the upper middle income category and sustain growth that creates employment opportunities, reduces poverty, and provides access to essential services by the poor, the economy needs to grow at an annual rate of 10%. This requires accelerated growth in private investments to reach investment/GDP ratio of 30% and over 9% growth in exports.

To achieve the upper middle income category, Kenya’s economy needs to achieve a projected growth rate of at least 8.5% by 2020.

Besides, regional economic integration is an essential economic development channel to deliver sustainable development because it helps a country achieve economies of scale and enhance competitiveness, which are necessary for industrialization and structural transformation. In Africa, regional economic integration also enable countries to enhance domestic and foreign investments as well as promote peace and security.

Furthermore, economic integration provides an opportunity to expand private investments in support of value addition and diversification of exports, thus placing the economy on a stable and sustainable growth path.

This brief is based on the Kenya Economic Report 2017 by KIPPRA.

The report has been prepared at a time when the government is taking stock on implementation of Medium Term Plan (MTP) II, and kick-starting preparations for the second last medium term plan (MTP III) of Vision 2030. Worth noting is that Kenya is currently classified as a lower middle income country as per the World Bank classification and to attain the upper middle income category, significant growth of economic activity is required to move from per capita income of US$ 1,361 in 2015 to upper middle income per capita of US$ 4,000.
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To achieve the upper middle income category, at the minimum, Kenya’s economy needs to achieve a projected growth rate of at least 9.5% by 2020.

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1. Health care delivery under devolution (47 County Briefs), PB 1-47/2018-2019
3. Growing protectionism and its implications on Kenya’s foreign trade with the USA and UK (PB 49/2018-2019)
8. Tightening compliance of the Basic Education Act to ensure complete and seamless transition across all Levels of schooling (PB 54/2018-2019)
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Policy Papers (PP) aim at wide dissemination of the Institute’s policy research findings. The findings are meant to stimulate discussion and also build capacity in the public policy making process in Kenya.


Special Papers (SP) deal with specific issues that are of policy concern. The reports provide in-depth survey results and/or analysis on policy issues. They are meant to help policy analysts in their research work and assist policy makers in evaluating various policy options. Deliberate effort is made to simplify the presentation so that issues discussed can be easily grasped by a wide audience.


2. Policy advocacy needs of MSE associations in Kenya: A survey of MSE associations in Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu and Nakuru (Moyi E, 2006) – SP No. 8


7. Enhancing productivity and competitiveness of the Kenyan economy through a cluster development strategy (2012) – SP No. 13


11. Transforming agribusiness, trade and leadership: A capacity needs assessment of the tea value chain in Kenya (2017) – SP No. 17


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These report the proceedings of conferences and workshops organized by the Institute. Whenever possible, discussions at such forums are also included. The proceedings are compiled and reviewed by KIPPRA researchers and are disseminated to inform, provoke, and solicit comments.

1. Urban and regional planning as an instrument for wealth and employment creation: Proceedings of the national conference held from 2-3 February 2005, Nairobi—CP No. 3

2. Economic impact of illicit trade in East Africa: Proceedings of the regional conference held on 6 May 2005, Nairobi—CP No. 4


6. Building resilience to mitigate the impact of droughts and floods: Proceedings of the KIPPRÅ regional conference held from 5th–7th June 2018, Nairobi, Kenya - CP No. 8
In addition to reviewing the Institute’s activities, this newsletter carries incisive articles on current policy issues and debate in the country. It also provides an Economic Outlook of Kenya’s economy.

5. KIPPRA Policy Monitor, Issue 6, No. 1 (2013): Devolution is more than ‘equitable’ distribution of resources


9. KIPPRA Policy Monitor, Issue 8, No. 2 (2016): Positioning Kenya in order to exploit its potential as a coastal state


11. KIPPRA Policy Monitor, Issue 9, No. 2 (2018): Taming the road safety challenge through effective policy response

12. KIPPRA Policy Monitor, Issue 9, No. 3 (2018): Realizing the “Big Four” agenda through energy as an enabler

13. KIPPRA Policy Monitor, Issue 9, No. 4 April-June 2018: Building resilience to droughts and floods

KIPPRA Policy Monitor, Issue 10, No. 2 October-December 2018: Opportunities and challenges under devolved system of government

KIPPRA Policy Monitor, Issue 10, No. 3 January-March 2019: Transformation of lives since inception of devolution

KIPPRA Policy Monitor, Issue 10 No. 4 April-June 2019: A gendered approach to unlocking the potential for sustainable development

KIPPRA Policy Monitor, Issue 11 No. 1 July-September 2019: Creating jobs and transforming lives for inclusive growth
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