

Nigeria becomes Africa's biggest economy

7th April, 2014



Nigeria has changed the way it measures its gross domestic product (GDP) and has announced it is now Africa's largest economy.

It is the first time the continent's most populous nation has claimed the top spot. Nigeria "rebased" its gross domestic product data to incorporate newer industries that were not accounted for under the old GDP measuring rules. The inclusion of sectors such as telecommunications, information technology, movie production and online commerce has pushed the country above the traditional economic powerhouse, South Africa. Nigeria's statisticians say GDP for 2013 totalled \$510 billion, considerably bigger than South Africa's GDP of \$370 billion.

Rebasing of GDP is what most countries do every three years to account for the economic contributions of new and emerging industries. Nigeria hadn't rebased its economy in two decades. In this time, many new industries have blossomed. Nigeria's chief statistician Dr Yemi Kale said the new figures do not mean Nigerians are suddenly richer. He explained: "It's just about measuring better and more accurately. It does not mean that within 24 hours, something miraculous has happened." Nigeria's Tribune newspaper wrote: "Although pockets of vast wealth exist, most of Nigeria's estimated 170 million people still live on \$2 a day, while key services such as water and electricity provision are poor."

Sources: BBC / BusinessWeek / Tribune.co.ng

Writing

Economies are only for rich people. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

changed / economy / populous / GDP / incorporate / information technology / billion / account / contributions / emerging industries / statistics / measuring / miraculous / key

True / False

- The World Bank changed the way Nigeria measures its GDP. T / F
- It is the first time Nigeria has been Africa's biggest economy. T / F
- Movie production helped Nigeria become Africa's biggest economy. T / F
- Nigeria's GDP is just \$100 million bigger than South Africa's. T / F
- Most countries rebase their economies every three years or so. T / F
- The last time Nigeria rebased its economy was in 1964. T / F
- A statistician said a miracle had not taken place in the past 24 hours. T / F
- A newspaper said most Kenyans still live on a dollar a day. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. measures | a. absorb |
| 2. announced | b. propelled |
| 3. incorporate | c. materialising |
| 4. pushed | d. extraordinary |
| 5. considerably | e. calculates |
| 6. emerging | f. huge |
| 7. blossomed | g. supply |
| 8. miraculous | h. developed |
| 9. vast | i. made public |
| 10. provision | j. significantly |

Discussion – Student A

- How would you explain GDP to someone who didn't know what it was?
- Why do you think Nigeria hadn't rebased in two decades?
- Do you like statistics?
- How are your personal economics?
- Which country has the best economy? Why do you think so?
- Does understanding economics improve your life?
- What condition is the world economy in?
- What questions would you like to ask Dr Yemi Kale?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Nigeria has changed the way it measures | a. bigger than South Africa's |
| 2. the continent's most | b. not accounted for |
| 3. newer industries that were | c. services |
| 4. online | d. emerging industries |
| 5. considerably | e. its gross domestic product |
| 6. what most countries do | f. accurately |
| 7. new and | g. every three years |
| 8. measuring better and more | h. wealth exist |
| 9. pockets of vast | i. commerce |
| 10. key | j. populous nation |

Discussion – Student B

- How interested are you in economics?
- What do you know about the GDP of your country?
- Is it important to have a good knowledge of economics?
- Will being number one change anything for Nigeria?
- What new industries are growing in your country?
- What economic theories do you know about?
- What good economics news have you heard about recently?
- How do you think South Africa feels about not being top?

Spelling

- it ruemas its gross domestic product
- the continent's most uusloppo nation
- rateponocir newer industries
- The inoulinsc of sectors such as telecommunications
- the traditional economic oepowrehus
- dcyseoilrbna bigger
- economic oboctrsninuti
- enrgimge industries
- many new industries have obmsdleso
- more yecclrtaa
- something clsruiuma has happened
- such as water and electricity nrvsooipi

Answers – Synonym Match

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
6.	7.	8.	9.	10.

Role Play

Role A – Tourism

You think tourism will be the most important industry in the future. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them reasons why their industry won't be so important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): green energy, information technology or retail.

Role B – Green Energy

You think green energy will be the most important industry in the future. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them reasons why their industry won't be so important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): tourism, information technology or retail.

Role C – Information Technology

You think information technology will be the most important industry in the future. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them reasons why their industry won't be so important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): green energy, tourism or retail.

Role D – Retail

You think retail will be the most important industry in the future. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them reasons why their industry won't be so important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): green energy, information technology or tourism.

Speaking – Industries

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- steel production
- mining
- movie production
- retail
- tourism
- IT / high-tech
- telecommunications
- hotel and catering

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	F	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.