

Duke's Fuqua School of Business / CFO Magazine Global Business Outlook
Results for 47 African firms (own-firm changes expected during the next 12 months)

	Mar 2018	Dec 2017	Sept 2017	Jun 2017	Mar 2017
Weighted Averages for	Expected growth in next 12 months	Expected growth in next 12 months	Expected growth in next 12 months	Expected growth in next 12 months	Expected growth in next 12 months
Earnings growth*	7.3%	10.6%	11.8%	11.3% Median=10.6%	5.1%
Capital spending	9.1%	0.6%	3.1%	6.0%	21.0% Median=5%
Advertising and marketing spending	8.0%	3.5%	5.7%	2.2%	-0.4%
Technology spending	5.4%	8.8%	14.4%	14.3% Median=10%	5.5%
R&D spending	2.5%	3.6%	3.0%	2.4%	2.6%
Employment – full-time	8.5%	3.5%	-0.1%	-5.0% Median=0%	-3.8%
Wages and Salaries	6.6%	8.0%	4.9%	3.6%	7.0%
Inflation (Chg in prices of own-firm products)	4.0%	3.5%	4.2%	2.1%	4.5%
Health Care Costs	5.0%	5.0%	3.5%	7.5%	4.9%
Revenue	5.1%	14.8%	14.0%	8.9%	11.9% Median=9.9%

* indicates public firms only. All other numbers are for all survey respondents (including private). The reported averages are weighted by revenue or number of employees, so that large firms are weighted more heavily.

Africa BUSINESS OPTIMISM

	Mar 2018	Dec 2017	Sept 2017	Jun 2017	Mar 2017
	Compared to last qtr.	Compared to last qtr.	Compared to last qtr.	Compared to last qtr.	Compared to last qtr.
Optimism about the country's economy	More opt: 78.7% Less opt: 12.8% No chg: 8.5%	More opt: 40.0% Less opt: 41.8% No chg: 18.2%	More opt: 35.7% Less opt: 42.9% No chg: 21.4%	More opt: 47.5% Less opt: 40.0% No chg: 12.5%	More opt: 45.3% Less opt: 39.6% No chg: 15.1%
Country optimism level	60.4	52.5	51.5	49.7	48.3
Optimism about own company	More opt: 63.0% Less opt: 19.6% No chg: 17.4%	More opt: 63.6% Less opt: 27.3% No chg: 9.1%	More opt: 70.4% Less opt: 22.2% No chg: 7.4%	More opt: 55.0% Less opt: 25.0% No chg: 20.0%	More opt: 51.9% Less opt: 21.2% No chg: 26.9%
Own company optimism level	61.3	63.9	64.1	61.9	64.7

Top Concerns for African Businesses

- Economic Uncertainty
- Government policies
- Currency risk
- Volatility of political situation
- Access to capital
- Regulatory requirements
- Difficulty attracting/retaining qualified employees
- Commodity prices
- Corruption and white collar crime
- Employee productivity