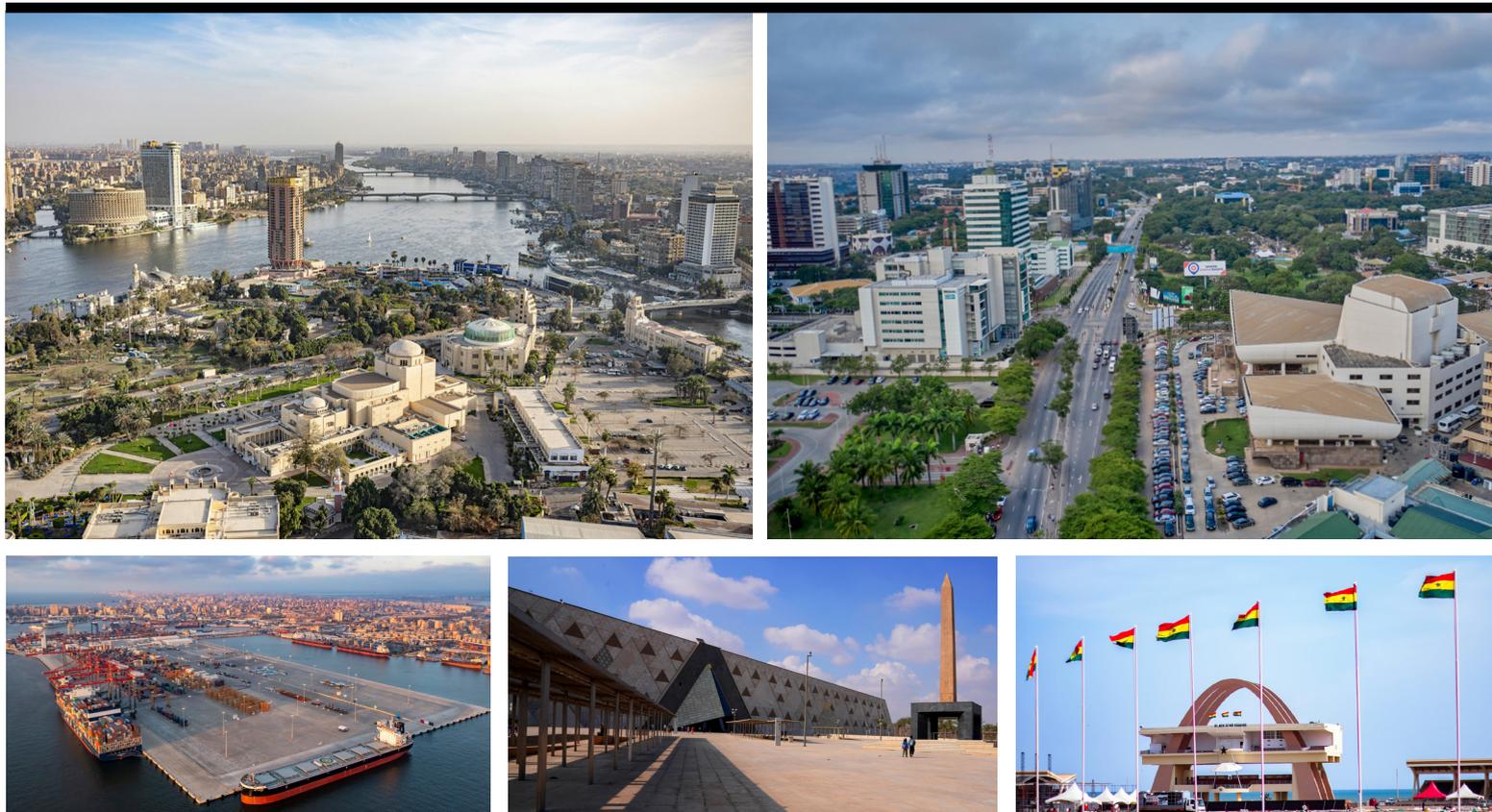


# STRATEGIC GATEWAYS

Global FDI  
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BUSINESS FEATURE

March 2026



*Shaping the new global economy*

## Egypt's defining year

The November 2025 opening of the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) marked more than a cultural milestone for Egypt, serving as a symbol of the nation's renewed economic dynamism. The landmark launch came as tourist arrivals climbed to nearly 19 million in 2025, up 21% year on year, while a report from Goldman Sachs forecast the country to be among the world's top ten economies by 2075.

"Anyone observing Egypt today can see that the country is entering a new chapter of substantial growth, with tourism at the forefront," says Merette Elsayed, CEO of Legacy Management & Development, operating company of the GEM.

Egypt's GDP grew 4.4% in the 2024-25 fiscal year, with an acceleration to 5.3% in the first quarter of 2025-26.

That has bolstered confidence among policymakers that 2026 marks the point where structural reforms, tighter fiscal and monetary discipline and rising investment translate into durable growth. "All major sectors contributed positively in the first quarter," says Minister of Planning, Economic Development and International Cooperation Rania Al-Mashat. "With the current pace of reforms, I believe we will accelerate from where we are today."

That growth is creating opportunity, reflected in a 73% rise in private sector investment in 2025. As landmarks such as the GEM spur continued demand in tourism, sectors from technology and renewables to industry and agriculture benefit from reform momentum, offering growing scope for international partners.

## Ghana's growth vision

In July 2025, President John Mahama launched the 24-Hour Economy strategy, designed to create two million jobs and lift productivity. The plan encourages firms to operate in three eight-hour shifts, backed by new legislation and incentives including tax relief and targeted financing. "The 24-Hour Economy is not just about working longer hours. It is about creating an enabling framework for productivity," Mahama said at the launch.

The initiative is central to the president's push to diversify Ghana's economy. "Our development model must decisively move away from excessive dependence on raw material exports towards value addition, industrial production and knowledge-based enterprise," he said. That approach is reflected in

initiatives such as the Legon Pharmaceutical Innovation Park, which offers tax incentives and discounted power to local manufacturers. In parallel, a \$1bn UAE-backed agreement is set to establish Africa's largest AI and technology hub in Ghana, highlighting rising Emirati investment. "The Ghana-UAE relationship is poised for significant growth," says Hammed Rashid Tunde Ali, Ghana's ambassador to the UAE.

These moves come as economic indicators strengthen. The economy expanded by 6.1% in the first three quarters of 2025, with non-oil GDP rising 7.5%, pointing to broader-based growth. A firmer cedi, easing inflation and higher gold reserves have contributed to a robust economic recovery, providing a platform for sustained industrial expansion.

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Q&A

**H.E. DR RANIA AL MASHAT**  
FORMER MINISTER OF PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION



**Egypt's economic recovery is gathering pace, supported by reforms and rising private investment.**

**Q: How is national growth progressing?**

For the past five quarters, GDP has been recovering robustly, with growth of 4.4% in fiscal year 2024-2025, after 2.4% the year before and 5.3% in the first quarter, the highest in more than three years. This reflects focused sectoral reforms. I see 2026 as an inflection point for the economy. The sources of growth are diversified and led by the private sector.

**Q: What initiatives underpin your reform agenda?**

In September, we published our Narrative for Economic Development: Reforms for Growth, Jobs, and Resilience, which sets out a framework,

including Vision 2030. In this phase, we build on ongoing reforms. These transitions are designed to strengthen competitiveness, make the economy more dynamic and resilient, help it absorb shocks and generate more value added. The focus is on growth and jobs through tradables, complexity, higher productivity and export-oriented sectors. We are already seeing global companies looking to invest or form joint ventures in Egypt.

**“THE SOURCES OF GROWTH ARE DIVERSIFIED AND LED BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR.”**

**Q: How do you assess investment momentum?**

Through international cooperation, we have mobilised close to \$17 billion for the private sector over five years and \$4.5 billion for renewables and the green transition. Today, private investment represents 66% of total investment.

ABU DHABI ISLAMIC BANK-EGYPT (ADIB-EGYPT)

**Reshaping Egypt's Islamic banking**

Now a top-10 lender and Egypt's largest Islamic bank, ADIB-Egypt stands at the sector's forefront.



**“ALL THE UAE COMPANIES THAT CAME TO EGYPT AND INVESTED HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GROW.”**

**MOHAMED ALY,**  
CEO AND MANAGING DIRECTOR, ABU DHABI ISLAMIC BANK-EGYPT (ADIB-EGYPT)

**A**bu Dhabi Islamic Bank-Egypt (ADIB-Egypt) has evolved into one of the country's most dynamic financial institutions, combining strong growth, Sharia compliance and a decisive push to expand its footprint. The bank now operates 74 branches, with further expansion underway, and has solidified its position as the largest

Islamic bank in the country. Retail expansion has moved faster than anticipated. “We now serve 865,000 customers, compared to 300,000 in 2023,” said Mohamed Aly, CEO and managing director of ADIB-Egypt. “That trajectory places us well ahead of our original target of reaching one million customers by 2028. Based on current momentum, we are now aiming for two million by the same year.” In 2024, the bank achieved record results, including a 93% rise in net profit to about EGP 9 billion, with total assets reaching EGP 260 billion. These figures underline the strength of its operating model and its capacity to scale. ADIB-Egypt also plays a strategic role in facilitating UAE investment. “The market is stable, with solid demand,” Aly says. “All the UAE companies that came to Egypt and invested have been able to grow.”



INSIGHTS



**HUSSEIN REFAIE,**  
CEO AND MANAGING DIRECTOR, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK

**“EGYPT HAS RECORDED STEADY GDP GROWTH AND HAS MADE MAJOR INVESTMENTS IN INFRASTRUCTURE.”**



**ENG. SHERIF EL-SAYYAD,**  
CHAIRMAN, ENGINEERING EXPORT COUNCIL OF EGYPT (EEC)

**“THE UAE IS AN IDEAL PARTNER. WHEN EMIRATI INVESTORS COME TO EGYPT, IT'S A WIN-WIN.”**



**ENG. MOHAMED EL-TAHER,**  
CEO, SAUDI EGYPTIAN DEVELOPERS (SED)

**“WITHIN EGYPT, THE MIX OF LUXURY AND SAFETY CREATES A UNIQUELY REWARDING ENVIRONMENT.”**

CIRA EDUCATION



**DR HASSAN EL KALLA,**  
FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN, CIRA EDUCATION

CIRA Education is the largest integrated education services provider in Egypt. The company operates 30 schools and owns three universities: Badr University in Cairo, Badr University in Assiut and Saxony Egypt University. Founded in 1992, the group spans early education, schools and higher education, with a combined student body exceeding 60,000 across governorates. Founder and Chairman Dr Hassan El Kalla

says the strategy has been to build a full education pipeline aligned with employment prospects, with a focus on vocational education, which he views as a gap. “We are working on establishing the first labour management system in Egypt, which will enable graduates to prepare for the job market,” he says. With Egypt-UAE trade rising 77% to \$4.8 billion in the first half of 2025, the group frames regional and domestic partnerships as central to scalability. “No successful business can truly grow without connecting to the Gulf,” El Kalla says. “We want to collaborate with other Egyptian institutions to help create the workforce that Egypt needs.”



**SHAPING EGYPT'S NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS**

With **30 schools, 3 universities, and 9 nurseries**, CIRA brings world-class education to every corner of Egypt, empowering **60k students** across **9 governorates**, from Early Childhood to University.

**35k students**

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