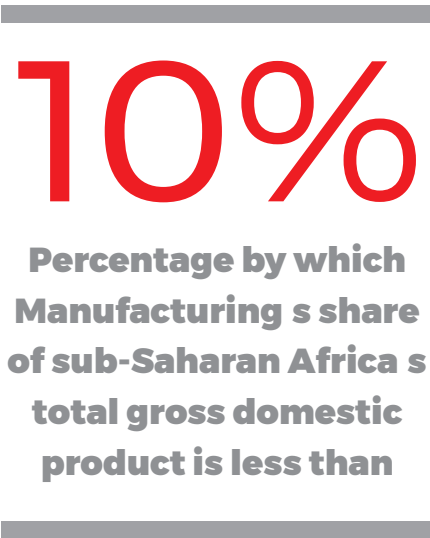


Growth in manufacturing has lagged in Africa, however, except in very few countries. Manufacturing's share of sub-Saharan Africa's total gross domestic product is less than 10%. As a corollary, Africa is also lagging in two crucial aspects of industrial development: manufacturing value added (MVA) and manufacturing exports. The contrast with East Asia – often cited as the growth model for Africa – could not be starker. MVA in East Asia and developing Asia is much higher than in Africa. Resource-based manufacturing accounts for about half of total MVA and manufacturing exports. Geographically, industrial activities and MVA are reported from the more industrialised regions of North and South Africa. However, these weaknesses offer an opportunity for Africa to realise its potential for industrialisation and the resultant growth.



Africa has the opportunity to include dense and rich digital connectivity and digital innovation in its growth plans, which was unavailable for regions and countries in Asia, Europe, and Latin America during their growth phases in the 1980s and 1990s. Digital infrastructure, knowledge, and devices will bring in innovative businesses and market processes for Africa. Changes in the technological paradigm have transformed the patterns of industrialisation in different parts of the developing world. The international division of labour for the production and consumption of goods and services transcends national borders and propels countries towards greater integration into regional and global value chains. Africa can use ICT in its development strategy for increased participation in the trade of goods and services.

Every stage of development has reduced the cost of production and consumption of goods and services.



However, ICT-enabled production and consumption of goods and services has arrived in the developing world, including Africa, where agriculture and the resource-based economy still hold sway. These economies have an opportunity to use ICT in many instances to leapfrog from agriculture and a resources-based economy to a digital economy, however, and to transform and modernise their agriculture and resources-based industry.

These operations may be limited in size and location,