While the services sector continues to absorb more and more jobs throughout the region, employment makeup in African countries varies substantially—though participation in agriculture remains stubbornly high in most places. Notably, though, is the lack of employees in the highly productive industrial sector, largely due to a lack of supply of workers or a nascent industrial sector. Policies to encourage movement into industry—especially those that encourage education—might be able to bridge those gaps.

Note: The above three employment sectors are the only sectors for employment available from the World Bank’s Development Indicators for the most recent available year for each country. Not all countries have available data and not all countries have sector totals that equal 100 percent of employment, which could be due to estimations used in the calculations of sectors or the possibility for other categorizations of employment outside the three sectors indicated.

Source: World Bank’s World Development Indicators (various years).