

IOA | 2019 | ACBR



AFRICA COUNTRY BENCHMARK REPORT

Benin Profile



Located between the ocean and a large inland lagoon, where thatched-roof wooden structures take visitors into the calm waters, Ouidah is typical of tourist attractions for a country that is off the beaten path.



Image courtesy of Panoramas



BENIN

#22

BENIN

OVERVIEW ANALYSIS

Despite poor performance in the Business and Economics quadrants, improvements in the Politics and in particular in the Society quadrants see Benin advance one country position in the ACBR 2019 rankings to 22nd from 23rd in ACBR 2017. The overall score rose from 44.76 in 2017 to 46.07. A good degree of data exists to evaluate the country's gradual if slow development, which has been assisted by government reforms. The country is in need of improving their regional and international trade, as well as supporting targeted agricultural and value-added manufacturing products for revenue. Transportation is not an impediment, given Benin's river connections to neighbouring countries and their port on the Gulf of Guinea.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES

- The country has established but has underutilised their trade and river links with their West African neighbours
- A pro-business government seeks to reform economic policy
- The home of Voodoo, Benin holds cultural charms for the tourism sector

KEY CONCERNS

- Years of underdevelopment have caused poor transport networks
- Nearly two-thirds of Benin's people live without electricity, curtailing retail growth and public health progress
- Internet penetration of only 12% is one of Africa's lowest

COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

PREDOMINANT RELIGION	PREDOMINANT LANGUAGE	POPULATION WITHOUT ELECTRICITY	LITERACY RATE	PRIMARY ELECTRICITY SOURCE
 Christianity	 French	 58.6% (#30) ▬	 38.4% (#46) ▲ ¹	 Oil
IMPORT/EXPORT	EXTERNAL DEBT	ACTIVE CONFLICT	LAND SIZE	INTERNET PENETRATION
 Vegetable Products/Gold	 US\$ 2.716 billion (#34) ▲ ¹	 No	 112,622 km ² (#37)	 12% (#37) ▲ ⁴

25.6%



AGRICULTURE

23.1%



INDUSTRY

51.3%



SERVICES

42.7%



0-14

20.4%



15-24

30.4%



22-54

6.5%



55+



Term:
06/04/2016 - present
5 years (2 term limit)



Political Party:
Independent



Recent Electoral Information:
30/03/2016
2 030 941 Votes
65.37%
Voter turnout: 66.05%



President
Patrice Talon

CONTRIBUTIONS TO GDP BY SECTOR

POPULATION AGE BREAKDOWN

NATIONAL GOVERNANCE

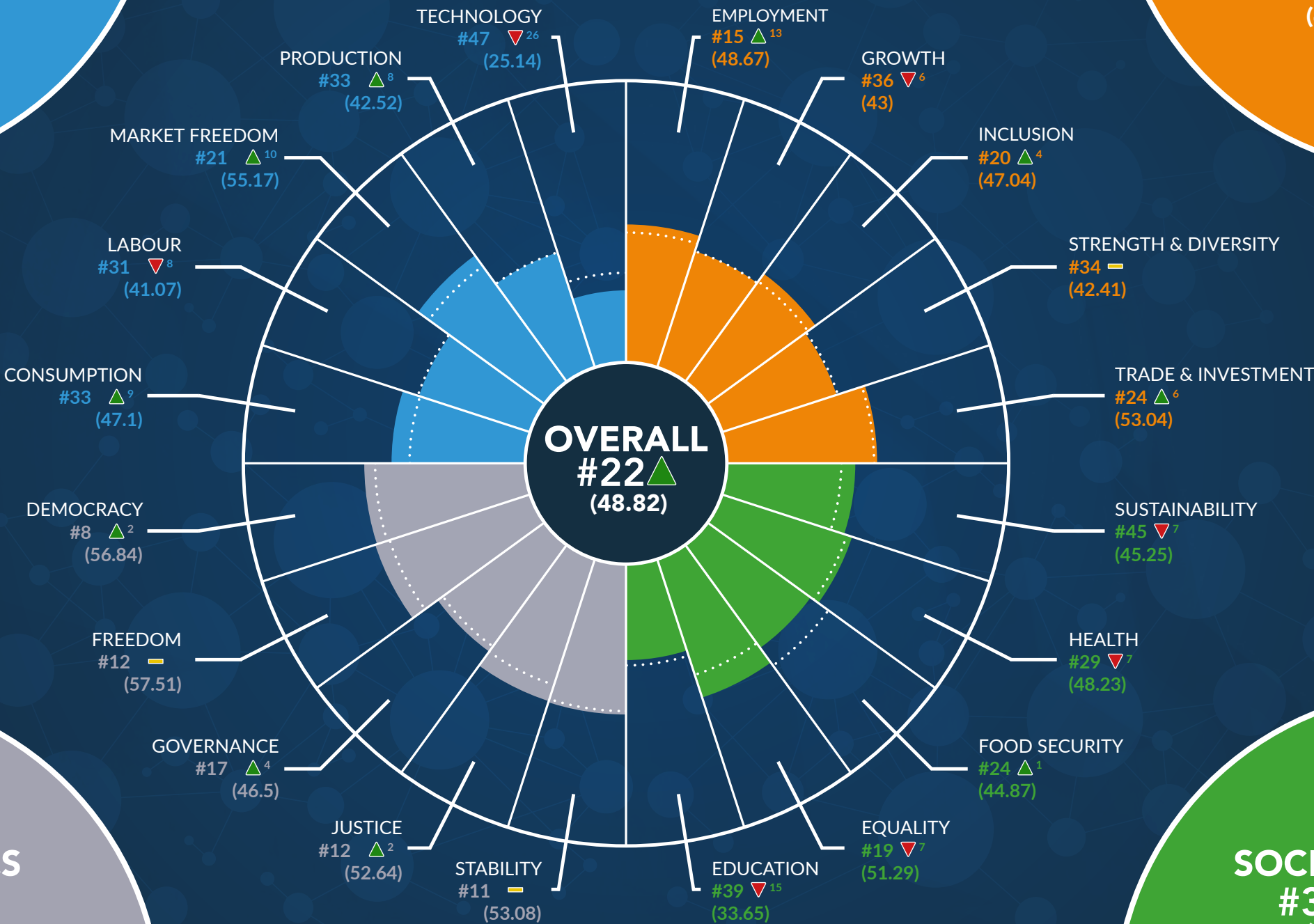
BUSINESS

#31
(42.2)

BENIN PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

ECONOMICS

#26
(45.28)



POLITICS

#11
(53.31)

SOCIETY

#35
(43.49)

BENIN BUSINESS ANALYSIS

#31

BUSINESS OVERVIEW

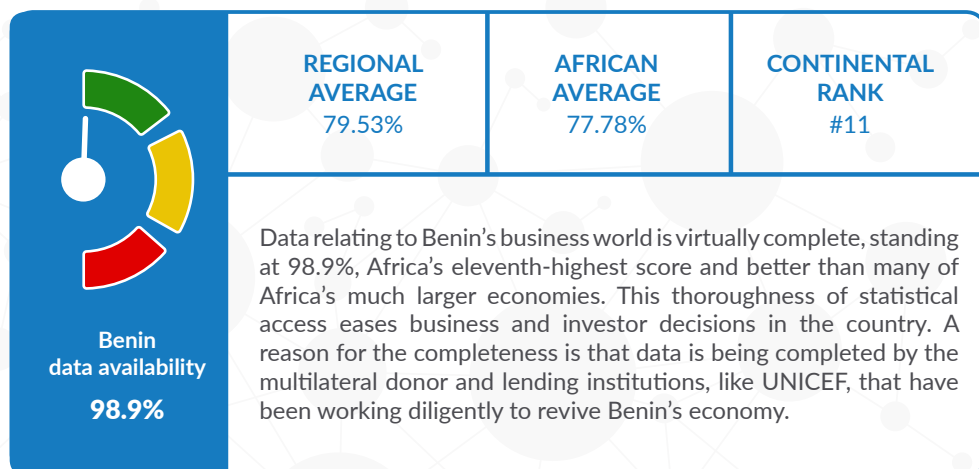
That agriculture contributes slightly more than industry to Benin's GDP while earning relatively small export revenues affirms to the diminished status of most of the country's agriculture. Industry is unlikely to improve until energy infrastructure investment leads to a reliable and universal electricity grid. Benin's integration into the information and communications technology age awaits communications infrastructure growth, which is now in a primitive stage.

For years, business investors have not had sympathetic listeners in government but can now make their needs known. In fact, Benin achieves their highest Business segment score in Market Freedom as reforms to improve the business

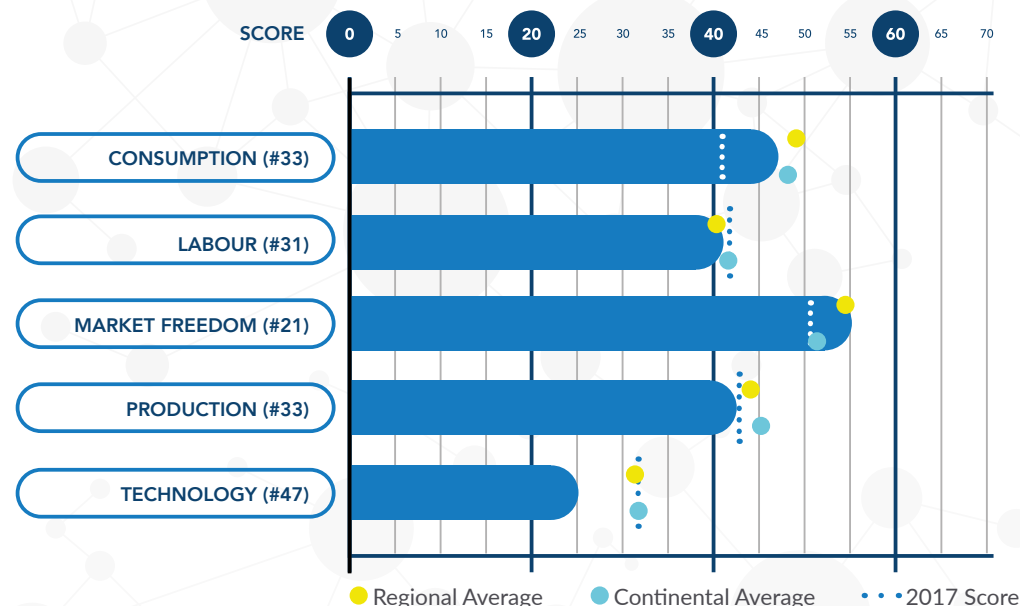
environment have been introduced. Two-thirds of the population is age 24 and below, ensuring an ample labour force when work skills training is introduced, as parcel to business growth stimulus policies.

Benin's country position of 32nd, with a total score of 42.2, is consistent with a low-income and underdeveloped country. The score also testifies to Benin's lack of business opportunities and the struggles businesses have in conducting trade in the country. Discouragingly for the administration of President Patrice Talon, whose reforming efforts have sought to rebrand the country and boost business confidence, Benin drops four country positions from 2017, despite a score of 41.55 earned during the last survey.

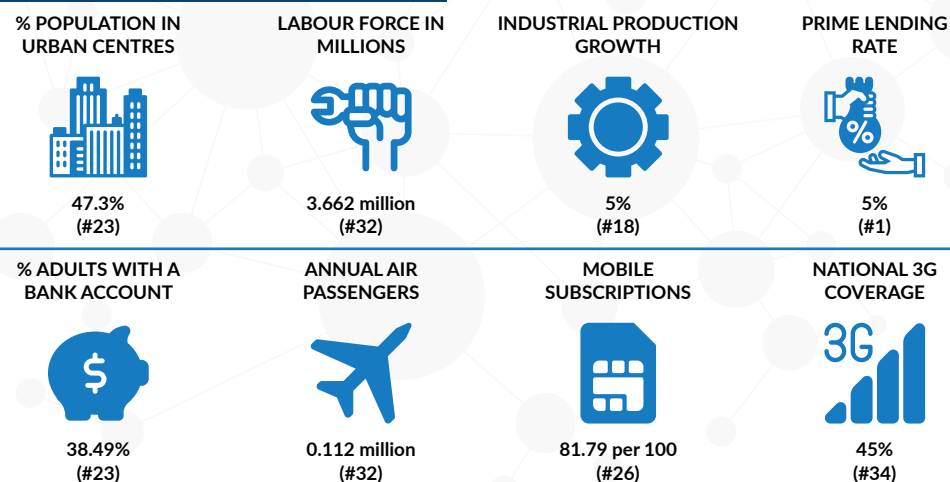
BUSINESS DATA COMMENTARY



BUSINESS SCORES & RANKINGS



BUSINESS STATISTICS



BENIN ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

#26

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

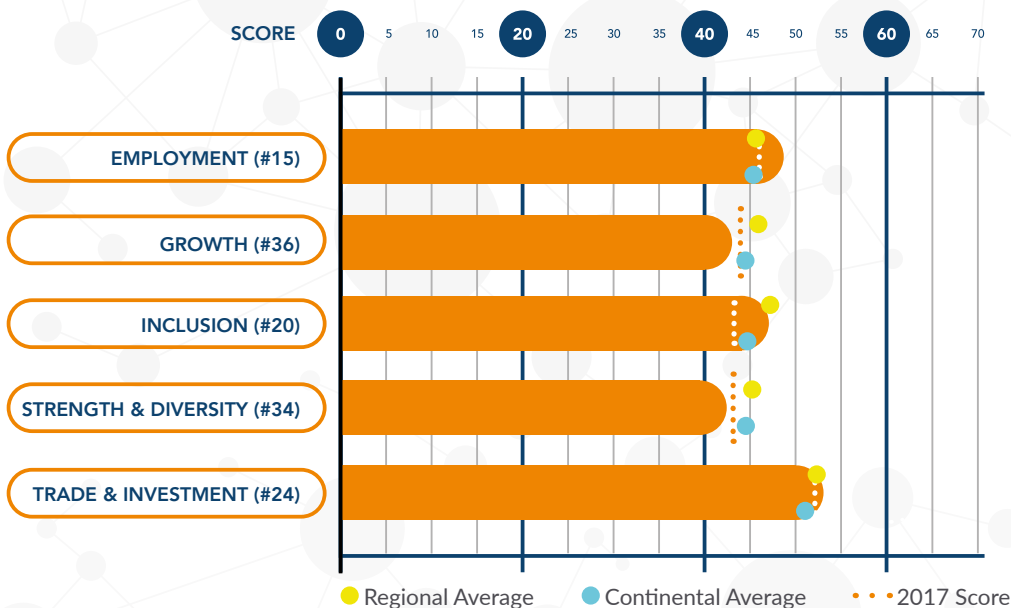
Trade and Investment is another Economic segment that shows a positive rise for Benin by six country positions. Historically, Benin has often been in the forefront of West African trade. Benin borders four countries: Burkina Faso, Niger, Togo and the regional giant Nigeria. Benin is separated by only a few hundred kilometres from West Africa's other giant, Ghana.

Benin's economic revival must rest on interregional trade. The agricultural sector can be modernised with an eye on supplying Ghanaian and Nigerian markets, which currently supplement local production with imports. A former French colony, Benin can find entry into the European markets by exploiting trade agreements with Paris.

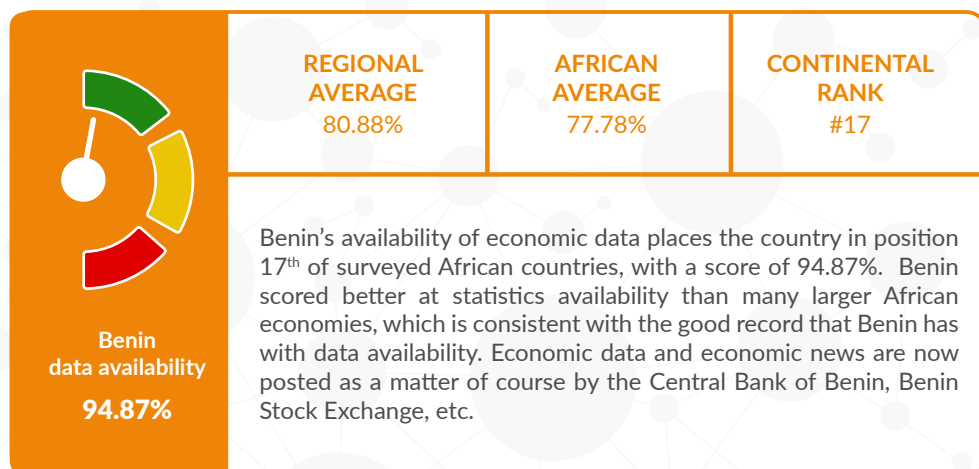
Benin's country position of 26th, with a total score of 45.28, prompted a drop by one country position from 2017, when a country ranking of 25th was achieved through a score of 45.66. This is not a radical change and primarily reflects neither dramatic improvements nor setbacks for Benin's economy during the period under review.

Relative to other countries, Benin's lowest drop in the country's segments of the Economic quadrant was by six due to poor growth. However, relative to other countries, Benin did well in the segment of Employment, rising 13 positions on the basis of better statistical reporting.

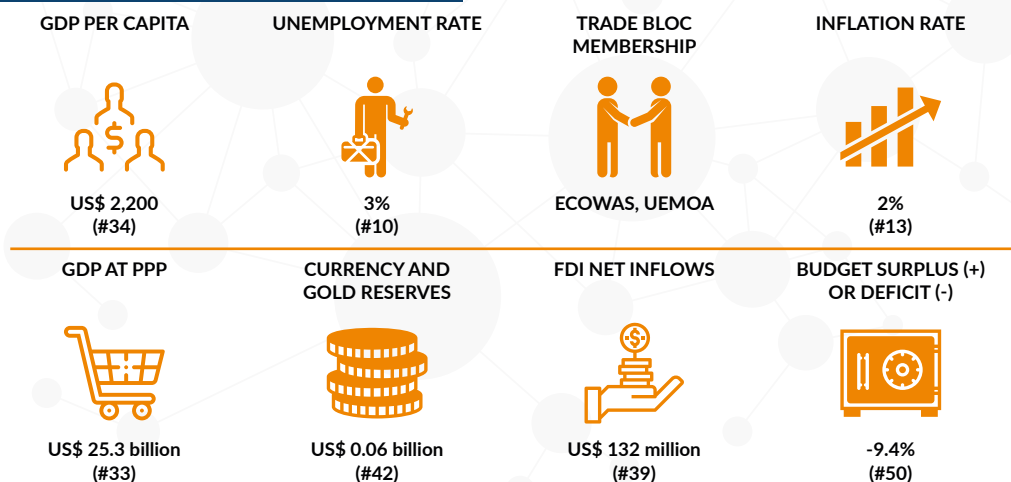
ECONOMIC SCORES & RANKINGS



ECONOMIC DATA COMMENTARY



ECONOMIC STATISTICS



BENIN POLITICAL ANALYSIS

#11

POLITICAL OVERVIEW

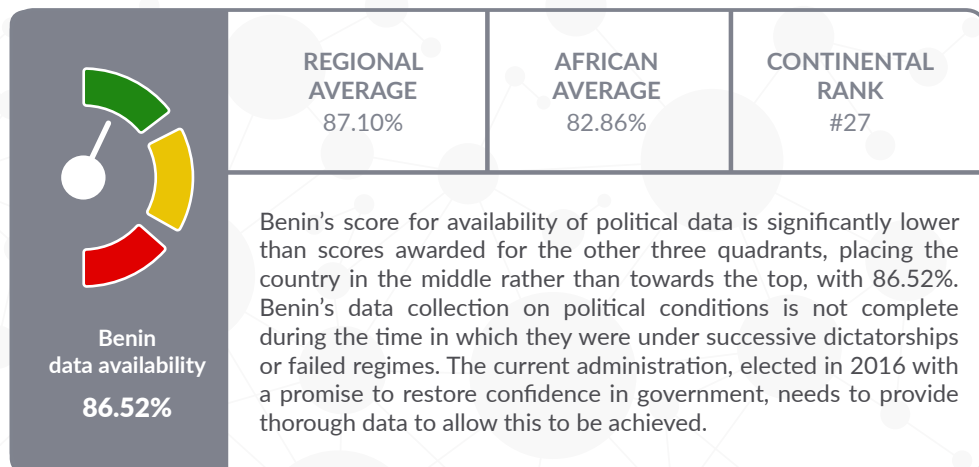
The political landscape in Benin has long been complicated and is ill-serving of the people in terms of economic and societal advancements through government programmes. Benin's relatively high country position of 11th in ACBR 2019's Politics quadrant is a result of the recent establishment of democratic institutions that will prove invaluable moving forward.

However, Benin is stable and faces no prospects of economic upheaval. Drug scandals will remain periodic in the country with long-established drug trade routes exploiting trade links, Benin's geographical position in West Africa and previous poor governance. These are unlikely to bring down the current government.

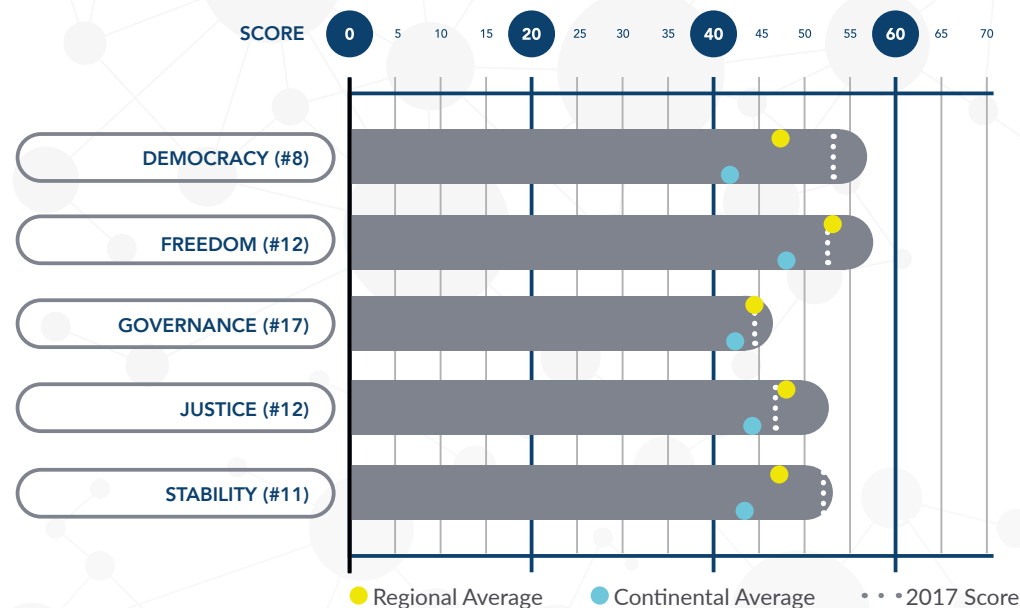
Benin's point score of 53.31 in the Politics quadrant is an improvement from 49.34 achieved in ACBR 2017, but did not see a rise in Benin's country position of 11th from the previous survey. Again, playing on the theme of laying the groundwork of establishing democratic institutions in preparation for a sounder political future, Benin does well in all Politics segments, achieving an impressive country position of 8th for Democracy.

Benin is Africa's eleventh-most stable country and features no lower than 17th in country positions in other Politics segments. Politics is the only quadrant where Benin saw no decline in points from the previous ACBR survey.

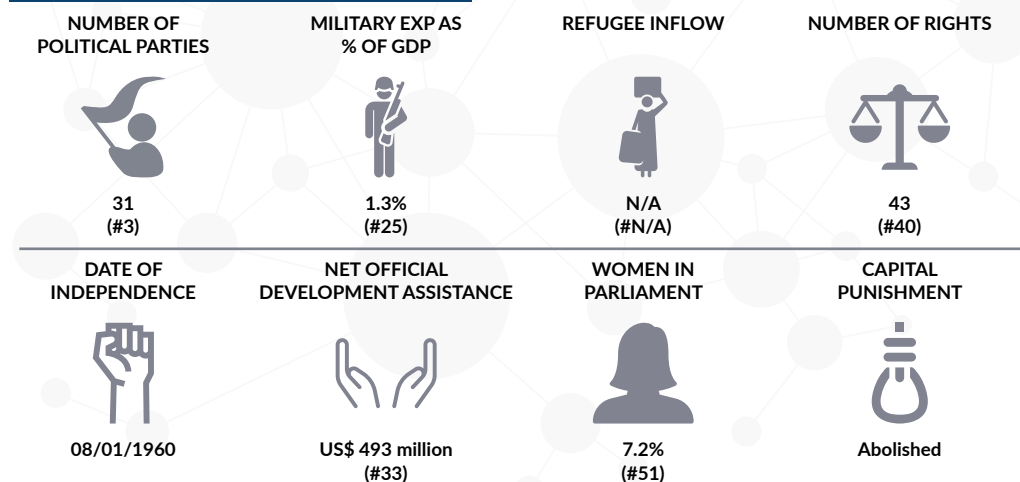
POLITICAL DATA COMMENTARY



POLITICAL SCORES & RANKINGS



POLITICAL STATISTICS



BENIN SOCIETAL ANALYSIS

#35

SOCIETAL OVERVIEW

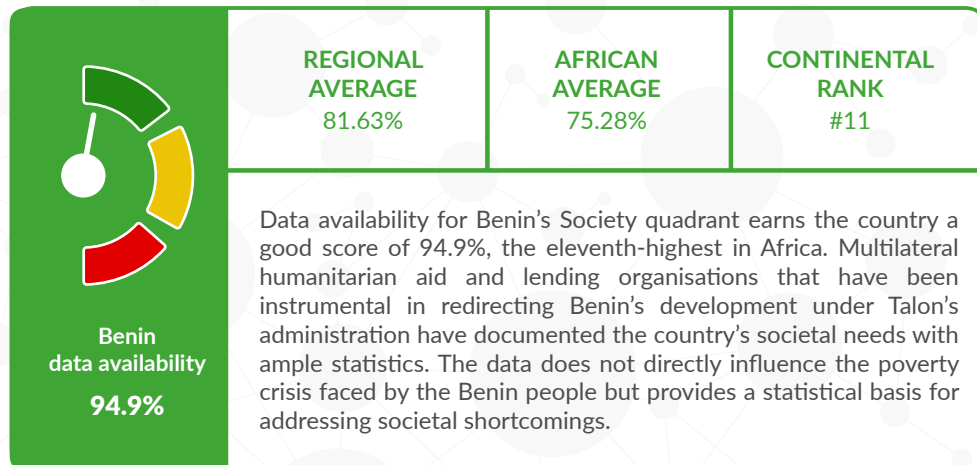
Two-thirds of the Beninese people are under the age of 25 and are likely to perpetuate emigration that has resulted from years of poor economic performance and a lack of government service delivery. With a diaspora unequalled by any other African country, 40% of Beninese live abroad. The wages they send home ensure survival for their families in the country.

Child labour is one tragic consequence of low employment and few opportunities, with families contracting out small children to work as domestic servants. Small children are just as often subjugated as miners in Nigeria and elsewhere. About 40% of the population lives in poverty. Infant mortality is high and life expectancy is low. These facts are reflected in ACBR

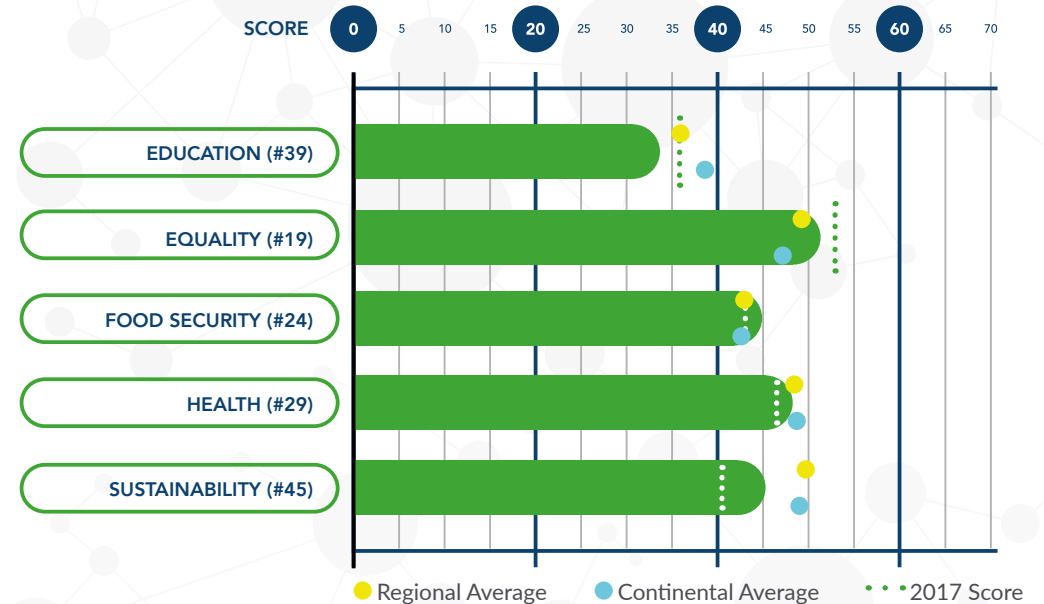
2019 Society rankings that see a significant drop by 15 country positions in the Education segment. Benin also dropped seven country positions in the segments of Equality, Health and Sustainability. About four-fifths of Beninese have access to clean drinking water, which while inadequate is a better foundation for public health than many other African countries.

Benin's 35th place in the Society quadrant represents a drop of seven country positions from 28th in ACBR 2017. However, as is often the case in the survey, country positions are influenced by the performances of other countries as well, so despite the drop in ranking, Benin's total score improved from 42.47 to 43.49.

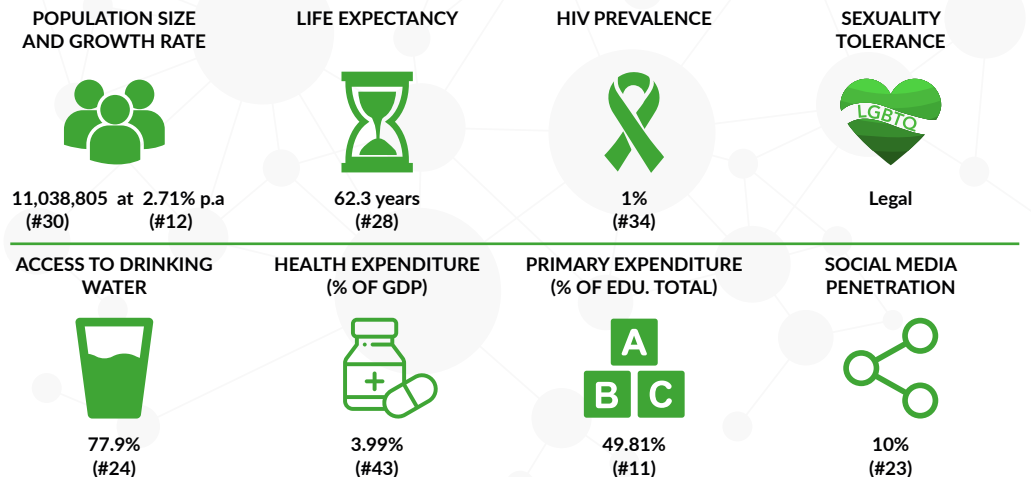
SOCIETAL DATA COMMENTARY



SOCIETAL SCORES & RANKINGS



SOCIETAL STATISTICS



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