



# ESTIMATION OF GDP FOR THE CITY OF ACCRA

August 2021

## FOREWARD



The Mayor and Members of the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA) wish to express their heartfelt gratitude to the Gender, Poverty and Social Policy Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) for this seminal work on the compilation of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the City of Accra. This will serve as an important source of information for policy analysis and result monitoring and evaluation and also guide future compilation of the city GDP as well as other district assemblies to do the same.

This collaborative exercise was carried out as part of the Development Account (DA) 13 Project launched by the United Nations as its immediate response to the Covid-19 pandemic and to bring about accelerated global economic and financial recovery.

In the assessment of the United Nations, cities were the epi-center of the pandemic due in part to their large population size and high vulnerability to communicable disease outbreaks, transmission and responses. Also they were identified as challenging settings within which to respond effectively to the pandemic.

The DA 13 project supported the City of Accra, as one of the three cities in Sub-Saharan Africa considered under the initiative, to prepare and implement economic and financial recovery plans. The first-stage of the process, which assessed the impact of the pandemic on the economy, used an approved diagnostic tool developed by the UNCDF and an approved set of 48 indicators. About 20 of the agreed indicators of the assessment framework depended on the availability of city GDP.

Unfortunately, the existing GDP data in Ghana is estimated for the national level only and not disaggregated to the sub-national level. This exercise therefore afforded the city of Accra the opportunity to obtain readily available city GDP data for the diagnostic studies and future analysis and development planning. It also helped develop the methodology for estimating future city level GDP based on internationally accepted methodology, while contributing to the preparation of a regional compendium report on city GDP report as well as a regional guide for the compilation of City Gross Domestic Product (GDP) based on the experiences of selected African cities.

The Accra Metropolitan Assembly is eternally grateful to its partners in this exercise including the United Nations (UN) Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the UN Country Office, especially the Resident Coordinator - Charles Abani, the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC), Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) and Bank of Ghana.

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It is the hope and expectation of the City Authority that partners will continue to strengthen this collaboration to ensure that the outcome of this exercise is fully institutionalised.



Signed: .....  
Hon Elizabeth Kwatsoe Tawiah Sackey.  
(MAYOR, Accra)

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## ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

AMA	Accra Metropolitan Assembly
BEA	Bureau of Economic Analysis
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
EGM	Expert Group Meeting
EMIS	Education Management Information System
GAMA	Greater Accra Metropolitan Area
GHS	Ghana Health Service
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GLSS	Ghana Living Standard Survey
GRA	Ghana Revenue Authority
GSS	Ghana Statistical Service
GVA	Gross Value Added
IBES	Integrated Business Establishment Survey
ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification
MDA	Ministry, Department, and Agency
MMDA	Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assembly
MoFA	Ministry of Food and Agriculture
MoFAD	Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development
NDPC	National Development Planning Commission
NSDF	National Spatial Development Framework
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PNDC	Provisional National Defence Council
PURC	Public Utilities Regulatory Commission
RCC	Regional Coordinating Council
SRID	Statistics, Research and Information Division
UN	United Nations
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
VAT	Value Added Tax

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This study is one of the studies commissioned by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to prepare a regional guide on City Gross Domestic Product (GDP) measurement based on the experiences of selected African cities. In addition, ECA intends to finalize its core set of city and urban indicators for wider application in the region. The main objective is the computation of GDP for the City of Accra, which covers one metropolitan area and twenty municipalities. The study period is from 2015 to 2020.

The main method used in the Accra City GDP estimation is the product method. This method is preferred because that is the main method use by the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) in the GDP estimation. Moreover, there are enough sources of data for the timely estimation of the GDP by product than data for the other methods. The “top-down” approach is the main procedure adopted for the allocation of Accra city GDP, whereby the national control aggregate for each component of GVA is allocated to the city using the most appropriate measure of city activity (known as indicator) available.

The classification used is that of the International Standard Industrial Classification revision 4 (ISIC rev. 4), exactly what the GSS uses in the compilation of the product approach.

Many data sources, administrative and survey, were utilised for the compilation and estimation of the city GDP. Key among them are published Gross Domestic Product (GDP) which served as the national control aggregate, the Integrated Business Establishment Survey (IBES), 2010 Population and Housing Census, Ghana Living Standards Survey (GLSS), Agriculture Production Statistics, Education Statistics, Health Statistics, Payroll data, Energy Statistics, and Tax data.

The estimates of the city GDP showed that the size of the economy of Accra, from 2015 to 2020, has been between 34 to 39 percent of the national economy. In terms of GDP per capita, the figure for Accra is almost three times that of the national average.

The structure of the economy of Accra is the same as the national but with varying proportions. For both Accra and national, Service sector dominates, but while it contributes over 60 percent to the economy of Accra, its share in the national GDP is between 44 and 49

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