

Internet of Things (IoT) for Operational Efficiency Using Real- Time Data to Optimise and Improve Productivity



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Executive Summary

The Internet of Things (IoT) is rapidly transforming Africa's workspaces, enabling organisations to leverage real-time data for operational efficiency and productivity gains.

- Africa's IoT data management market is projected to grow from **\$5.2 billion** in 2025 to **\$33.9 billion** by 2031, with a CAGR of **7.4%**.
- Sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, energy, and logistics are already experiencing up to **30%** reductions in operational costs and productivity increases of **25–30%** through IoT adoption.
- Despite significant connectivity and infrastructure challenges, innovative solutions such as edge computing and localised data processing are driving continued progress.
- The future outlook is optimistic, with increasing investment in network infrastructure, cloud services, and AI integration expected to further accelerate IoT-driven productivity across the continent.

Introduction

The internet of things, or IoT, is a network of interrelated devices that connect and exchange data with other IoT devices and the cloud. IoT devices are typically embedded with technology such as sensors and software and can include mechanical and digital machines and consumer objects.

These devices encompass everything from everyday household items to complex industrial tools. Increasingly, organisations in a variety of industries are using IoT to operate more efficiently, deliver enhanced customer service, improve decision-making and increase the value of the business.



Importance of IOT to Africa

IoT offers a pathway to overcome persistent challenges in infrastructure, resource management, and productivity, particularly in sectors critical to Africa's economic growth.

SOURCE: WWW.TECHTARGET.COM/

The Africa Internet of Things(IoT) Data Management Market is a rapidly growing market in Africa

facilitated by the following factors



Market Size & Growth

The Africa IoT Data Management Market is valued at **\$5.2 billion** in 2025 and is projected to reach **\$33.9 billion** by 2031, growing at a CAGR of **7.4%**



IoT Market Overall

The broader Africa IoT market is estimated at **\$7 billion** in 2024, expected to surpass **\$20 billion** by 2031



Wireless Segment Growth

The wireless IoT segment is expanding rapidly due to **5G**, **Wi-Fi 6**, and LPWAN technologies, enabling higher device density and faster data transmission

With many Industries utilising its potential to enhance business processes



- IoT sensors and drones enable precise soil monitoring, irrigation control, and crop health assessment.
- Impact: Boosted yields by 20%, reduced water usage by 30%, and minimized agricultural waste.



- IoT-driven predictive maintenance reduces machinery downtime and lowers maintenance costs.
- Impact: Up to 15% productivity increase and 10% reduction in operational costs.



- IoT enhances fleet and supply chain visibility through real-time tracking of vehicles and goods.
- Impact: Improved on-time deliveries by 25% and reduced logistics costs by 15%.



- IoT devices support telemedicine and remote patient monitoring, especially in underserved rural areas.
- Impact: Up to 40% increase in rural health coverage in some regions.



- IoT powers smart grids, waste management, and public infrastructure like lighting.
- Impact: Energy consumption reduced by 10–15% and enhanced efficiency in public service delivery.

The Internet of Things is transforming sectors across Africa.

From boosting agricultural yields and industrial productivity to enhancing logistics, rural healthcare, and smart urban services. Real-time data and automation are driving efficiency, reducing costs, and expanding access across the continent.

There are a number of concerns about the risks in the growth of IoT



Connectivity

Unreliable internet, especially in rural areas, hampers real-time data transmission and decision-making.



Infrastructure

Limited power and device processing capacity increase the risk of data loss and reduce reliability.



Fragmented Network Ecosystem

Multiple mobile network operators and varying technology standards complicate seamless IoT deployment across regions.

Conclusion

- IoT is a key enabler of operational efficiency and productivity in Africa's workspaces, offering data-driven solutions to longstanding challenges in resource management, infrastructure, and service delivery.
- While connectivity and infrastructure remain significant hurdles, innovative approaches such as edge computing, local data processing, and AI integration are helping African businesses unlock the full potential of IoT.
- With continued investment and a focus on localised solutions, IoT adoption is set to accelerate, driving economic growth and transforming workplaces across the continent

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