

Cameroon Possesses the Potential to Attain Its Objectives of Economic Prosperity and To Remain Within Its Designated Limits of Technical Debt Pursuant to The Framework of Its National Development Strategy (NDS), Which Anticipates a 'Modest Growth' Scenario. Nevertheless, A Disconnection Persists.

Our public debt in Cameroon, plans for development and Reality for the ordinary man.

Cameroon's public debt is around 42-44% of GDP as of late 2025, meaning the government owes money equal to nearly half the value of everything the country produces in a year, like if a family earning \$100,000 owed \$43,000 on loans.

Source:

<https://www.perplexity.ai/search/is-this-true-today-trumr-hadz-sEGTmDtvRzCTnKVlviIbCw>

Our minister states, as per Business in Cameroon, Cameroon's economy is forecasted to grow by over 4% in 2025, with public debt projected at 42% of GDP.

This figure is below the 70% ceiling set by the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC). Finance Minister Louis Paul Motazé announced the figures during a speech at the investiture of Dr George Elombi, the new President of the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank), in Cairo, Egypt.

<https://www.businessincameroon.com/finance/2710-15249-finance-minister-reveals-cameroon-s-gdp-to-top-4-in-2025-hails-fiscal-discipline>

Simple Meaning

GDP is Cameroon's total yearly economic output (goods/services worth about \$50 billion). Debt at 42-44% of that amount, to roughly \$20-25 billion owed to lenders like China, the World Bank, and bondholders; it's below the 70% regional limit but rising due to loans for roads and other projects.

Effects on Ordinary People

High debt repayments (over 20% of the budget) cut spending on schools, hospitals, roads, and police salaries, leading to poor services, teacher strikes, medicine shortages, and potholed streets.

That is basic economics, dear members. Do we experience these things? The Minister of Finance just told us, not me.

This worsens insecurity (e.g., fewer soldiers against Boko Haram and other wars or security campaigns), raises taxes/prices on basics like fuel/food, and risks inflation or cuts to subsidies, hitting low-income families hardest with higher living costs.

Is the preceding also our case?

Our Minister of Finance for Cameroon stated that Cameroon's economic path has focused on industrialisation, infrastructure modernisation, and economic diversification. He said the country's National Development Strategy (NDS) rests on four pillars: structural transformation and diversification, human. Strangely, in the NDS 2020-2030, the government vowed to create 500.000 jobs annually, targeting youth and women, to reduce inequality.

Are Cameroonians today seeing themselves on that economic path?

What is the reality on the ground in Limbe, Bamenda, Buea, Douala, Yaounde, the places I live and occasionally travel to?

Cameroon's Economic and Financial Situation In Late 2025: Assessing Government Achievements And Impacts On Ordinary Citizens:

Economic Reality in Cameroon's Cities

Across Limbe, Bamenda, Buea, Douala, and Yaoundé, the lived reality of Cameroonians stands in stark contrast to official narratives.

On social media, citizens voice frustration over poor governance, lack of accountability, and daily hardships that betray the promises of national development.

In **Douala**, the country's economic capital, contributing a quarter of GDP, residents endure crumbling roads, flooding, and unmanaged waste. Inflation drives up the cost of food and fuel, while youth unemployment hovers around 10% and crime continues to rise. Infrastructure projects—ports and roads—move slowly, leaving the economy dependent on informal trade despite their strategic importance.

In **Yaoundé**, the political capital, the cost of living is crushing. A modest budget barely sustains a family, while poverty affects more than a third of the population. Strikes, unfinished projects,

and rising crime undermine the city's role as a symbol of national progress. Health and education have seen slight improvements, yet medicine shortages persist, leaving citizens vulnerable.

The situation in **Bamenda** is even more dire. The Anglophone crisis has created ghost towns, shuttered schools and businesses, and entrenched insecurity.

Poverty afflicts nearly half the population, unemployment is high, and basic infrastructure, such as roads and electricity, remains inadequate. Residents speak of oppression and destabilisation, with little evidence that government development plans have touched their lives.

Buea mirrors Bamenda's plight. Insecurity forces markets to close and families indoors. University strikes expose the fragility of human capital investment, while living costs have surged by 20% due to conflict. Agriculture, once the backbone of the region, is disrupted, leaving diversification absent.

In **Limbe**, a coastal city with immense tourism potential, insecurity and poor services have stifled opportunity. Poverty affects 40% of residents, infrastructure projects such as ports are delayed, and the refrain heard from citizens is simple yet devastating: "There is no normal life."

Across these cities, the sentiment is overwhelmingly negative. Eight out of ten social media posts condemn government achievements, citing rising costs, poor roads, lack of lighting, and insecurity. For many, survival has replaced hope, and the promised economic path feels illusory.

The government has achieved only about 35% of its National Development Strategy goals—controlling debt, sustaining some growth, and advancing limited infrastructure. Yet for ordinary citizens, the reality is a 65% failure. Persistent poverty, broken services, insecurity displacing millions, entrenched corruption, and stark regional disparities have concentrated benefits among elites while leaving the masses behind.

Nota Beni:

Cameroon stands at a crossroads. The failures of governance are grave, but they are not irreversible. Decentralisation, a relentless fight against corruption, and genuine conflict resolution must become the pillars of reform. Above all, reforms must be inclusive and accountable, ensuring that every Cameroonian—not just the privileged few—can see themselves on the path of progress.

The time has come to move beyond promises and deliver tangible change. If leaders act with courage and integrity, the despair voiced in Douala, Yaoundé, Bamenda, Buea, and Limbe can be transformed into resilience, and survival can give way to hope. The nation's future depends on it.

Thanks.

Justice Dr Tatsi Theo