

# **The Political Economy of Resource Extraction in Central Africa: A Statistical Review of Contemporary Dependencies and Development, 2022**

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## | Abstract

Central Africa's development trajectory remains heavily influenced by the political economy of natural resource extraction. This sector dominates national economies, shapes state-society relations, and is central to debates on the 'resource curse'. A synthesis of the statistical evidence underpinning these dependencies is needed. This review synthesises and critically evaluates statistical analyses concerning the political economy of resource extraction in Central Africa. It aims to assess evidence for persistent economic dependencies, analyse associated governance and distributional outcomes, and identify patterns in the statistical literature. A systematic literature review was conducted. Peer-reviewed journal articles, major institutional reports, and key statistical compilations were identified, screened, and thematically analysed. The focus was on quantitative studies employing econometric, descriptive statistical, or spatial analysis methods. The review identifies a strong, persistent correlation between high resource dependence and negative governance indicators, including higher perceived corruption. A predominant theme is the statistical evidence of continued export concentration, with hydrocarbons and minerals frequently constituting the majority of total export earnings for several states. This is coupled with weak statistical linkages to broader domestic economic diversification. Contemporary statistical evidence supports the thesis of a structural dependency on resource extraction that

constrains developmental outcomes. The political economies of Central African states are statistically characterised by this dependency, which reinforces existing power structures and complicates sustainable development pathways. Future statistical research should prioritise sub-national and longitudinal data to better capture distributional impacts and causal mechanisms. There is a need for more nuanced metrics that move beyond primary export shares to measure embeddedness in global value chains and intra-regional trade in processed materials. Political economy, resource curse, economic dependency, extractivism, governance, Central Africa, statistical review This review provides a consolidated, critical appraisal of the statistical evidence framing the political economy of resource extraction in Central Africa, clarifying the empirical foundations of ongoing debates.

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