

Dominican Republic

Archetype **Reform climbers**

GDP / person **\$11k**

Population **12M**

10-yr trend **4.8%**

Gradual **10.6%** · #47

Fast **13.3%** · #55

WHERE THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC STARTS

The Dominican Republic enters the AGI era as a reform climber: a country growing steadily from a modest base while its institutions improve. Ten-year trend growth of 4.8% a year is among the fastest in Latin America. At about \$11,059 per person, it is upper-middle-income. The scores explain the climb. Physical build speed is 4.5 out of 5, seen in the tourism corridors around Punta Cana, the free-trade zones for medical devices and textiles, and the DP World Caucedo port. AI diffusion is 3.9 and language inclusion 3.9, so new tools spread fast. Two constraints bind. Compute and energy access scores 1.1: the country hosts almost no data-center capacity, and its power grid is strained. Catch-up headroom, at 2.6, is thinner than most climbers, because much of the easy growth is already banked.

THE THREE PATHS

These are simulations, not forecasts. The Modest path is the baseline, and the two AGI scenarios fork from it. Under the Modest scenario, AI stays a normal technology. The Dominican Republic would hold near its strong trend at 5% growth a year, 25th of 157 — a high rank because its momentum is real even without AGI. At that pace the economy doubles in about 14 years. Under **Gradual** takeoff, growth would climb over two decades and reach 10.6% a year once AGI matures around 2045, ranking 47th; the economy would then double in under seven years. The long runway rewards the country's momentum and its capacity to absorb new tools. Under **Fast** takeoff, growth would arrive from the early 2030s and reach 13.3% a year, a doubling every five to six years. Yet its rank would slip to 55th, down eight places, because a fast world rewards the compute and geopolitical access the country lacks. Regulation and politics could slow or redirect any path, depending on how Dominicans and their leaders respond to transformative AI — a variable the model holds constant.

HOW YOU WOULD KNOW WHICH WORLD YOU ARE IN

The three scenarios look almost identical until about 2030. Watch leading indicators, not GDP, and check them live rather than trust any snapshot. Three global signals matter most. First, whether the METR task-horizon curve keeps doubling every four to five months through 2027–28; METR publishes it at metr.org. Second, whether frontier-lab revenue and capital spending keep compounding; Epoch AI tracks both at epoch.ai. Third, whether growth in the ten to twenty most-ready economies — the United States and China above all — breaks above trend in the early 2030s. Double-digit growth there within a couple of years of 2030 would point to a fast world; a point or two above trend by the mid-2030s to a gradual one;

a fade back to trend to a modest one. The Dominican Republic's own signals would arrive sooner: hyperscaler hosting commitments on Dominican soil, the order books of the free-zone plants and Caucedo's container volumes, and whether nearshoring contracts keep landing or start to thin.

IF GROWTH GOES EXPLOSIVE

Explosive is relative. At 13.3% growth a year under Fast takeoff, the Dominican Republic would run well ahead of its region, whose median would be about 9.2%. But it would fall far behind the frontier, where the United States would compound near 39% a year and pull away. Measured against its own history, the change would be dramatic. The economy would double every five to six years, so a child starting school would finish it in a country several times richer. Free zones and tourism would still anchor the economy, and higher wages at home would ease the pressure to emigrate to the United States. There is an honest downside. The country's compute would be rented, not owned, and financed from abroad; data centers controlled elsewhere can be throttled or repriced by decisions made in Washington or in a hyperscaler's boardroom. The hedge is to bargain for ownership stakes and firm capacity, not just to host. Even then, the pace-setter would move to the state, testing whether the electricity distributors, the energy regulator and the permitting offices can supply power and approvals fast enough.

WHAT THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC CAN DO NOW

Three levers follow from the weakest high-weight scores, and two pay off whether or not AGI arrives. The first no-regret lever is climate and environmental resilience, low at 2.1. Flood defense, water security and cooling protect tourism and farming under every scenario, and water and cooling are the same inputs any data-center build would need. The second no-regret lever is geopolitical positioning, at 2. Keeping access to capital markets, avoiding sanctions exposure and deepening trusted-partner ties with chip-supplying blocs pays off today and matters more if AI transforms the economy. A cautious government can act on both now and lose nothing. The third lever is the bet: compute and energy access, at 1.1 and carrying the most weight of all. It barely moves growth in a modest world, but under fast takeoff it becomes the single biggest lever. Closing it means fixing the strained grid and packaging power, land and fast permits for investors, while protecting the build-speed and diffusion strengths already in place. Senegal built a national data center at Diamniadio with partner finance; the Dominican Republic could adapt that model. Open the atlas's [policy editor](#) to test how moving these scores reshapes each path.

The three levers — and which pay off regardless

Climate & water resilience

score 2.1 / 5 · weight 8 under skeptic → 7 under fast takeoff

Counts under the Modest scenario too (8→7). Closing this gap pays off whether or not AGI arrives.

No-regret

Compute & energy access

score 1.1 / 5 · weight 8 under skeptic → 24 under fast takeoff

Weight climbs from 8 to 24 as takeoff nears. It barely moves growth if AI stays ordinary — the lever that needs a view on the takeoff.

AGI bet

Trusted chip & tech access

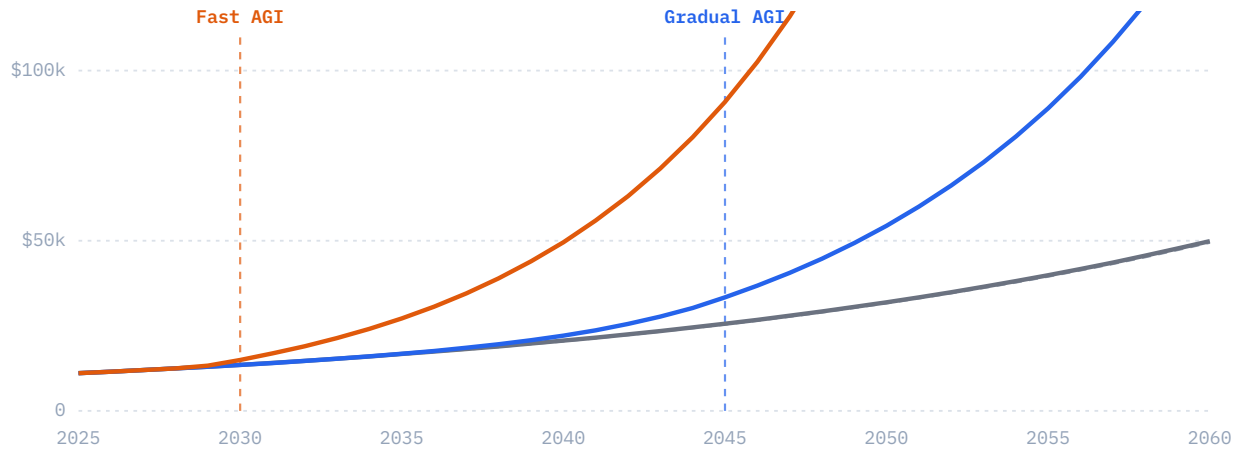
score 2 / 5 · weight 8 under skeptic → 12 under fast takeoff

Weight climbs from 8 to 12 as takeoff nears. It barely moves growth if AI stays ordinary — the lever that needs a view on the takeoff.

AGI bet

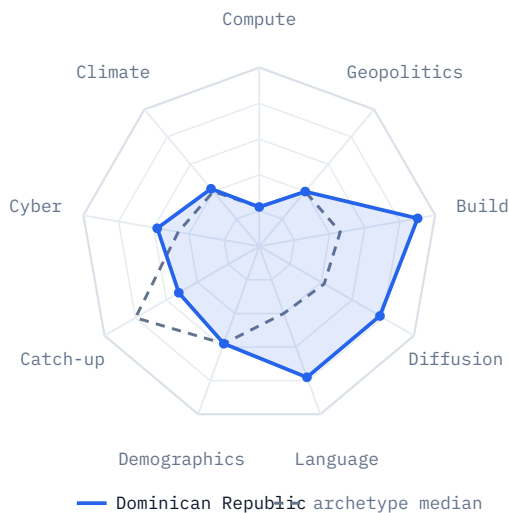
The no-regret levers pay off in every scenario, so a cautious government can act on them today. The AGI bets become decisive only if takeoff is real.

GDP per person to 2060, by scenario



Linear scale; solid lines are the three scenarios, dashed grey the no-AI baseline. Growth ramps from 2027 to each scenario's rate at its AGI year (Fast ~2030, Gradual ~2045), then holds. Timing and divergence are the point, not end levels; steep paths exit the top of the capped axis.

The nine factors



Solid: Dominican Republic. Dashed: the median of its archetype. Scores are relative to the other 156 countries (3 ≈ global median, 5 = leading today).

Outcomes under each scenario

SCENARIO	GROWTH / YR	WORLD RANK	INDEX	DOUBLING
Modest	5%	25 / 157	60.2	14.2 yrs
Gradual	10.6%	47 / 157	57.3	6.9 yrs
Fast	13.3%	55 / 157	55.4	5.6 yrs

Post-AGI growth rate, rank among 157 countries, AGI Growth Index (0–100, scenario-weighted), and the implied economy doubling time. The Modest path is the baseline the AGI scenarios fork from.

THE THREE SCENARIOS

Modest the Acemoglu view

AI as a normal productivity tool

Intelligence was never the binding constraint on growth, so AI delivers real but ordinary gains. Each country gets a one-time boost of a couple of percent of GDP, phased in through 2035; growth then returns to trend. The mainstream-economics view.

≤0.66% TFP over a decade — a one-time gain

Dominican Republic: 5% growth a year · #25 of 157

Gradual Erdil & Besiroglu, base case

Broad automation, on a long timeline

Broad automation of remote work arrives around 2045, with gains building slowly from the late 2020s. Growth then reaches up to ~20% a year for the best-positioned countries — ten times today's frontier trend. A slow arrival gives countries time to adapt, so the gains are wide but uneven.

up to ~20%/yr after 2045 — 10× the frontier trend

Dominican Republic: 10.6% growth a year · #47 of 157

Fast Erdil & Besiroglu, fast takeoff

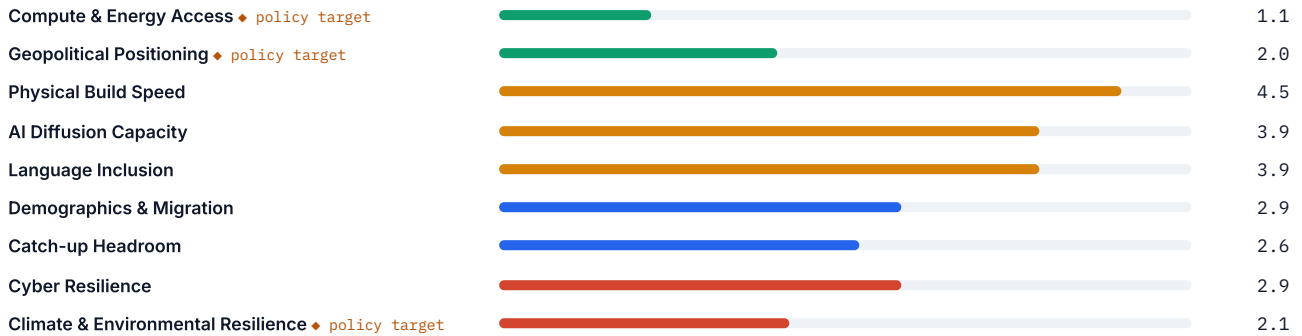
Fast takeoff — today's infrastructure decides

Transformation lands around 2030, before countries can adjust. Whoever already owns compute, capital and the ability to build wins; the gap between countries widens dramatically — and some are left growing slower than they would have without AGI.

up to ~40%/yr from 2030

Dominican Republic: 13.3% growth a year · #55 of 157

Factor scores — and where policy bites



◆ marks this country's highest-leverage policy targets: the weakest factors carrying the most weight under the AGI scenarios. The atlas's interactive policy editor (agigrowth.org/#editor) simulates how raising any score changes growth under each scenario.

Archetype: Reform climbers

Actually climbing: sustained growth from a low base, with improving institutions.

Wins: The gradual world, where two decades of adjustment time reward momentum.

Watch: The climb runs through the very labor-intensive rungs automation removes.

Senegal 9.6% · #60	Kyrgyzstan 9% · #70	Rwanda 8.9% · #72	Laos 8.2% · #81	Georgia 8% · #84	Côte d'Ivoire 7.6% · #87
Djibouti 7.6% · #88	Kosovo 7.4% · #91	Ghana 7.4% · #92	Benin 7.2% · #97		

The regional picture — Mid-table, and outside the blocs.

Latin America enters the era mid-table on almost every factor — and mostly outside the blocs that decide access. Chile leads on institutions and hosts real compute; Brazil and Mexico have hyperscaler regions and huge domestic markets but thin R&D; Uruguay and Costa Rica absorb well at small scale; Guyana is converting an oil windfall into the hemisphere's fastest construction boom. The region's twenty-year question is what happens to nearshoring: the manufacturing and services work that moved toward Mexico and Central America on labor costs is the work automation reprices first, and no country here has a plan B at scale. Distance from the US-China rivalry cuts both ways — few export controls apply, and few strategic investments arrive. Under the modest lens the region loses little; under fast takeoff it drifts: gains arrive, mostly imported, mostly late, and the gap to the frontier compounds year by year.

Method, in brief

Each country is scored 1–5 on nine factors from public data (World Bank, Epoch AI, ITU, IMF and national sources). A scenario-weighted average forms the AGI Growth Index (0–100), which maps to a post-AGI growth rate inside ceilings derived from Erdil & Besiroglu (2023): ~20% growth a year for the best-positioned country under Gradual takeoff (AGI ~2045), ~40% under Fast (AGI ~2030); growth ramps convexly from 2027. The scenario sets the growth rates on offer; the index only decides where each country sits within them. The Modest scenario is the skeptics' baseline — a small uplift on each country's own ten-year trend. These are simulations for structured thinking, not forecasts; no probabilities are attached to any scenario.

Watch the global signals live: the METR task-horizon curve at metr.org/time-horizons · frontier-lab revenue at epoch.ai/ai-companies · AI-chip spending at epoch.ai/ai-chip-sales.

Explore further: full methodology agigrowth.org/#methodology · map & rankings agigrowth.org/#explore · country profiles agigrowth.org/#countries · policy editor agigrowth.org/#editor