

Guyana

Archetype **Resource suppliers**GDP / person **\$32k**Population **0.84M**10-yr trend **4.5%**Gradual **5.2%** · **#127**Fast **5.4%** · **#116**

WHERE GUYANA STARTS

Guyana enters the AGI era as a resource supplier — a country that sells the build-out its inputs. In Guyana's case that input is oil. Fuel is 86% of exports, pumped from the ExxonMobil-led Stabroek Block offshore. Two scores mark the country out. Compute and energy access is 1 out of 5: there is almost no data-center capacity, and the grid is only now being expanded through the Gas-to-Energy project. Catch-up headroom is also 1, the sign of thin institutions and limited capacity to absorb new technology. Its strengths are milder: language inclusion at 3.1 and climate resilience at 3. At roughly \$32,400 GDP per person, Guyana looks rich on paper, but the figure reflects oil, not a broad economy. Ten-year trend growth of 4.5% uses the IMF's medium-term view; the oil startup distorts the raw average.

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. Guyana would hold its oil-driven pace: 4.5% growth a year, 36th of 157, an economy doubling in about 16 years. That rank is high because 4.5% is strong when the rest of the world is slow. Under **Gradual** takeoff, growth would rise only slightly, reaching 5.2% a year around 2045 after a two-decade ramp. But Guyana's rank would fall to 127th, because faster-moving economies would race past it. Under **Fast** takeoff, growth would reach 5.4% a year from the early 2030s, doubling roughly every 13 years — yet the rank would still sit at 116th. The pattern is the point: Guyana's growth barely changes across scenarios while the world around it speeds up. Its two weak spots, compute and thin absorptive capacity, keep it from catching the wave. Politics could slow or redirect any path. How Guyanese and their government respond to transformative AI is a variable the model holds constant.

HOW YOU WOULD KNOW WHICH WORLD YOU ARE IN

The scenarios look almost identical until about 2030. So watch leading indicators, not GDP, and watch them live. 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 signal a fast world. A point or two above trend by the mid-2030s would signal a gradual one. A fade back to trend would signal a modest one. Guyana's own signals would arrive earlier than the growth data: the pace of ExxonMobil's production ramp, world oil prices and demand, financial close on the Gas-to-Energy plant, and whether AI-driven economies keep burning oil or electrify away from it.

IF GROWTH GOES EXPLOSIVE

For Guyana it would not. By world standards its rates are modest: 5.4% under fast takeoff, against a frontier compounding at more than 39% and a Latin American median near 9%. Guyana would fall behind both. Measured against its own history, 4.5% is already brisk, and AGI adds little to it. The economy would keep doubling roughly every 13 years, still built on oil. Rising wages at home could ease the long-standing pressure to emigrate, though the model does not treat returning workers as a source of growth. Here is the honest risk. A commodity boom is not a development strategy. Oil rents can evaporate, and a world of cheap machine intelligence may burn less oil, not more. If Guyana banks the money without turning it into skills, firms and institutions, it drifts while the frontier races. The hedge is to spend the Natural Resource Fund on absorptive capacity. The test then falls on Georgetown's small civil service, its EPA permitting and the fund's own governance.

WHAT GUYANA CAN DO NOW

Three levers follow from the scores, and two pay off whether or not AGI arrives. The first no-regret lever is catch-up headroom, the weakest score at 1. Stronger institutions, secure property rights and better schools raise growth in every scenario, and they are the classic cure for the resource curse. The second no-regret lever is AI diffusion, at 2.5: digital skills, permissive deployment and digitized government services help a slow world and a fast one alike. The third lever is the bet. Compute and energy access, at 1, barely moves growth if AI stays ordinary, but under fast takeoff it becomes the single biggest lever. Closing it means turning new gas-fired power and cheap land into packages that draw data-center investment. Guyana can adapt a proven model from its own archetype: Chile turned copper rents into a structural fiscal rule and sovereign funds, then used stable power and institutions to attract real data-center investment. A cautious government can act on the two no-regret levers today and lose nothing. Open the atlas's [policy editor](#) to see how moving these scores reshapes Guyana's path under each scenario.

The three levers — and which pay off regardless

AI diffusion capacity

score 2.5 / 5 · weight 24 under skeptic → 13 under fast takeoff

Counts under the Modest scenario too (24→13). Closing this gap pays off whether or not AGI arrives.

No-regret

Catch-up headroom

score 1 / 5 · weight 16 under skeptic → 6 under fast takeoff

Counts under the Modest scenario too (16→6). Closing this gap pays off whether or not AGI arrives.

No-regret

Compute & energy access

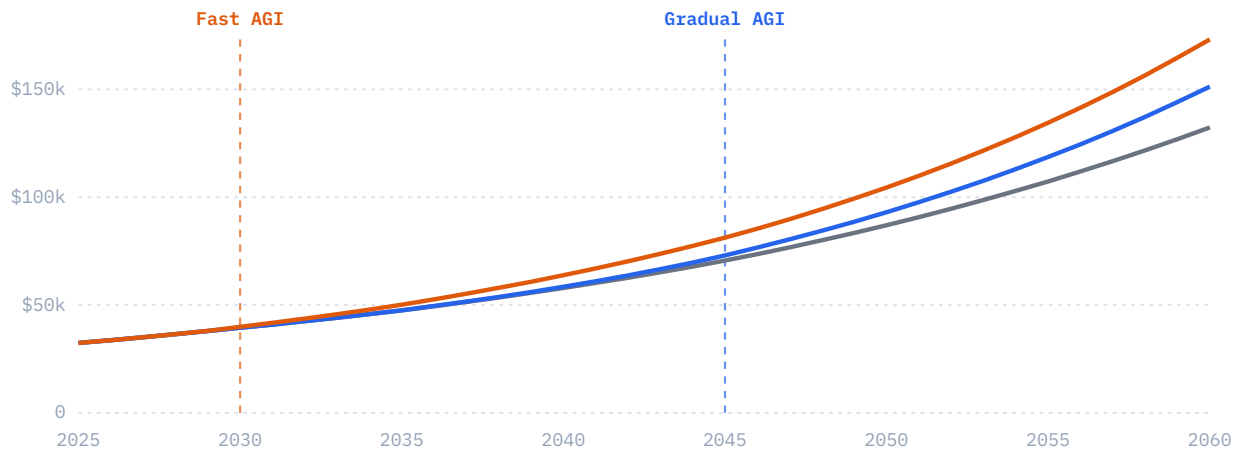
score 1 / 5 · weight 8 under skeptic → 24 under fast takeoff

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

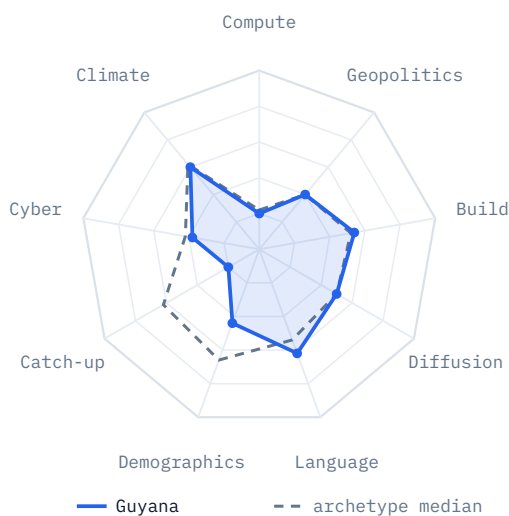
The no-regret levers pay off in every scenario, so a cautious government can act on them today. The AGI bet becomes decisive only if takeoff is real.

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: Guyana. 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	4.5%	36 / 157	42.2	15.7 yrs
Gradual	5.2%	127 / 157	41.4	13.7 yrs
Fast	5.4%	116 / 157	40.9	13.2 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

Guyana: 4.5% growth a year · #36 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

Guyana: 5.2% growth a year · #127 of 157

Fast Erdil & Besiroglu, fast takeoff

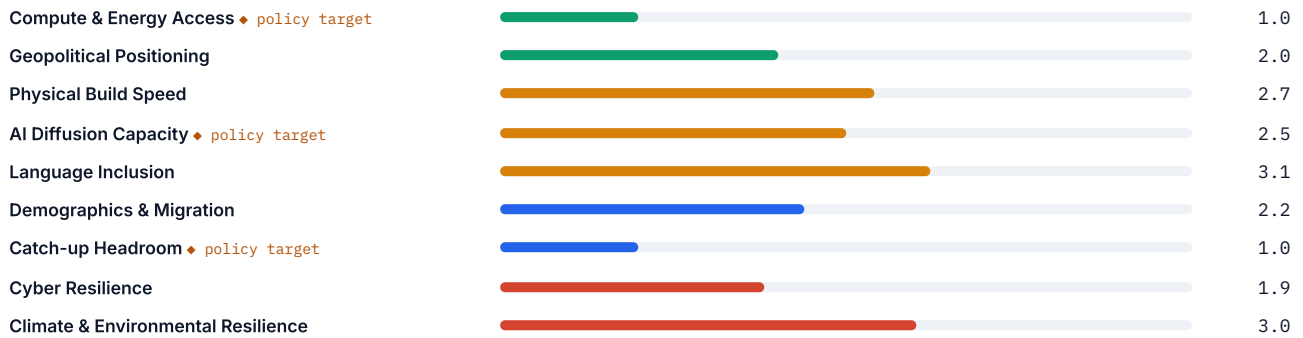
Fast takeoff — today's infrastructure decides

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

Guyana: 5.4% growth a year · #116 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: Resource suppliers

They sell the build-out its inputs — copper, fuels, bauxite, iron ore, uranium.

Wins: The physical build-out — the one lower-income group with terms-of-trade upside under fast takeoff.

Watch: A commodity boom is not a development strategy; the rents must be converted or they evaporate.

Chile **14%** · #19

Colombia **12.1%** · #36

Peru **11.1%** · #42

Kazakhstan **9.7%** · #58

Mongolia **8.5%** · #77

Tajikistan **7.4%** · #93

Zambia **6.6%** · #100

Guinea **6.2%** · #107

Algeria **6.1%** · #108

Kuwait **6%** · #111

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