

Suriname

Archetype **Stalled middle**GDP / person **\$7k**Population **0.64M**10-yr trend **-1.3%**Gradual **3.2%** · **#145**Fast **2.9%** · **#148**

WHERE SURINAME STARTS

Suriname is a stalled-middle economy: middling income, middling factor scores, and growth that has run backwards. Its one clear strength is people. Demographics and migration score 4.1, and language inclusion 3.6, since Dutch and widespread multilingualism connect it outward. The constraints are physical and digital. Compute and energy access scores 1, the floor. Physical build speed is 1.6 and cyber resilience 1.8. Ten-year trend growth of -1.3% a year reflects the 2020 debt default and the IMF program now steering recovery. At about \$7,070 per person, Suriname is upper-middle-income but small: 0.64 million people and a \$5bn economy. Its near future rests on offshore oil — Staatsolie and the TotalEnergies-led GranMorgu project in Block 58 — not on anything AI touches soon.

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. Suriname would keep contracting slightly: -1.2% growth a year, 153rd of 157. Nothing in a skeptic's world reverses the drift. Under **Gradual** takeoff, growth would climb over two decades and reach 3.2% growth a year once AGI matures around 2045, ranking 145th. Even then an economy growing at 3.2% takes about 22 years to double. Under **Fast** takeoff, growth would arrive earlier, from the early 2030s, but reach only 2.9% growth a year, a doubling of roughly 24 years, and the rank would slip to 148th. The reason is telling: a fast world rewards the compute and frontier access Suriname does not have, so faster global change leaves it further behind, not ahead. Any of these paths could be slowed or redirected by politics and regulation, depending on how Surinamese and their government respond to transformative AI. The model holds that response constant.

HOW YOU WOULD KNOW WHICH WORLD YOU ARE IN

The three scenarios look nearly the same until about 2030, so watch leading indicators rather than 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 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. Suriname's own tells would come from its oil timeline and its wires: GranMorgu's path to first production, Staatsolie's revenues, undersea cable and connectivity upgrades, and how fast government services move online.

IF GROWTH GOES EXPLOSIVE

For Suriname, explosive is the wrong word. Its best case, 3.2% growth a year under Gradual, doubles the economy in about 22 years. The frontier would be compounding near 19.5% growth a year in that same world, and its region near 8.1% growth a year. So the gap to faster economies would widen, not close. This is drift, the stalled-middle risk: gains arrive, mostly imported and late. Oil revenue from Block 58 could still lift public finances and fund the catch-up. Suriname's young and mobile workforce is an asset, and stronger wages at home could ease the long pull of emigration to the Netherlands. The honest downside is dependence. Any AI capacity Suriname uses would be rented from abroad, priced and controlled elsewhere, and a small economy outside the main blocs has little say over the terms. The hedge is to bank the oil windfall wisely and buy skills and connectivity with it. The stress test is fiscal: whether the finance ministry, Staatsolie and a thin civil service can manage a windfall without repeating the last debt cycle.

WHAT SURINAME CAN DO NOW

Three levers follow from the scores, and two pay off whether or not AGI arrives. The first no-regret lever is AI diffusion, at 2.7. Digital skills, deployment-friendly rules and digital government carry real weight even in the skeptic's world, and they are cheap next to physical build. The second no-regret lever is physical build speed, at 1.6. Faster permitting, pre-zoned land and transmission built ahead of demand would help the oil economy and any later data-center bid alike. A cautious government can act on both today and lose nothing if the skeptics are right. The third lever is the bet. Compute and energy access, at 1, is Suriname's floor; it barely moves growth in a modest world but becomes decisive under fast takeoff. Progress means grid and generation first, then power-and-land offers. Suriname can borrow a small-state model from a peer: Cabo Verde built a technology park in Praia to position itself as a mid-Atlantic digital hub. Open the atlas's [policy editor](#) to test how lifting each score reshapes Suriname's path under all three scenarios.

The three levers — and which pay off regardless

AI diffusion capacity

score 2.7 / 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

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

Physical build speed

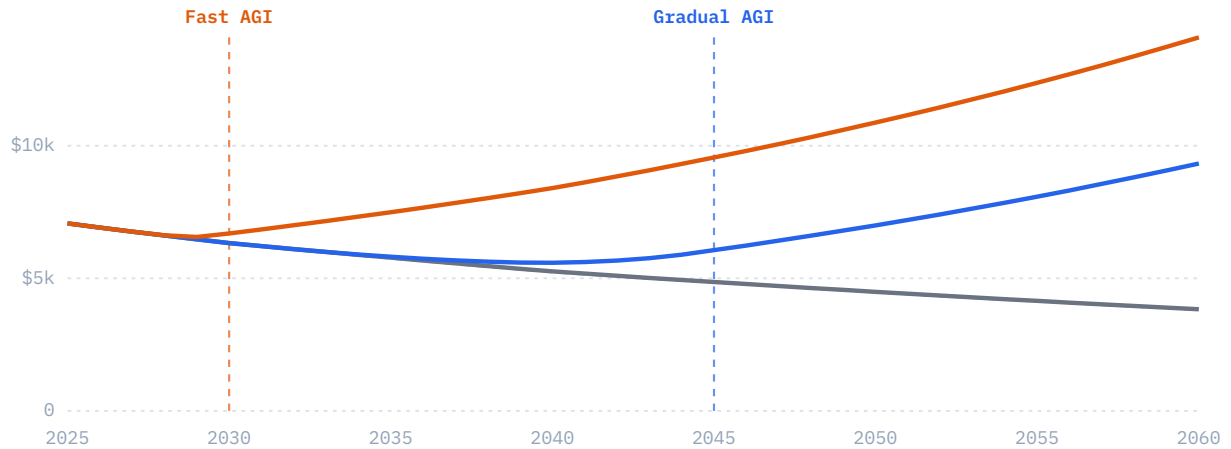
score 1.6 / 5 · weight 8 under skeptic → 17 under fast takeoff

Weight climbs from 8 to 17 as takeoff nears. It barely moves growth if AI stays ordinary — the lever that needs a view on the takeoff.

AGI bet

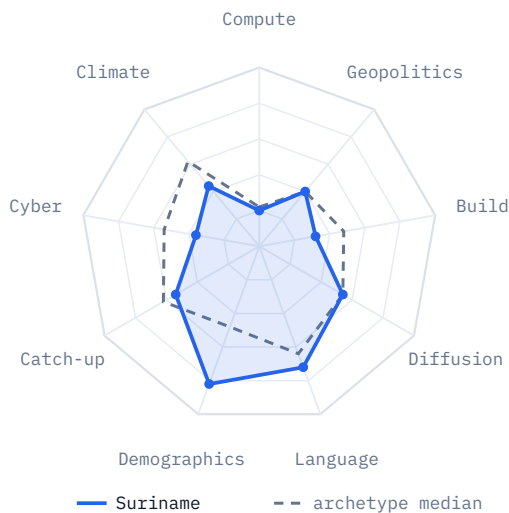
The no-regret levers pay off in every scenario, so a cautious government can act on them today. The AGI bets become decisive only if takeoff is real.

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: Suriname. 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	-1.2%	153 / 157	50.6	—
Gradual	3.2%	145 / 157	47.4	22 yrs
Fast	2.9%	148 / 157	41.6	24.2 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

Suriname: -1.2% growth a year · #153 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

Suriname: 3.2% growth a year · #145 of 157

Fast Erdil & Besiroglu, fast takeoff

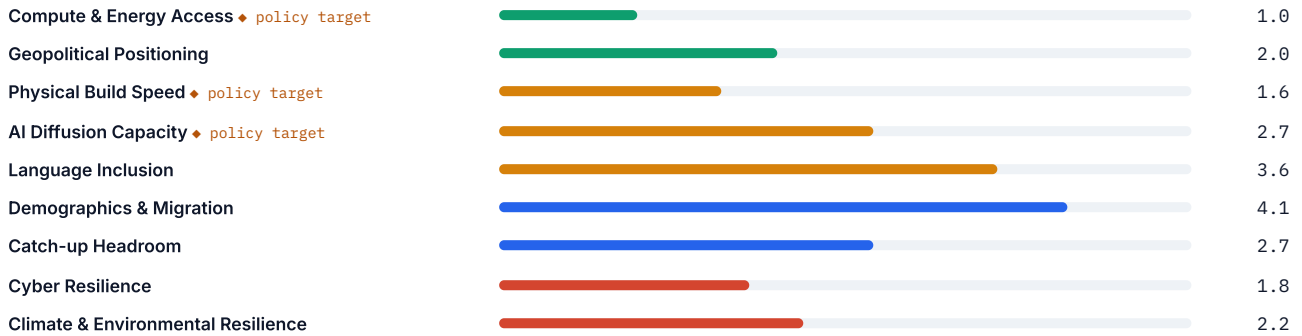
Fast takeoff — today's infrastructure decides

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

Suriname: 2.9% growth a year · #148 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: Stalled middle

Neither frontier nor fragile: middling income, middling scores, slow growth — at every size, from micro-states to Brazil.

Wins: No clean window — gains arrive imported, and late.

Watch: Drift: the gap to every faster group compounds year by year.

Jordan 11.8% · #37

Brazil 11% · #43

Mexico 10.4% · #48

Ecuador 10% · #54

Thailand 10% · #55

Slovakia 9.6% · #59

Argentina 9.5% · #61

Lithuania 9.3% · #63

Cabo Verde 9.3% · #64

Croatia 9.1% · #67

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